

Bio-Diversity Pond: Strengthening Water Security and Ecological Sustainability at MANUU

An Integrated Initiative for Rainwater Harvesting, Groundwater Recharge and Biodiversity Conservation

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, has developed a **Bio-Diversity Pond with integrated Rainwater Harvesting and Groundwater Recharge facilities**, inaugurated on **08 May 2025**, as part of its continuing efforts towards water conservation, environmental sustainability and development of a greener and resilient campus.



INAUGURATION OF BIODIVERSITY POND BY THE HON'BLE VICE CHANCELLOR PROF. SYED AINUL HASAN

The initiative was undertaken in view of the growing water requirements of the University campus, which caters to students residing in hostels, staff quarters and residential areas, besides day scholars. The pond provides an important mechanism for **rainwater conservation and groundwater replenishment**, thereby strengthening the University's water-resource base and reducing dependence on external water sources. The recharge measures have also helped the University manage water availability during periods of seasonal stress and constraints in regular municipal supply.

Promoting Biodiversity and Green Campus Development

The pond has been developed as an integrated ecological space rather than merely as a water-retention facility. A **Biodiversity Park covering approximately 10,000 sq. metres** has been developed around the pond to enhance green cover, promote ecological balance and provide habitat for local fauna. The area supports resident birds, fish and waterfowl and provides feeding and resting grounds for seasonal migratory birds. Regular measures have been instituted for habitat care, cleanliness and ecological maintenance.



BIODIVERSITY PARK

The development also incorporates the principle of **resource efficiency and reuse**, with recycled/waste materials utilised in the construction and development of the pond to the extent possible. This reflects the University's emphasis on responsible utilisation of resources and sustainable campus infrastructure.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam – Strengthening the Green Cover

The Bio-Diversity Pond has been complemented by the University's continuing plantation and campus-greening initiatives, including the “**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**” campaign. Students and staff have actively participated in plantation activities, contributing to the expansion of green cover and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the environment.



The integration of tree plantation with the pond and its surrounding biodiversity park has helped create a more diverse ecological landscape. The trees and green spaces provide additional habitat for birds and other fauna while contributing to the overall environmental quality of the campus. Student participation in nurturing planted saplings further promotes **environmental awareness, ownership and community stewardship**.

Supporting National Environmental Priorities

The initiative contributes to the objectives of the **Government of India's Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** through practical measures for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, water conservation, biodiversity protection and responsible use of natural resources. It demonstrates how a higher educational institution can translate national priorities on water security and environmental sustainability into campus-level action.

The initiative also supports the University's contribution towards the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly:

- **SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation**, through rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and sustainable water management;
- **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**, through development of resilient and environmentally sustainable campus infrastructure;
- **SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production**, through resource reuse and efficient utilisation;
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action**, through water conservation, green infrastructure and enhanced campus resilience; and
- **SDG 15 – Life on Land**, through biodiversity conservation, habitat creation and plantation.

Community Participation and Recognition

The initiative has encouraged participation from NGOs and other stakeholders, who have voluntarily contributed plants, saplings and feeding supplies. The University's continuing plantation drives and green campaigns have further strengthened environmental awareness and community participation.



MANUU's efforts towards environmental sustainability and water conservation have also received recognition. The University was conferred the **4th National Water Award 2022** by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. It has also received **Gold Garden Awards at the 7th Garden Festival 2023 and 8th Garden Festival 2024** of the Government of Telangana.

Towards a Sustainable Campus

The Bio-Diversity Pond represents MANUU's integrated approach to **water conservation, groundwater recharge, biodiversity protection, tree plantation and sustainable resource management**. By combining water infrastructure with green spaces and community participation, the initiative contributes to a more water-secure, biodiverse and environmentally responsible campus.

The initiative also provides a potential **replicable model for sustainable campus development**, demonstrating how higher educational institutions can contribute to national environmental priorities while creating a healthier and more resilient learning environment for their students and the wider University community.
