



Learn Lead Serve

# Sri Sri University



*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas  
and marine resources for sustainable development.*

# 2021

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# Highlights



**70 Rivers**



**7 Million  
people**



**Limca book  
of records**



**20 Lakh  
Ltr Water**



**Rain Water  
Harvesting**



**9 Beach Cleaning**



**25 % water saving**

**SDG-14**



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Kathjodi river

## WATER AND SRI SRI UNIVERSITY

### EDUCATION AND WATER IN SRI SRI UNIVERSITY

The oceans make human life possible. Their temperature, their chemistry, their currents, their life forms. For one thing, more than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal diversity for their livelihoods. But today we are seeing nearly a third of the world's fish stocks overexploited. That's not a sustainable way of life. Even people who live nowhere near the ocean can't live without it. Oceans absorb about 30 per cent of the carbon dioxide that humans produce; but we're producing more carbon dioxide than ever before and that makes the oceans more acidic—26% more, since the start of the industrial revolution. Our trash doesn't help either—13,000 pieces of plastic litter on every square kilometre of ocean. Sounds bad, right? Don't despair! The Sustainable Development Goals indicate targets for managing and protecting life below water ([www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)). Sri Sri University contributes its part through different approaches to achieve the individual and institutional target of (SDG-14) Life Below Water.

Sri Sri University is located on the bank of the Kathjodi river (an arm of the Mahanadi River) and has wetlands in its vicinity. Sri Sri University is 80 km away from the coastal line (Puri district, Odisha) of the Bay of Bengal. As an educational institution, University runs three programs related to water and life below water i.e B.Sc. Hons. (Environmental Science), B.Sc. Hons. (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Hons) Horticulture under the aegis of the Faculty of Sciences and Faculty of Agriculture respectively. To address the present challenges, University has a Sri Sri Centre for Advance Research on Water Resources and Environmental Management, and Sri Sri University Resource Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability Education & Practices. Apart from this, Sri Sri University collaborates with local communities, farmers, and NGOs for activities and research purposes. Students also take part in the same.

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## EDUCATION AND WATER IN SRI SRI UNIVERSITY



**Be like water. It rises above the stones & flows. Similarly rise above obstacles in Life & move through them. Have patience & flow over them. - Sri Sri Ravishankar**

Sri Sri University organizes events for water management throughout the year as a part of the curriculum, observing internationally important days, etc. Sri Sri University takes care of every drop of water through water, and wastewater treatment. Our parent organization Art of Living has rejuvenated more than 48 rivers and made a positive impact on 7 million people's life. University has upgraded its tap with air filters which results in saving 25% of water.



University is equipped with a sensor-based toilet which reduces water use and helps in water conservation. Drip irrigation for horticulture is practised since starting and continuing for water conservation. This has resulted in low consumption of water in the university annually. Sri Sri University is committed to achieving the goal by 2030.



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# Education for “Water Conservation”

Sri Sri University organizes events for water management and irrigation practices for local farmers and communities. Awareness campaigns and workshops help farmers to use water resources efficiently and effectively. Sri Sri University participates in local, national and international movements regarding water management. We encourage students to participate in such events. Research scholars are emboldened to conduct research on the best water management practices. Local farmers and other stakeholders are made aware of the state of art technologies regarding irrigation practices, government policies and subsidies for irrigation practices. As a result, local farmers benefitted from these activities and made notable changes in their actions and practices. Some of the examples are ;

In this context, we have constituted a Farmers club which is driven by the students of B.Sc Agriculture, B. Sc Horticulture. Local farmers are also involved in the activities and events like irrigation practices and water management. This club aims to educate, support and empower farmers and local communities as part of its curriculum through outreach activities such as Internships, workshops, etc. . It helps to strengthen the relationship between students and farmers for better practices. Sri Sri University has collaborated with Research for Resurgence Foundation, Nagpur RFRF “Know Your River” Programme. Students and other staff members participated in the event. This program aimed to create an inventory of known and unknown rivers. (<https://rfrfoundation.org/>). The course B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture focuses on education on the protection of aquatic ecosystems and water conservation engineering- E.g. Environmental Studies and Disaster Management, Soil and water conservation engineering, Introductory Agro-meteorology & Climate change, Rainfed Agriculture and Watershed Management, Renewable Energy and Green Technology etc The Course B.Sc. (Hons) Environmental Science has covered a paper – Water Resource focusing on Water Resource Management and Conservation. Also, various aspects of the Freshwater Ecosystem like aquatic biodiversity, water pollution, etc. have been addressed in the different sections of the syllabus. Since we share aquatic ecosystems with local communities, farmers and fishermen, We encourage students, and faculty members to visit them for sharing their experiences, expertise and support. Students are exposed to the local fisherman communities through outreach programs as a part of their curriculum. Awareness programs on Sustainable fisheries, overfishing and unreported or unregulated fishing are being organized.



Students participating in River Rally

SDG-14



## Action towards Water Sustainability

We, as an institution organize and participates in educational programs, activities, and outreach programs for sustainable use, and conservation of water. Every event has maximum participation and notable contribution to water conservation in local, nearby areas. These beach cleaning and outreach programs benefitted local communities, visitors, and tourists. Involving the local stakeholders in every activity amplifies the impact of the program. These reoccurring activities benefitted the students, and other communities and helps to create harmony with nature and aquatic ecosystems. Activities involved local NGOs which resulted in more participation from the student volunteers of other colleges and other communities.

As an example, The purpose of World Ocean Day and World Water Day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, River and other water resources, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's water resources. A beach cleaning drive on Pir Jahaniya beach, Ashtaranga, Konark, Odisha was organized and more than 5000 kg of plastic waste was collected and handed over to the local authority. 50 Students and Staff contributed to the drive along with other volunteers from the other organizations. An Awareness session was also organized for the local community to make them aware of ocean plastic pollution.



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# River Rejuvenation



Sri Sri University students and faculty members work collaboratively with the river rejuvenation team of Art of Living (the parent organization of Sri Sri University) on different projects, workshops, and conferences. Art of Living has rejuvenated more than 48 rivers, benefiting more than 7 million people. River rejuvenation programs have revived more than 1000 water bodies. More than 6100 villages are benefitted from these programs, and it is appreciated by the local, national and international governing bodies. Limca book of records cited this work as "Most Extensive River Rejuvenation by an NGO".



## Food from the aquatic system

Food from aquatic sources mainly fish, prawn, etc. are prohibited inside the campus. As per Sri Sri University student handbook, only vegetarian food is cooked in the kitchen and allowed inside the campus. Handbook Version 2.0, AY 2020-21 clearly states about prohibiting nonveg food. Prohibiting non-veg food inside the campus lowers the sale of non-veg food in nearby areas which contributes to a decrease in unorganized fishing and promotes the conservation of the natural fish population in the adjacent river Kathjodi







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# Water-sensitive waste disposal

Unmanaged waste is more harmful than generating it. Education institutes generate dry waste, wet waste and biomedical waste, etc. Sri Sri University manages its waste on regular bases. Some of the examples that tackle liquid waste are; A bio-sewage treatment plant that treats the sewage water and upcycles the water which is used in irrigation, sprinkling on the road and spraying on the ground. This inhibits the growth of injurious bacteria and potentially protects wildlife, aquatic flora and fauna by releasing treated water. Sri Sri University harvests rainwater in abandoned quarries and treated it through the installed water treatment plant. It upcycles the rainwater and made it suitable for use in toilets, and other uses. This results in less use of the groundwater and conservation of rainwater. Sri Sri University tracks the water quality and discharges and follows BIS/ WHO standards. Monitoring is done at regular intervals.



The treated water is used for Horticulture purposes only. There is no outfall of sewage and disposal of other types of liquid and solid wastes in the wetland located in proximity to the Sri Sri University campus. Sri Sri University takes care of the shared wetlands and keeps them intact from the developing activities, also the university has developed a mid-height boundary wall for ensuring no disturbance to the wetland ecosystem and its biodiversity. Students and other individuals are not allowed to enter or perform any activity near wetlands for maintaining the natural environment nearby wetlands. No artificial lighting or electrification is done on the wetlands side for protecting the natural environment. Drainage and waste dumping site are selected accordingly for conserving the existing wetland ecosystem. In addition to other measures, no construction and other activities lead to adverse impacts on wetland fauna and water quality. The wetland patch and main University are divided by a retaining wall. The retaining wall is also used to prevent the outfall of waste in the wetland. The excavated muck as a result of construction activities,



if any, is necessarily avoided dumping. The muck is used for the purpose of agricultural and horticultural activities after the treatment. Therefore, the soil cannot be washed away in the wetland during the rainy season. Sri Sri University ensures the monitoring at regular intervals, including water quality, flora and fauna. University has formed focused student organizations like eco-club, and farmer clubs for monitoring, experimental activities, and awareness campaigns for the same. Faculty members encourage the students to do experimental studies, and surveys for the betterment. The university follows the guidelines of the BIS/WHO and maintains the quality standard accordingly. University also maintains its own biodiversity map which contains the details of the flora and fauna of Sri Sri University.





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## ***STEPS FOR WATER***

The following actions have been taken:

- Regular ecological monitoring is conducted as part of the Eco-club, Farmers' Club, Bird Club and Science club formed in SSU. Surveys related to aquatic macrophytes and faunal species are conducted as part of the course curriculum by the B.Sc. students. From the surveys a total of 81 species of birds. In addition to this local market, surveys are conducted for checking the availability of fish species in the water bodies near the University.
- Monitoring of soil dumps, wastes, sewage outfall and garbage to prevent the wetland from pollution.
- The bio-digester has anaerobic microbial inoculum. Almost 40% of volume of the bio-digester tank is filled with microbial inoculum. The system consists of various compartments/partitions, an internal flow system with a bacteria matrix, an inlet for human waste, and an outlet for treated effluent and biogas.
- Sri Sri University has well-developed policies regarding the aquatic ecosystem like Reducing Marine Pollution, Waste disposal policy.

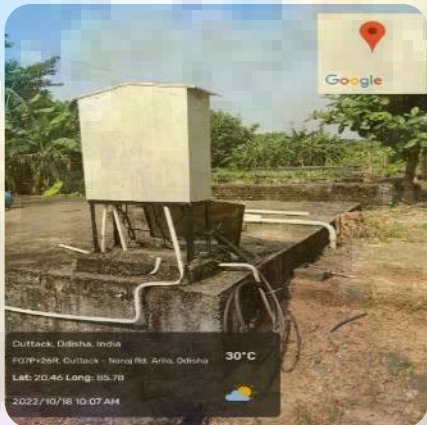
Sri Sri University is progressing to achieve SDGs in a systematic and rapid manner. "Life below water" is an essential part and we take preventive measures in our actions. We as an institution practices reuse, reduce, and recycle principal. We are progressing in achieving the goals and making an impact on upcoming generations.





Naganadhi River Rejuvenation

Particular river rejuvenation project got district officers for similar project for the dry rivers in their districts.



Our efforts in 2021

