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It is indeed a matter of pleasure to know that the South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development (SAIARD) is dedicated to the cause of conservation, restoration and protecting our largest ever flowing freshwater sources.

It is heartening to know that SAIARD is organising the 'International River Congress' at Anthropological Survey of India, Saltlake, Kolkata during December 27 – 29, 2021 as an endeavor to bring together scientists & stakeholders who actually research for the wellbeing of rivers from all over India.

I hope that this platform will witness participation from various strata's of Decision makers' to discuss and deliberate about River Basin Management, livelihoods of the people who live on the adjoining river banks and floodplains, river economies which promote economic sustenance. It is sure to be a landmark event and pivotal assembly, where the stakeholders can share their views or the steps they have taken till date for management of river bank erosion, river rejuvenation & riverine ecosystem sustenance and the seminar will pave the path for integrated and sustainable planning in future.

Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing (RS) can play a pivotal role in river sustainability & development. The RS & Geographic Information System (GIS) provides water quality data with a high spatial and temporal resolution for thousands of lakes at a time. It supports the evaluation of environmental problems and potential health risks through the analysis of changes in water quality and the detection of harmful algal blooms.

I wish for a grand success to this event and let the outcome of this event continues to play a leading role in the application and utilization of space based remote sensing for the development of our nation.

Dr. Prakash Chauhan

Dehradun, Uttarakhand Dated: 30.11.2021