



जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
JAL SHAKTI



Government of West Bengal
Irrigation & Waterways Department

Government of West Bengal

5th INTERNATIONAL RIVER CONGRESS

Organized by

International Institute of River Affairs (IIRA)

An autonomous River institute under the SAIARD Research group



International Institute
of River Affairs (IIRA)

(An autonomous institute under the SAIARD Trust)



4th – 5th
November 2026



Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

International Partners



IRC-5
Kolkata 2026

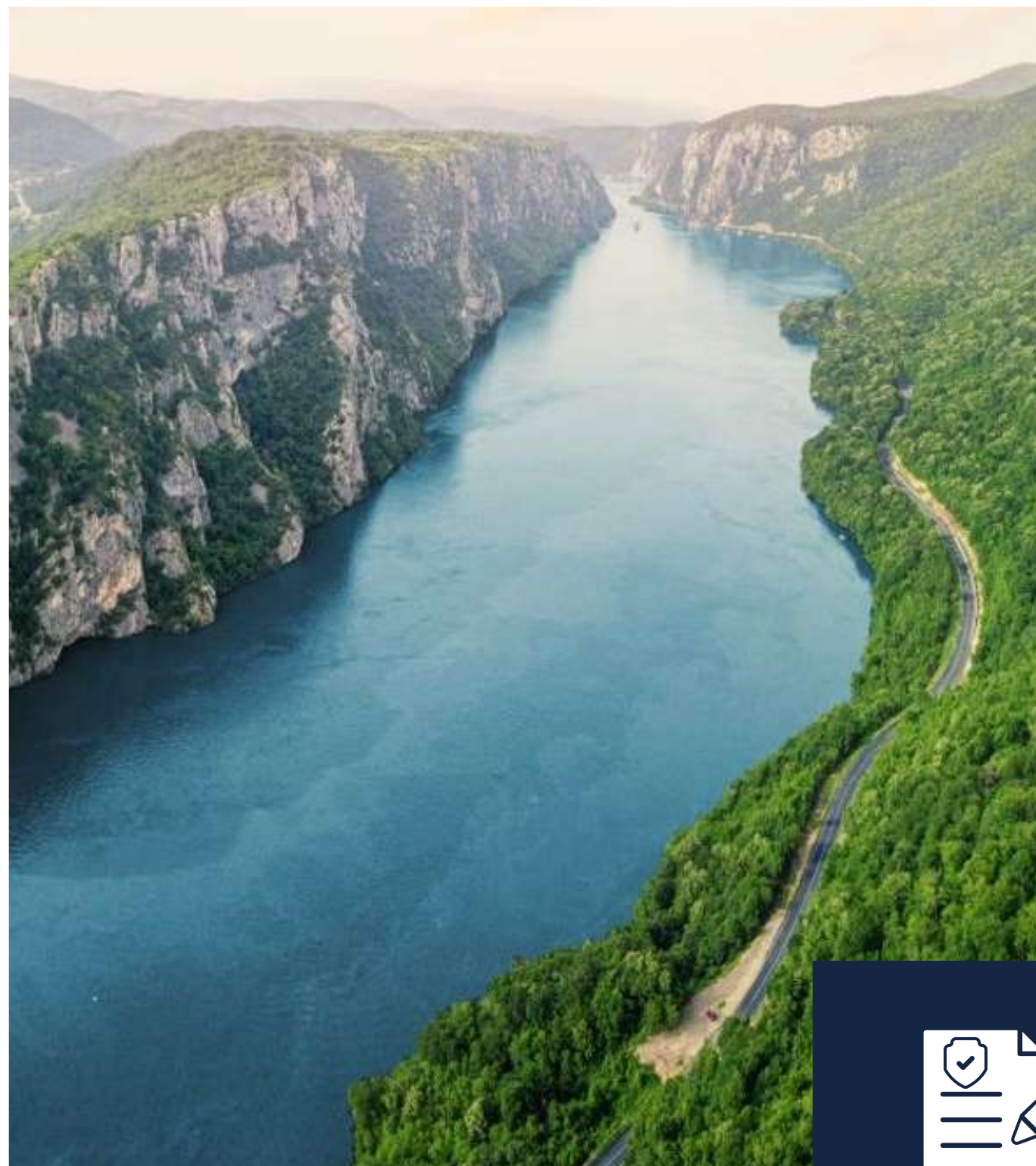
IRC-5 & Ganga Utsav 2026

Integrating River Governance: From Policy to Practice!



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**River
Governance**



Background: Rivers as Lifelines

Rivers sustain ecology, culture, and economy — yet face mounting threats from climate change, urbanisation, pollution, and encroachments. Integrated governance is essential to protect and rejuvenate river systems. IRC was established in 2021 as a multidisciplinary global platform for policy, science, practice, and community.



IRC Founded
2021



SAIARD
International
River Congress

Five Years of the International River Congress



IRC-1 & IRC-2



IRC-3 & IRC-4

Born in Kolkata, IRC expanded to **Nepal, Sri Lanka & New Delhi** — now returning home for its milestone 5th edition.



IRC-5: Kolkata



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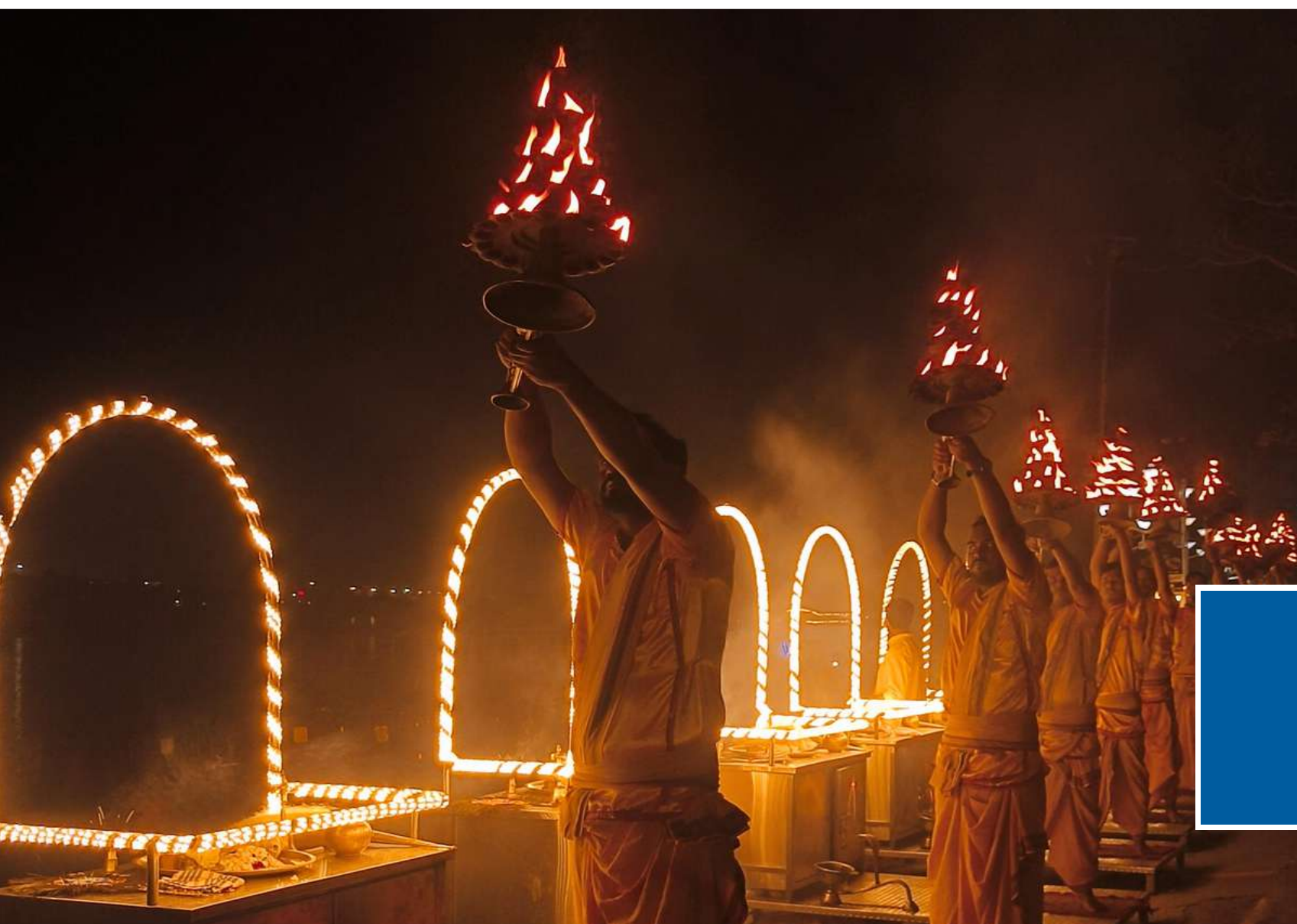
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IRC-5
Ganga Utsav
2026

IRC-5: A Landmark Celebration

IRC-5 is a flagship event combining scientific dialogue, policy engagement, and broad public participation — uniting researchers, policymakers, and communities around integrated river governance.

For the first time, Kolkata hosts Ganga Utsav in its flagship national format, celebrating the city's historic identity as a great river city on the Ganga.



Why Kolkata?

City Significance

Kolkata is a historic river city central to the Ganga basin's ecology and culture, with strong institutional support from Govt of West Bengal and national agencies.



Strategic location fostering regional and international collaboration on integrated river governance and public engagement.





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IRC-5 Objectives

Objectives of IRC-5 & Ganga Utsav 2026

Key aims driving the event towards integrated river governance, public participation, and sustainable river futures for India and beyond.

Strengthen integrated river governance from policy formulation to practical implementation; foster multidisciplinary dialogue on rejuvenation and cultural heritage.

Enhance public awareness, promote youth engagement through Save River Campaign, and foster strategic collaborations among national and international stakeholders.





Thematic Sessions



RIVER REJUVENATION



Mountain Rivers:

Springshed restoration, headwater ecosystems, GeoAI, and community-based river governance.

Deltaic Rivers: Ecological rejuvenation, nature-based restoration, integrated basin governance, and digital river management.



RIVER AS CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Rivers as Cultural Landscapes: History, Civilization and Identity
- Policy, Governance and Community Stewardship of River Cultural Heritage
- River Heritage Conservation, Tourism and Sustainable Development
- Digital Documentation and Geospatial Mapping of River Cultural Heritage



RIVER AS NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

- National Waterways and Integrated Multimodal Logistics for Economic Growth
- Smart Navigation, GeoAI and Digital Inland Waterway Management
- Green Logistics, Blue Economy and Sustainable River Transport
- River Governance, Policy Innovation and Future of Inland Waterways



RIVER & CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Water Stewardship & ESG: Responsible water use, sustainability, and ESG reporting.
- River Restoration & Biodiversity: River, wetland, and ecosystem conservation.
- Community & Corporate Partnerships: CSR, livelihoods, volunteering, and collaboration.
- Technology & Impact: GIS, digital monitoring, innovation, and measurable outcomes.

World Rivers Fourm Meet 2026

International Co-operation for River Management

World Rivers Forum (WRF) is a global platform, formed under the aegis of the International Institute of River Affairs (IIRA), dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable governance of river systems as lifelines of ecosystems, economies, and civilizations. It brings together policymakers, scientists, financial institutions, technologists, and community leaders to advance river-centric solutions for climate resilience, water security, disaster risk reduction, and inclusive development. The Forum promotes evidence-based policy, innovative financing, and nature-based solutions, with a strong focus on trans-boundary cooperation and the challenges of the Global South.





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Save River Campaign

From Awareness To Action

01

Youth outreach programmes and river/ghat cleaning drives; plantation activities, community outreach, and awareness campaigns across Kolkata.

02

Documentation of local river issues (Nadi Gatha storytelling); Awards ceremony recognizing excellence in river stewardship and governance.





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IRC-5
Ganga Utsav 2026

Integrated Programme Architecture

Four core components combining scientific dialogue, cultural celebration, technical workshops, and spiritual engagement at Kolkata.



Component I

Flagship IRC-5
Dialogue on Integrated
River Governance

Component II

Save River Campaign &
Ganga Utsav 2026 Cultural
Activities

Component III & IV

Technical Workshops +
Ganga Aarti at Babughat

Proposed Programme Schedule



Day 1 – Nov 4



Inaugural & Evening

Registration → Inaugural Session → Exhibition
→ Cultural Performances → Ganga Aarti at
Babughat



Day 2 – Nov 5



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IRC-5
Kolkata 2026



Expected Participants

A diverse gathering of national and international stakeholders united for integrated river governance and conservation.

300–400

Participants
from India & Abroad

15+

Ministries &
Govt Agencies

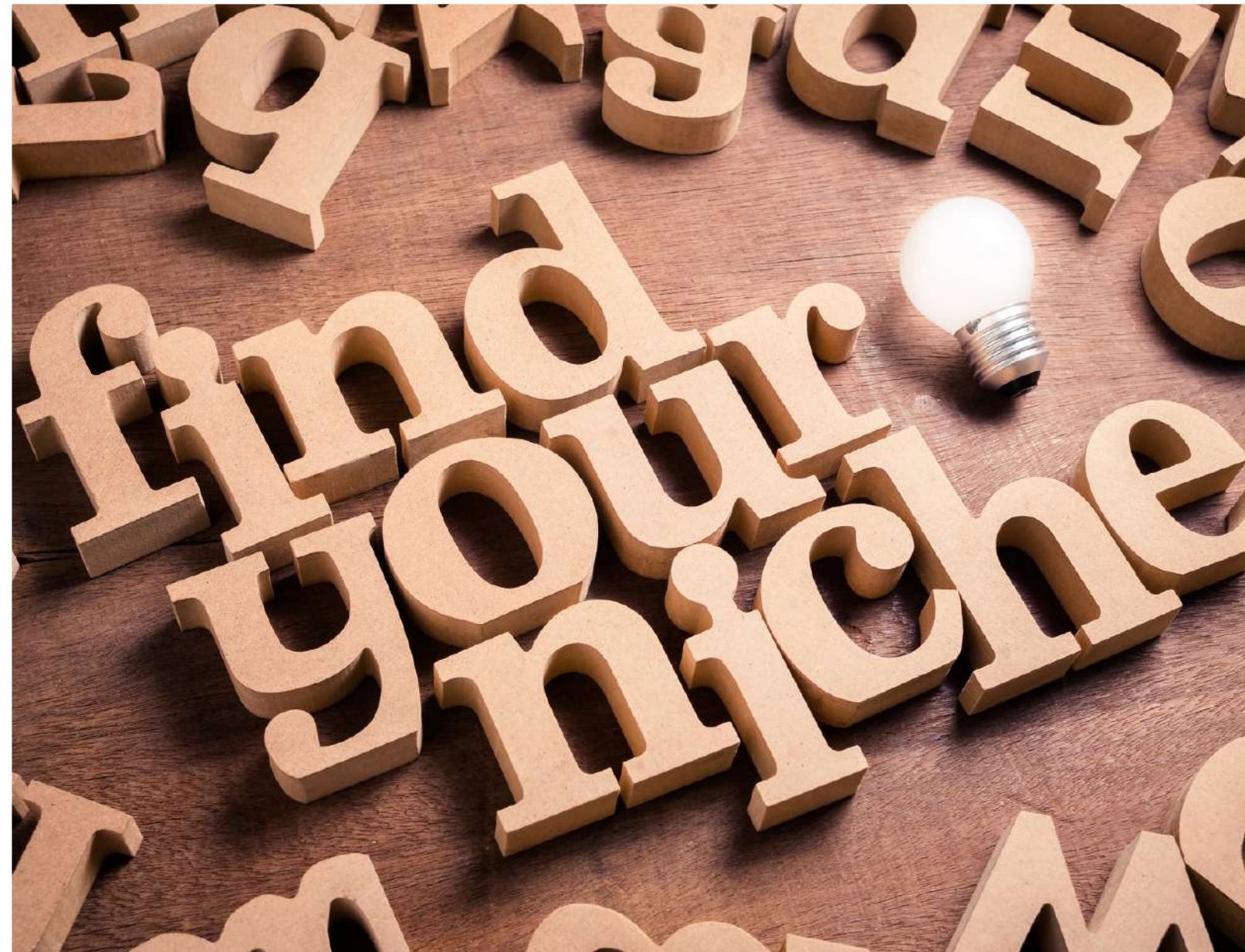
20+

Universities &
Research Institutions



IRC 5
2026

**IRC5
Participation**



Participate As-

Strategic Knowledge Partner

General Participation



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For General Participation - Register Now !!!!



IRC 5
2026



Strategic Knowledge Partnership

Platinum Partner (5 Delegates Pass + Panelist + Branding + Exhibition Stall) : Rs. 7,00,000/-.

Gold Partner (Branding + Panelist + 4 Delegates Pass + Exhibition Stall) : Rs. 5,00,000/-

Silver Partner (Branding + Panelist + 3 Delegates Pass) : Rs. 3,00,000/-

Lunch/High Profile Gala Dinner Sponsor with proper branding : Rs. 5,00,000/-

Only Standee Exhibition: Rs. 50,000/-

Email us for Details - ircsaiard21@gmail.com



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**IRC-5
Kolkata 2026**



Expected Outcomes

IRC-5 & Ganga Utsav 2026 is designed to generate lasting impact — from strengthening policy frameworks to inspiring citizen-led river conservation across India and beyond.

- Enhanced public awareness and citizen participation in river conservation; strengthened policy dialogue and multidisciplinary collaboration.
- Technical recommendations on small river rejuvenation and heritage conservation; shared roadmap from policy to actionable river governance.



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Benefits & Significance

Strategic Impact

01

Strengthens Government of India's river conservation initiatives and Namami Gange visibility; fosters cross-agency collaboration and national-international partnerships.

02

Elevates Kolkata as a river governance hub; supports sustainable development goals linked to water, environment, and culture.





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IRC-5 Ganga Utsav 2026

IRC-5 & Ganga Utsav 2026 — a transformative platform for integrated river governance. Join hands for a sustainable river future!

Register & Partner:

www.iira.org.in

ircsaiard21@gmail.com

Call us on-

8777433044/9049043832

Kolkata | 4–5 Nov 2026

Conclusion & Call to Action



Register Now !

