

गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत  
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



सत्यमेव जयते



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The 1st International River Congress – 2021) being organised by South Asian Institute for Advanced Research & Development, where many national and international experts, stakeholders and investors will deliberate upon river resources planning and management, is highly welcome. At this juncture in India's development, our country faces many unsolved problems, but we have the ability to turn adversity into opportunity and leapfrog over the pitfalls of other nations in water resource management. One of the major problems that has escalated in India for decades is that of water. Both water shortages and water surpluses occurring periodically in various parts of the country have slackened our progress. Added to this problem are high levels of pollution and deterioration of our rivers. We keep forgetting that rivers are the lifeline of any kind of civilization. They play a vital role in sustaining life in this planet. But off late it has been seen that our perennial rivers are losing their identity. Some of them have even dried up and are on the verge of extinction. They are in a very bad phase right now. We need to protect our rivers. Most of the rivers have converted into drains. They are covered with so much filth that they cannot be considered as a source of fresh water anymore. Water pollution has become a burning topic in our country, India. The Government is also not far behind in this sphere. It is in this context that management of our river resources become pressing, and is, moreover, essential for securing our future.

I am pleased to note that the 1st International River Congress will not only focus on the conservation of rivers through judicious river resource management on basin scales but will also Open a platform for interaction between investors and stakeholders where the stake holders can share their views or the steps they have taken till date for River Bank Erosion, River Rejuvenation & Riverine Ecosystem Maintenance, livelihood of the people of the river surrounded area, River Economy to create a better future etc.

I wish the organisers of the 1st IRC every success in this venture, and hope that it will strengthen our various developmental programmes with the infusion of Summit-generated ideas.

(Gajendra Singh Shekhawat)



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