GOAL 15

LIFE ON LAND

In alignment with the global commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU) reaffirms its dedication to preserving and protecting life on land. Recognizing the urgent need to safeguard biodiversity, restore degraded ecosystems, and promote sustainable land use, the University has implemented innovative and eco-friendly practices across its campus and beyond.

Guided by the principles of environmental stewardship, SRHU integrates sustainability into its operations, infrastructure, and education. Through initiatives such as tree plantation drives, rainwater harvesting, renewable energy adoption, and waste management, the University seeks to foster a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature.

"Together, we strive to conserve, restore, and sustainably use the land, ensuring a thriving ecosystem for all life forms."

स्वामी राम हिमालयन विश्वविद्यालय
Swami Rama Himalayan University

Tree Plantation Drives

As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU) has launched an extensive tree plantation initiative in collaboration with the **Namami Gange Programme**. This initiative has achieved the plantation of over **3,300 trees** along the campus periphery, demonstrating a strong alignment with **Target 15.1** of the SDGs, which emphasizes the conservation of freshwater ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, and river basins.

Key Highlights:

Selection of Indigenous and Diverse Species:

o   To ensure ecological balance and enhance biodiversity, the initiative prioritized indigenous species such as **Amla**, **Jamun**, **Kachnar**, **Amaltash**, and **Sal**.

o   These species are well-adapted to the local environment, requiring minimal external inputs, which makes the plantation self-sustaining over time.

Environmental Benefits:

- o The trees act as a **carbon sink**, absorbing significant amounts of CO_2 and reducing air pollution in the region.

- o The green belt contributes to maintaining soil fertility and reducing erosion, particularly in the **catchment area of the Ganga River**, directly aiding the protection of freshwater ecosystems.

- o The shade and moisture provided by the trees foster an ideal microclimate, contributing to local environmental stability.

Creation of Microhabitats:

- o The landscaped green spaces host a variety of **flora and fauna**, creating a haven for **birds, insects, reptiles, and small mammals**.

- o The carefully curated plantation includes **flowering plants**, shrubs, and trees that attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds, thereby supporting ecological processes.

Combatting Land Degradation and Desertification

Rainwater Harvesting

- SRHU has implemented 12 rainwater harvesting pits across its 200-acre campus.

- These pits enable groundwater recharge, addressing land degradation caused by over-extraction of groundwater.

- Over **40 crore Liters of rainwater** are harvested annually, ensuring water availability while reducing soil erosion risks. For more information
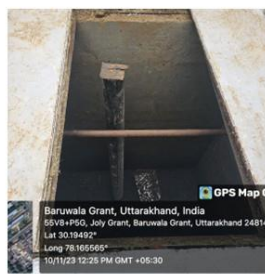
Soil Conservation Through Effluent Treatment

- SRHU's **Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP)** (90 KLD capacity) treats wastewater, which is recycled for irrigation.This reduces the need for freshwater in landscaping and preserves soil quality by preventing contamination.

Reduction of Pollution and Degradation

Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

- SRHU has a **600 KLD STP**, which treats wastewater generated on campus.

- The treated water irrigates the campus gardens and green areas, preventing untreated waste discharge into natural ecosystems and supporting sustainable land use.

Plastic-Free Campus

- SRHU has implemented a plastic-free policy and established a **plastic bank** in partnership with the NGO Social Development for Communities Foundation.

- Approximately **800 kg of plastic waste** has been sent to the Indian Institute of Petroleum for recycling into diesel, reducing pollution and minimizing land degradation.
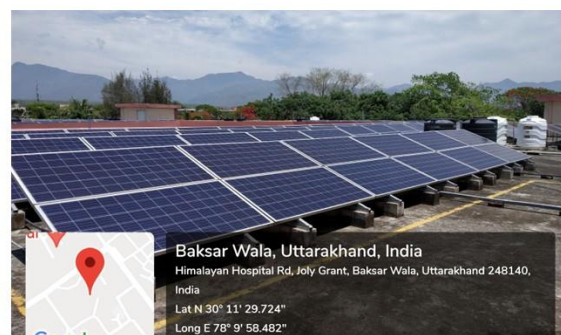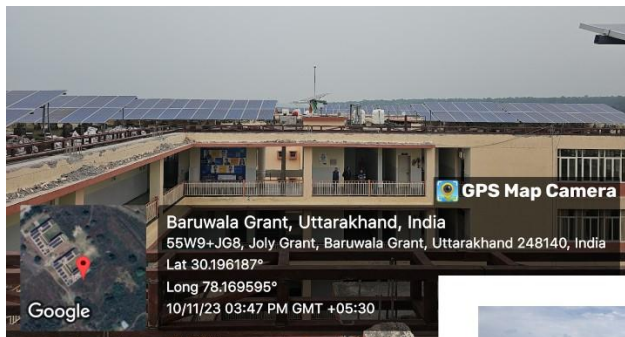
Integration of Renewable Energy and Sustainable Practices

Solar Power Initiatives

- A **1500 KW rooftop solar power plant** installed across campus generates renewable energy, reducing the dependency on fossil fuels.

- Plans are underway to expand by an additional **1000 KW**, ensuring the campus meets 40% of its electricity needs sustainably.

Energy-Efficient Infrastructure

- SRHU uses **LED lights**, **BLDC fans**, and **BEE star-rated air conditioners** to minimize energy consumption, thereby reducing emissions and the environmental footprint of campus activities.

स्वामी राम हिमालयन विश्वविद्यालय
Swami Rama Himalayan University

Enhancing Environmental Awareness and Education

Capacity Building Through Harela

- The university observes the *Harela* festival, a traditional Uttarakhand event celebrating nature, to raise awareness about afforestation and biodiversity conservation.

- Students and staff participate in tree planting and workshops on sustainable environmental practices.

Educational Outreach

- The rainwater harvesting system and the waste recycling facilities are used as live educational tools to demonstrate sustainable practices to students, staff, and visitors.

Contribution to National and Global Efforts

Collaboration with National Initiatives

- SRHU's collaboration with the Namami Gange programme highlights its commitment to national biodiversity conservation efforts. For more information

- The institution's recognition as a sector partner by the Ministry of Jal Shakti underscores its contribution to water and land conservation. For more information

Green Audit Certificate

Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU) has been honored with the Green Audit Award in recognition of its commitment to environmental sustainability. This esteemed award acknowledges the university's initiatives in advancing eco-friendly practices on campus, such as efficient waste management, energy conservation, water usage optimization, and the promotion of green spaces. SRHU's dedication to sustainable development, minimizing its carbon footprint, and adopting eco-friendly technologies has been pivotal in earning this recognition, highlighting its role in promoting environmental awareness and responsibility within the academic community.