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Ch: DRAINAGE (Notes)

Indian drainage system may be divided on various bases.

On the basis of discharge of water (orientations to the sea), it may be grouped into:

- (i) the Arabian Sea drainage; and
- (ii) the Bay of Bengal drainage.

They are separated from each other through the Delhi ridge, the Aravalis and the Sahyadris (**water divide is shown by a line in Figure 3.1**). **river basin**

77 per cent of the drainage area consisting of the Ganga, the Brahmaputra, the Mahanadi, the Krishna, etc. is oriented towards the Bay of Bengal

23 percent comprising the Indus, the Narmada, the Tapi, the Mahi and the Periyar systems discharge their waters in the Arabian Sea.

On the basis of the size of the watershed,

the drainage basins of India are grouped into three categories:

- (i) Major river basins with more than 20,000 sq. km of catchment area. It includes 14 drainage basins such as the Ganga, the Brahmaputra, the Krishna, the Tapi, the Narmada, the Mahi, the Pennar, the Sabarmati, the Barak, etc.
- (ii) Medium river basins with catchment area between 2,000-20,000 sq. km incorporating 44 river basins such as the Kalindi, the Periyar, the Meghna, etc.
- (iii) Minor river basins with catchment area of less than 2,000 sq. km include fairly good number of rivers flowing in the area of low rainfall.

North Indian rivers are originating from Himalayas peninsular rivers are originating from Western ghats

The Narmada and Tapi are two large rivers which are exceptions originating from central highlands.

the Indian drainage may also be classified into the Himalayan drainage and the Peninsular drainage.