



# Maheshwar Dam: Narmada River

## Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government has canceled all contracts with **Maheshwar Hydroelectric Project** almost three decades after it agreed to purchase power from it.

- It has been canceled due to its poor financial track record, several irregularities and graft allegations and **caused the submergence of 61 villages.**
- The Maheshwar dam is **one of the large dams of the Narmada Valley Development Project**, which envisages the construction of **30 large and 135 smaller dams** in the Narmada valley.

## What are the Key Points of Narmada River?

- **About:**
  - Narmada is the **largest west flowing river of the peninsular region** flowing through a rift valley between the Vindhya Range on the north and the Satpura Range on the south.
    - Narmada is flowing through the area where the land is not sloping **towards the west** from central India, but it is flowing west **because of the rift valleys only.**
  - It rises from **Maikala range near Amarkantak** in Madhya Pradesh.
  - It drains a large area in **Madhya Pradesh** besides some areas in the states of **Maharashtra and Gujarat.**
  - The river near Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) forms the Dhuandhar Falls.
  - There are **several islands in the estuary of Narmada** of which Aliabet is the largest.
- **Major Tributaries:** Hiran, Orsang, the Barna and the Kolar.
- **Hydro Power Projects:** Indira Sagar, Sardar Sarova, Maheshwar etc.
- **Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA):**
  - It is an Indian social movement spearheaded by native tribes (adivasis), farmers, environmentalists and human rights activists against a number of large dam projects across the **Narmada River.**
  - **Sardar Sarovar** Dam in Gujarat is one of the biggest dams on the river and was one of the first focal points of the movement.



### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. The Narmada River flows to the west, while most other large peninsular rivers flow to the east. Why? (2013)**

1. It occupies a linear rift valley.
2. It flows between the Vindhyas and the Satpuras.
3. The land slopes to the west from Central India.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Source: DTE**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/maheshwar-dam-narmada-river>