

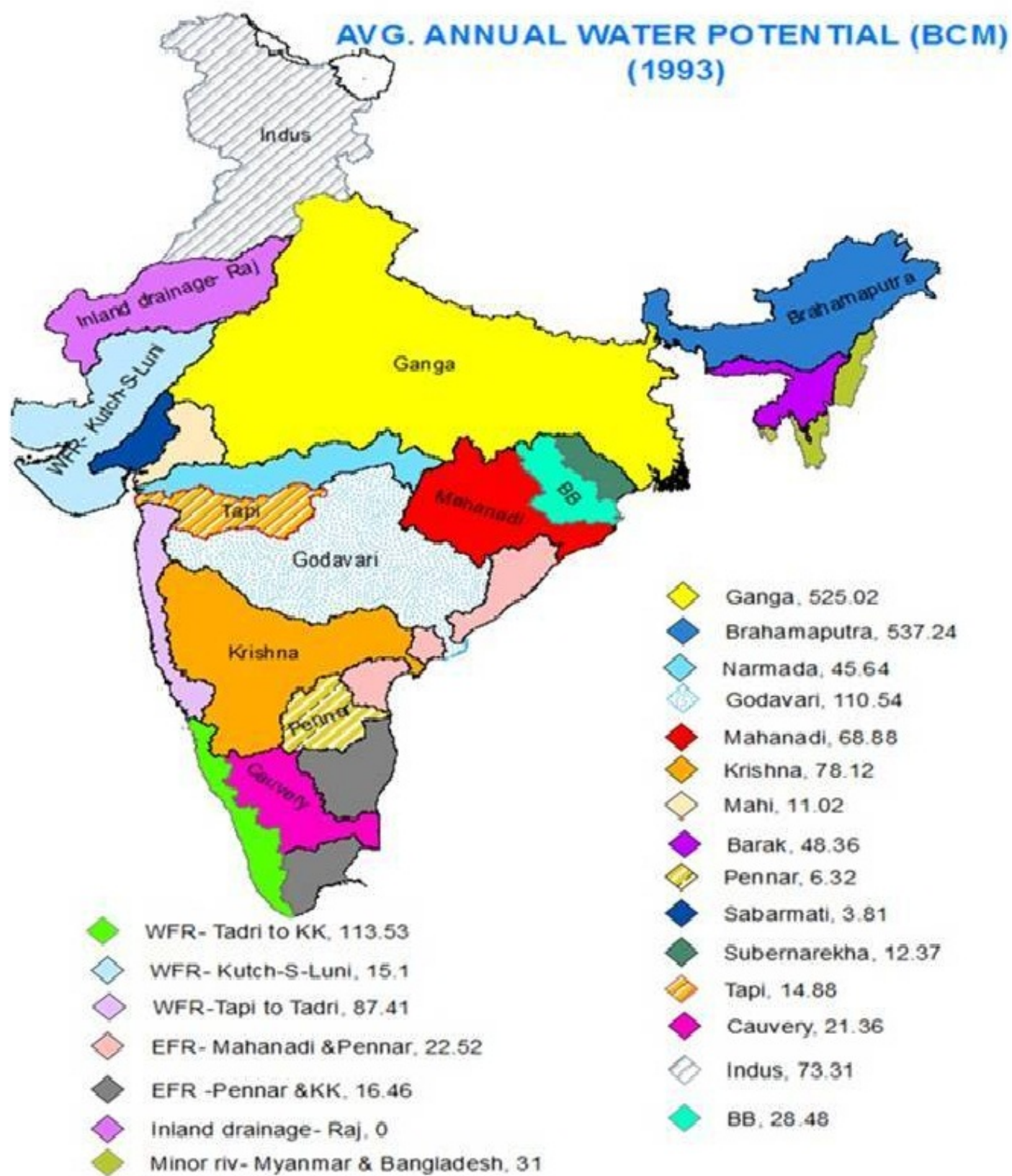
## Potentials of Major River Basins of India

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River Basin is an extent or an area of land where all surface water from rain, melting snow, or ice converges to a single point at a lower elevation, usually the exit of the basin, where the waters join a river.

The river system in India is classified into four groups - Himalayan Rivers, Deccan Rivers, Coastal Rivers and River of Inland Drainage. It has been divided into twelve major basins and eight

composite basins.

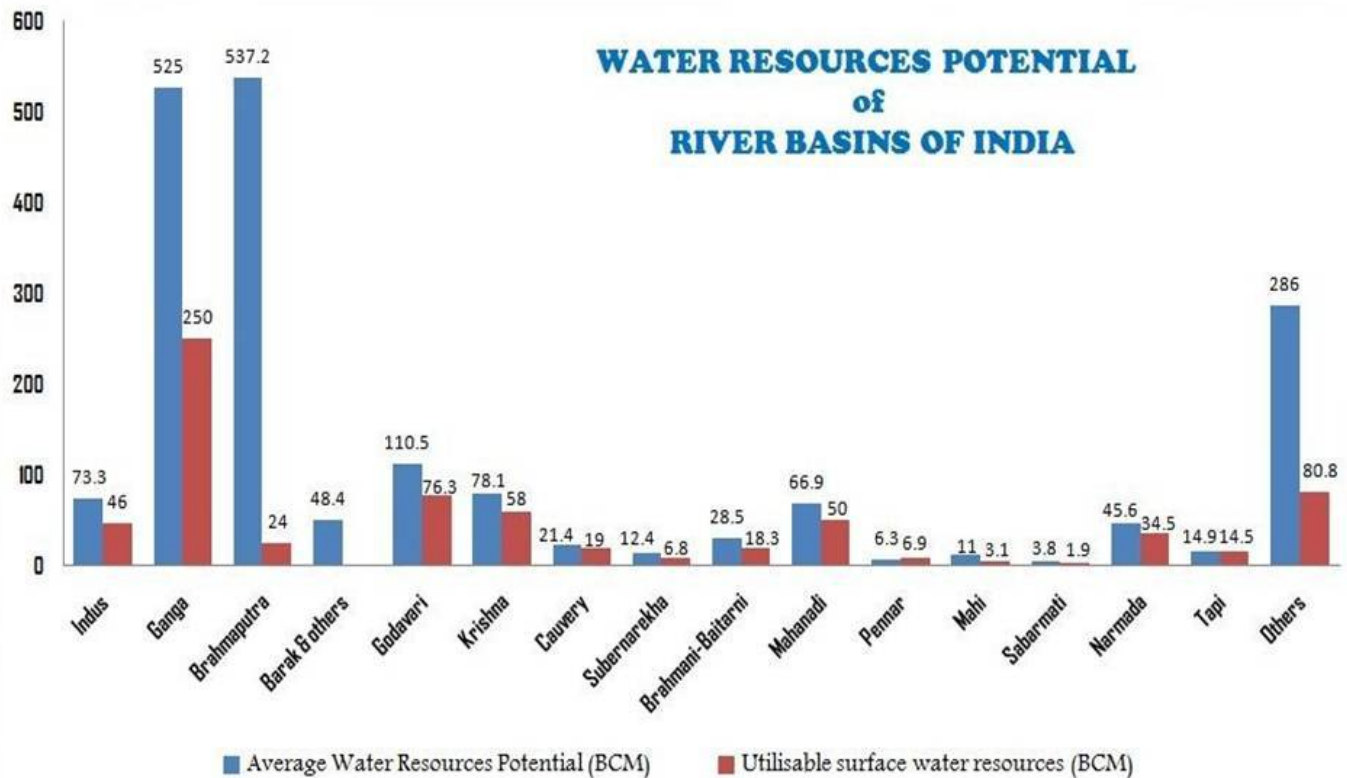


## Surface water resources of India

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD, 1999) has estimated the basin-wise average annual flow in Indian River systems as 1953 km<sup>3</sup>. The details are given in the graphics next. Utilizable water resource is the quantum of withdrawable water from its place of natural occurrence.

Within the limitations of physiographic conditions and socio-political environment, legal and constitutional constraints and the technology of development available at present, utilizable quantity of water from the surface flow has been assessed by various authorities differently. The utilizable annual surface water of the country is 690 km<sup>3</sup>.

There is considerable scope for increasing the utilization of water in the Ganga-Brahmaputra basins by construction of storages at suitable locations in neighboring countries.



### Groundwater resources of India

The annual potential natural groundwater recharge from rainfall in India is about 342.43 km<sup>3</sup>, which is 8.56% of total annual rainfall of the country. The annual potential groundwater recharge augmentation from canal irrigation system is about 89.46 km<sup>3</sup>. The available groundwater resource for irrigation is 361 km<sup>3</sup>, of which utilizable quantity (90%) is 325 km<sup>3</sup>.

Next Chapter >>  
Average Water Available to Every Indian Citizen?