



ODISHA POND CONFERENCE 2.0

PIONEERING EFFORTS IN POND REJUVENATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ABOUT CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The Pond Conference 2.0, organized by Youth4Water Plus in collaboration with PANTISS Foundation and IMMT Bhubaneswar, was held in Odisha on 10th May 2024 with about 150 participants from the State. The aim of the conference was uniting experts, conservationists, and stakeholders to strategize the preservation and rejuvenation of ponds in the region. This distinctive event was one of the first of its kind in India to focus solely on pond conservation, emphasizing its significance for water sustainability and the well-being of local communities.



INAUGURAL SESSION

The event commenced with opening remarks from Shipra Saxena, WASH-CCES Specialist from UNICEF Odisha. In her address, Ms. Saxena emphasized the importance of ponds as lifelines for communities and ecosystems. “Ponds are not only water bodies but also integral parts of our cultural heritage and biodiversity. Preserving them is essential for sustainable development,” she said.

Dharmananda Sundaray, Campaign Manager of Youth4Water Plus, spoke about the journey of the initiative, describing the impact of youth involvement in water conservation efforts. “Through Youth4Water Plus, we are empowering young people to become catalysts for change and stewards of our natural resources,” he shared. Stalin Nayak, Founder and CEO of PANTISS, outlined the conference's objectives. “Our aim is to create a platform for collective action and collaboration, ensuring the sustainable rejuvenation of ponds across Odisha,” he declared. Prominent speakers, including Dr. D. S. Rao from IMMT Bhubaneswar and Dr. Bama Shankar Ratha, Dean of Forestry at OUAT, shared their expertise on environmental conservation and the critical role ponds play in maintaining local ecosystems.

Abha Mishra, State Head of UNDP, emphasized the significance of sustainable water management. “Ponds are not just water bodies; they are the lifeblood of rural communities. Sustainable management is key to ensuring their longevity and the well-being of our people,” she remarked. The event also featured Ramveer Tanwar, known as the “Pond man of India,” who spoke passionately about his efforts in pond rejuvenation. “Preserving our ponds is a collective responsibility. Through concerted action and community involvement, we can restore these vital resources,” he affirmed.

The conference included an award ceremony recognizing outstanding participants in the painting competition and contributors for the “Ama Pokhari Katha” booklet. Ramveer Tanwar was felicitated for his contributions to pond conservation. Laxmi Buduili, a 23-year-old woman of Tari village, of Gobardhanpur Panchayat, Jajpur district of Odisha was declared as the “Pond woman of Odisha” for her contribution in rejuvenating pond in her village and was felicitated by the “Pond man of India”.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

A panel discussion on the significance of ponds as common property resources followed, featuring esteemed panelists such as Prof. Bipin B. Das, EX-Professor at TISS Mumbai, Dr. Jayakrushna Panigrahi from the Environmental Society of Odisha, Mr. Sourav Bhattacharjee Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Odisha, Prof. Dr. Soosai Peppin, Dean, Director, Srusti Academy of Management, Shri Amulyadhan Rout Director – MGM Green Energy Limited, Visiting Professor XIM University, Bhubaneswar moderated by Stalin Nayak, CEO and Founder of PANTISS. They shared perspectives on the critical role of ponds in sustaining livelihoods, culture, and nutrition. Speakers emphasized that ponds provide essential water sources for agriculture, support local fisheries, and sustain cultural and spiritual traditions. The conference also addressed the role of corporates, multilateral institutions, and government partnerships in fostering pond rejuvenation efforts. Moderated by Neelima Mishra, Founder of Ceiba Green Solutions, and Mr. Pradeep Kumar Ghosal, Head CSR TATA POWER (Central Odisha), Ms. Smiti Pati, Director National Fisheries Development Board, Shri Nilendu Chatterjee, Deputy General Manager, Bainsidhar Ila Panda Foundation, IMFA, Bhubaneswar discussed how different sectors can collaborate to support conservation initiatives. “Pond rejuvenation requires collective action, and corporates have a significant role in driving positive change,” stated Mr. Ghosal.



ODISHA POND ACTION PLAN

The event's highlight was the preparation of an action plan during the Odisha Pond Dialogue. Participants engaged in group discussions to propose practical solutions for pond rejuvenation and sustainable management. An action plan was developed for pond restoration projects, focusing on the following key areas:

- **Survey and Identification:** Conducting surveys to identify existing ponds in and around Bhubaneswar, as well as those in need of restoration. Suggestions came in for rejuvenating prominent ponds such as Bindu Sagar, Mausima Pond, Laxmi Sagar, and ponds near Nandankanan. This includes desilting, recharging, and reforesting surrounding areas.
- **Institutionalizing Pond Communities:** Creating Pond communities or committees to oversee conservation efforts and manage pond-related activities.
- **Safety and Kits:** Addressing safety concerns around ponds by providing safety kits and ensuring safe swimming areas.
- **Mobilization and Roadmap:** Mobilizing local communities and creating a roadmap for ongoing pond rejuvenation efforts.
- **Ecotourism and Recreation:** Exploring opportunities to use ponds for ecotourism and recreational activities, such as swimming, in a sustainable manner.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Collaborating with government bodies to advocate for supportive policies and frameworks for pond preservation.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launching awareness campaigns, such as "Ama Pokhari Katha" (Our Pond Story), to educate the public about the ecological and cultural significance of ponds.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Creating monitoring systems to track the health and sustainability of ponds over time.
- **Fundraising Initiatives:** Generating financial support through grants, donations, and sponsorships to fund pond conservation projects, including community awareness campaigns, infrastructure development, and monitoring efforts.



WAY FORWARD

The Pond Conference 2.0 provided a platform for dialogue and action planning on pond rejuvenation. The emphasis on community engagement, partnerships, and educational initiatives paved the way for a sustainable approach to pond conservation in Odisha. Local experts highlighted the importance of involving old-aged people to gather knowledge about traditional pond practices and history, which could guide restoration efforts. Through initiatives like creating islands within ponds for birds and other creatures to thrive, the conference highlighted the need for ecological restoration to maintain biodiversity. It also recognized the potential for ponds to be transformed into ecotourism hubs and recreational areas.

CONCLUSION

In her closing remarks, Shipra Saxena emphasized the significance of the conference and the collaborative journey ahead. “Our journey towards pond conservation is just beginning. Through collective action and partnership, we can secure a sustainable future for our communities and preserve these vital water bodies,” she stated. The Pond Conference 2.0 concluded with a strong sense of commitment from all participants to take actionable steps toward the rejuvenation and sustainable management of ponds in Odisha.

2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493-2494-2495-2496-2497-2498-2499-2500-2501-2502-2503-2504-2505-2506-2507-2508-2509-2510-2511-2512-2513-2514-2515-2516-2517-2518-2519-2520-2521-2522-2523-2524-2525-2526-2527-2528-2529-2530-2531-2532-2533-2534-2535-2536-2537-2538-2539-2540-2541-2542-2543-2544-2545-2546-2547-2548-2549-2550-2551-2552-2553-2554-2555-2556-2557-2558-2559-2560-2561-2562-2563-2564-2565-2566-2567-2568-2569-2570-2571-2572-2573-2574-2575-2576-2577-2578-2579-2580-2581-2582-2583-2584-2585-2586-2587-2588-2589-2590-2591-2592-2593-2594-2595-2596-2597-2598-2599-2600-2601-2602-2603-2604-2605-2606-2607-2608-2609-2610-2611-2612-2613-2614-2615-2616-2617-2618-2619-2620-2621-2622-2623-2624-2625-2626-2627-2628-2629-2630-2631-2632-2633-2634-2635-2636-2637-2638-2639-2640-2641-2642-2643-2644-2645-2646-2647-2648-2649-2650-2651-2652-2653-2654-2655-2656-2657-2658-2659-2660-2661-2662-2663-2664-2665-2666-2667-2668-2669-2670-2671-2672-2673-2674-2675-2676-2677-2678-2679-2680-2681-2682-2683-2684-2685-2686-2687-2688-2689-2690-2691-2692-2693-2694-2695-2696-2697-2698-2699-2700-2701-2702-2703-2704-2705-2706-2707-2708-2709-2710-2711-2712-2713-2714-2715-2716-2717-2718-2719-2720-2721-2722-2723-2724-2725-2726-2727-2728-2729-2730-2731-2732-2733-2734-2735-2736-2737-2738-2739-2740-2741-2742-2743-2744-2745-2746-2747-2748-2749-2750-2751-2752-2753-2754-2755-2756-2757-2758-2759-2760-2761-2762-2763-2764-2765-2766-2767-2768-2769-2770-2771-2772-2773-2774-2775-2776-2777-2778-2779-2780-2781-2782-2783-2784-2785-2786-2787-2788-2789-2790-2791-2792-2793-2794-2795-2796-2797-2798-2799-2800-2801-2802-2803-2804-2805-2806-2807-2808-2809-2810-2811-2812-2813-2814-2815-2816-2817-2818-2819-2820-2821-2822-2823-2824-2825-2826-2827-2828-2829-2830-2831-2832-2833-2834-2835-2836-2



କୁଳଦେବ, କାଳଦେବୀ, କୁଳଦେବୀ
 ଦେବୀଙ୍କ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ
 ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ
 ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ ପ୍ରାଣ

[illegible]

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, (ସର୍ବଜନ ନ୍ୟୁସ୍):
ଆରାଧ୍ୟା ବିହାର ପ୍ରିତ ଆରାଧ୍ୟାମଣି
ଅତିବୋଲିୟମରେ ସୁନିବେଶ
ପରିଚାଳିତ ସୁଅ ପତ୍ତ ଶୁଭର ସୁଅ
ଚରପାତ୍ର ପାଟିର ପାଉଣେବନ
ମିଶିତ ସହଯୋଗରେ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା
ପୋଖରୀ ସର୍ଜନୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ
ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ପୋଖରୀ
ନିକାଳଣ, ବର୍ଷାକଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ
ରୂପକ କଳସର ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି,
ପୋଖରୀକୁ ନେଇ ସୁନ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ
ଯୋଗାଡ଼ନ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ବିଶିଷ୍ଟସ୍ଥଳୁ ନୁ
ନେଇ ଦିନ ପାଳା ଏହି ସମ୍ପିଦନା
ଗଣିଥିଲା । ଏଥିରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୩୦ ରୁ
ଅଧିକ ସୁଦରା, ସୁଦରା, ଛାତ୍ର ଛାତ୍ରୀ,
ସରକାରୀ ଓ ବେସରକାରୀ
ସଂଗଠନର ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ଅନେକ
ଅନେକ ସହଯୋଗ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଥିଲେ ।



ଏହି ଏକିକନାଶେ ପଞ୍ଚ ନ୍ୟାୟ ଅଟ
କଥିତା,କାମଦିକ୍ଷ ଚନସ୍ବାଳ ସୁଦୂର
ଦିଗ୍ବାସି ଆସି ଯୋଗଦାନ କରିଥିଲେ ।
ଏଥିରେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ସ୍ବାୟ ଏବଂ କୁନ୍ଦ
ନେତୃ ହେଉ, ଏନାକାଉନମୋକ୍ଷ
ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ, ସୁନିଷ୍ପେଷ ଉଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ
ସାପୁ । ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସ୍ବାକ୍ଷର କାଷ୍ଠ
ଦେଉଥିଲେ । ନ୍ୟାୟମାନଙ୍କଦେବର
ଧର୍ମନାୟକ ପୁରାତନର ସୁପ୍ରାଣ ସ୍ବାକ୍ଷର
ପ୍ରଥମ କାଷ୍ଠମାନ ଉପରେ ସମାନ

ବିବରଣୀ ଦେଉଥିଲେ। ପା'ବିଓ ଉପୁଷ୍ଟିଆତା ଓ ପୁଷ୍ଟ୍ୟ ଆଦିର ନ୍ୟାୟ ଓଡ଼ି ଶିଳ୍ପନମାନଙ୍କ ଇଚ୍ଛା ଏବଂ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଉପର୍ଜିରେ ସୁଚିତ। ବେଢ଼ାସୁଲେ ଯାକପୁର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଘୋଷଣା ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ଆଧାର ରେ ଥିବା ଚାଟି ଚାଟି ୨୩୦୦ରୁ ଇଚ୍ଛା ଦୁଇଟିକୁ ଉପୁଷ୍ଟି ପଣ ଓଡ଼ିମାନଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଘୋଷଣା କରାଯାଉଥିଲା। ଓ ପଞ୍ଚିତ ଘୋଷଣା ଉପୁଷ୍ଟି ପୁଷ୍ଟ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ

ଯୁବକ ଯୁବତୀଙ୍କ ସ୍ୱାଗା ଭେଷା
 ଘୋଡ଼ାଥିବା ଏକ ଚପଟୁ ନେଇ ଆମ
 ଯୋଗରା କଥା ବହି ଭଣ୍ଡାବନ
 ହୋଇଥିଲା । ସ୍ୱାକୁ ସ୍ୱାଚର ଚେ
 ପରିପ୍ରେଷାରେ ଘୋଡ଼ାଥିବା ଚିତ୍ରାଙ୍କନ
 ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗିତାରେ ପ୍ରଥମ, ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ,
 ତୃତୀୟ ସ୍ଥାନ ଅଧିକାର କରିଥିବା ଦି
 ସେ କଲେଜ ଅଫ ଆର୍ଟ ଆଣ୍ଡ କ୍ରାଫ୍ଟର
 ଛାତ୍ର ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ସମାଜାତ କର
 ଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏହି ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଦୁ ୪ ଟି
 ଅଧିବେଶନରେ ଦିଗ୍ରୁ କରା
 ଯାଇଥିଲା । ୨ଟି ପ୍ୟାନେଲ
 ଡିସ୍କସନ, ୧ ଟି ଗ୍ରୁପ୍ ଡିସ୍କସନ, ୩
 ଯୋଗରାଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ଆସନ ପ୍ଲାନ
 ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହି ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ
 ବହୁ ନାମସଂପନ୍ନ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନେ
 ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଥିଲେ । ଶୁଭବିମା ମହାଶି
 ମଞ୍ଜ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିଥିଲେ ।