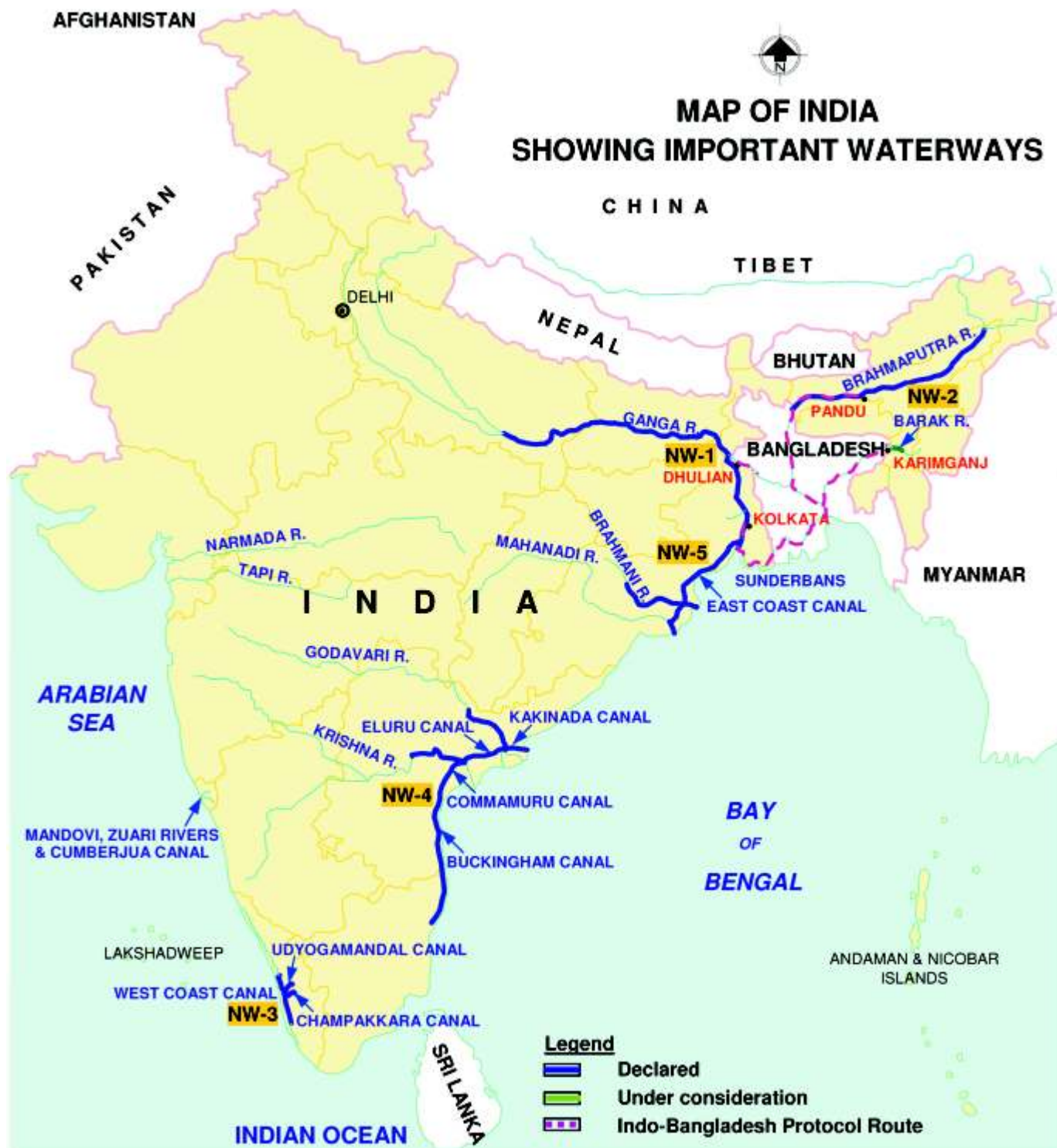




INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

RIVER CRUISES ON NATIONAL WATERWAYS  
in Incredible!ndia







*Incredible!*

*Out of this world!*

*Fascinating!*

These are some of the adjectives used by tourists, foreign as well as Indians, when they see the country from a different angle and perspective which river cruise on Ganga and Brahmaputra, two of the mightiest rivers in the world, provides.

### The Holy Ganga

Ganga originates in the upper reaches of Himalayas at a place called Gomukh and after traversing the Himalayas, enters the Gangetic plains at Haridwar and passes through the cradle of ancient and modern Indian civilization before falling in the Bay of Bengal at Ganga Sagar. The length of the main channel is 2525 km.



Varanasi Ghat

Sir Edmund Hillary, first person to set foot on Mount Everest, also undertook a jet boat expedition called **From the Ocean to Sky** in 1977 when he attempted to travel through the Ganges from Ganga Sagar to its point of origin in the upper Himalayas. However, despite all the technological support, he had to bow down before nature and abandon his expedition before reaching Gomukh.

The river's annual flow is subject to local and seasonal variation with a low-flow dry season from January to May and a wet season from July to November, with peak

flows occurring usually in August. The waters of the Ganga carry one of the highest sediment anywhere in the world, with a mean annual total of 1.6 billion tonnes compared to 0.4 billion tonnes for the Amazon.

The Ganga basin is home to about 450 million people at an average density of over 550 individuals per square kilometer. In the delta zone this rises to over 900 per square kilometer. As a result, there is strong demand and competition for natural resources, especially water for domestic use and irrigation and most of the basin tributaries are regulated by barrages. There are some 30 cities, 70 towns and thousands of villages along the banks of the Ganga.

Kolkata, present day capital of West Bengal and one of the four metropolises of India, was the capital of British India till 1911 and is located on the banks of the river Hooghly (Gangas name in these reaches). Other major cities are Patna, Varanasi and Allahabad. Ganga is integrally linked with the socio-economic and cultural lives of teeming millions inhabiting the Gangetic valley and a destination of pilgrimage for crores of Indians.

