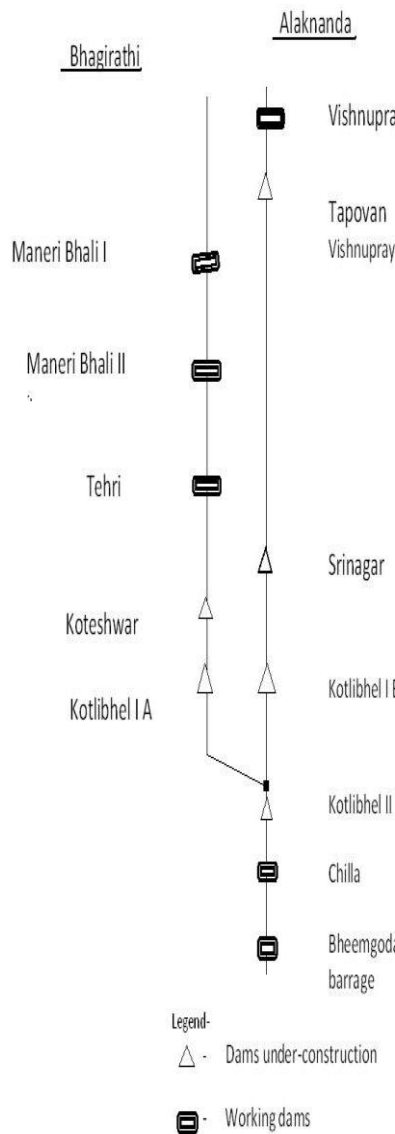


Introduction-

- Himalayas are a chain of young fold mountains formed recently (acc to the geological time scale) as compared to rest of the peninsular India.
- The process of speciation has recently occurred here and thus the species observed here are comparatively newer.
- Eg.: The mahseer (*Tor putitora*) a species of fish endemic to the foothill regions of the Himalayan stretch of Ganga river , another fish the 'Snow trout' is also found exclusively in the Himalayas in the upper stretch.
- Building of hydroelectric projects (HEPs) adversely affects the water flow.



The problem

- A number of HEPs have already been constructed in the Himalayan stretch of Ganga while some are still under construction and many others have been proposed .
- Construction and working of these HEPs causes various ecological imbalances.
- Primarily food chains get affected which further creates a chain of events that may lead to species loss.

The crux

- The gangetic stretch in the Himalayas needs special attention .