

NARMADA BACHAO ANDOLAN





Presentation by Group 1

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“ Ladenge Jeetenge ”

-will fight and win..



Narmada bachao , manav bachao

Sardar Sarovar Project

- Conceived in the mid-**1960s** under Nehru
- Building **postponed** due to disagreement between three states impacted by project:
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Gujarat
 - Maharashtra



Narmada is the largest westward flowing river in india.

Narmada means 'ever delightful' . It is one of the holiest rivers in india.



It is home to over a million people, mainly tribal, adivasis , wage laborers , local farmers, fishermen live along the river and rely on it for their livelihood.

River is used for irrigation ,drinking, wash clothes , cook , spiritual benefits

Narmada River



Most Powerful Mass Movement

- **Narmada Bachao Andolan-** Social movement (tribal people, *adivasis*, farmers, environmentalists and human rights activists) against the Sardar Sarovar Dam being built across the Narmada river, Gujarat, India.
- Focus of the movement - saving the trees and the fauna, rehabilitation of the poor people living around the area.
- Movement started in **1986** when the World Bank lent India **\$450 million** for the Sardar Sarovar project.
- Movement started by a social worker named **Medha Patkar**

Benefits

- Narmada has the potential to supply drinking water to the towns and cities of Gujarat, to irrigate the dry parts of Gujarat.
- To raise agricultural growth rates to high levels over the next decade.
- Provide valuable peak electric power in an area with high unmet power demand.
- It will also provide flood protection.

Advantages

- ▶ Considerable revenue for government
- ▶ One could expect **production of 1450 MW** of electricity.
- ▶ More pure water to meet the needs of about **40 million people** or so from about 1000s of villages and towns.
- ▶ Sardar Sarovar dam alone would **irrigate almost 1.8 million hectares** of land in Gujarat and an additional **73,000 hectares** in the dry neighboring state of **Rajasthan**
- ▶ Providing potable water to over **8,000 Gujarati villages** and **135 urban centers**

Problems!!

- **Displacement of 2,50,000 people** from their land in three states
- Rehabilitation and resettlement of people
- **Loss** of agricultural land and forest(approx. 37,000 hectares)
- **Destruction** of flora and fauna

Proponents

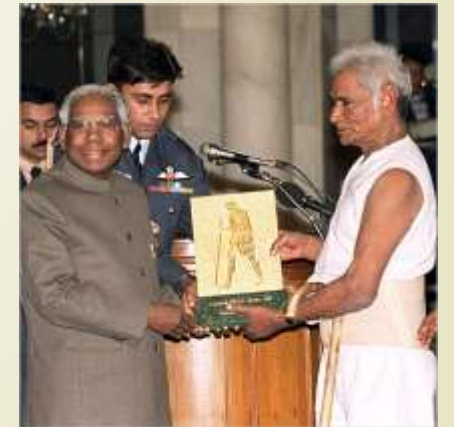
- ▶ Medha Patkar
- ▶ Baba Amte
- ▶ Dalits and Adivasi (indigenous people).
- ▶ Arundhati Roy
- ▶ Contributions from art and film world (to mention Aamir Khan)



Medha Patkar



Aamir Khan



Baba Amte



Medha Patkar, NBA activist



- "If people like you who consume not more than 40 liters of water a day don't get access to it, then the Government has no right to be in power".
- **Medha Patkar** is one of India's most well-known environmental and human rights activists. As leader and co-founder of **Narmada Bachao Andolan** (Save Narmada Movement), she has been spearheading the movement against the building of the **Sardar Sarovar Dam** on the Narmada river in **Gujarat**, giving particular attention to the rehabilitation of the poor who are being displaced by the project.

How did they do it??

- **60,000 people rally** against destructive development Jan 1990
- **5,000 people marched** on the Narmada Valley Development authority offices forcing them to close
- March 1990 – **10,000 protesters** blocked the highway from Bombay for two days May 1990 – 2,000 people staged a sit-in outside the prime ministers house in Delhi
- Media campaigns

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- Christmas Day 1990 – **Long March** – 3,000 people walked, 100km, which took a week to the dam site, once they got there Medha Patkar and 6 others went on **a hunger strike** demanding the government suspend work on the dam and hold an independent review. It lasted 22 days until they broke fast – this made Narmada an international issue.
 - garnering support of celebrities from the art and the film world and other such methods


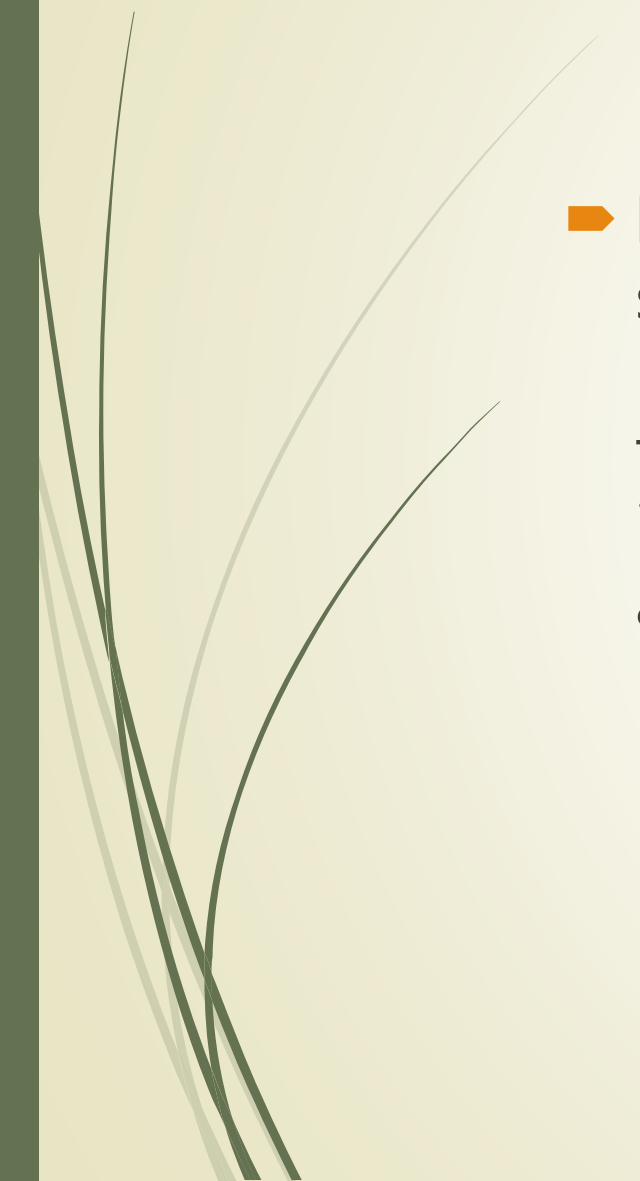
The leading activists of the movement – Medha Patkar and Baba Amte, together received the Right to Livelihood Award in 1991 for their contribution to the **Narmada Bachao Andolan**.



- Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar and other activists demonstrate in front of the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister's residence demanding land and compensation


Opponents

- ▶ Indian Government
- ▶ The World Bank (gave \$450 million.) until they withdrew project after an independent review confirmed social and environmental impacts were increasing.
- ▶ The **Supreme Court of India** has ruled on the Sardar Sarovar Dam. In **1995** they suspended work on the dam because the height exceeded the amount originally planned, 75m. In **1999** they ordered work to continue up to the height of 85m. Then in **Oct 18, 2000** they ruled in favor of building the Sardar Sarovar despite global protests.

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- **Mr Vyas, Gujarat's Minister for Narmada Irrigation.** "We have shown that if anybody else in the world can do it, we can do it better" "I think this is a civil engineering marvel." "If you have to sacrifice a little bit of your own for the good of society, do it gladly, willingly, smilingly" "We have given them the best and put them in the bracket which belongs to the best people."

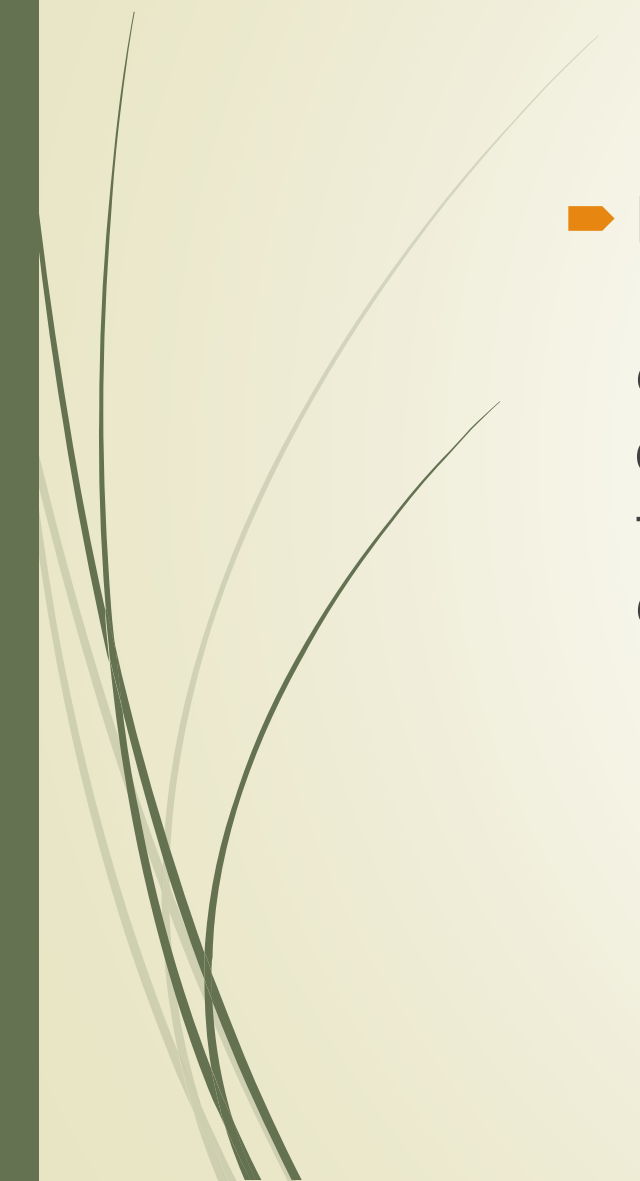




Govt. Response



- ▶ The Indian Government found other sources of funding and re-started the project
 - ▶ The height of the main reservoir was now raised by **80-85 m.**
 - ▶ NBA challenged the govt. again leading to a court battle in the Supreme Court
 - ▶ **2001** judgment was a stunning blow to NBA
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Supreme Court's Decision


- ▶ **Patkar** led **Narmada Bachao Andolan** had filed a written petition with the Supreme Court of India, the nation's apex court, seeking stoppage of construction on the **Sardar Sarovar dam**. The court initially ruled the decision in the Andolan's favor thereby effecting an immediate stoppage of work at the dam and directing the concerned states to first complete the rehabilitation and replacement process.
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- ▶ The Supreme Court also deliberated on this issue further for several years but finally upheld the Tribunal Award and allowed the construction to proceed, subject to conditions. The court introduced a mechanism to monitor the progress of resettlement pari passu with the raising of the height of the dam through the **Grievance Redressal Authorities (GRA)** in each of the party states. The court's decision referred in this document, given in the year 2000 after seven years of deliberations, has paved the way for completing the project to attain full envisaged benefits. The court's final line of the order states, "Every endeavour shall be made to see that the project is completed as expeditiously as possible

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- Subsequent to the court's verdict, **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** featured an article which states that:
 - "The Narmada Bachao Andolan has rendered a yeoman's service to the country by creating a high-level of awareness about the environmental and rehabilitation and relief aspects of Sardar Sarovar and other projects on the Narmada. But, after the court verdict it is incumbent on it to adopt a new role. Instead of 'damning the dam' any longer, it could assume the role of vigilant observer to see that the resettlement work is as humane and painless as possible and that the environmental aspects are taken due care of."



Criticism

- ▶ The Narmada dam's benefits include provision of drinking water, power generation and irrigation facilities. However, the campaign led by the NBA activists has held up the project's completion, and the NBA supporters have indulged in physical attacks on local people who accepted compensation for moving.
 - ▶ Others have argued that the Narmada Dam protesters are little more than environmental extremists who use pseudoscientific agitprop to scuttle the development of the region, and that the dam will provide agricultural benefits to millions of poor in India.
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THANK YOU!

