

Criteria-7
Final

7.1.5 At Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, a specialized rainwater harvesting structure is present on campus to utilize rainwater. The concept of rainwater harvesting is rooted in the Vedas. As the verse says:

"I bow down to the divine waters, and those flowing waters of streams. Through our reverence, may we have swift, powerful horses". (*Atharvaveda 19/1/4*)

In the Vedas, water conservation includes the careful management of rainwater and flowing water from rivers, wells, and ponds. Proper conservation of water resources enables life to gain strength and energy through the pure intake of water. The significance of rainwater harvesting is clearly described in Sanskrit literature. Rainwater harvesting is a crucial measure for environmental preservation. Since ancient times, humans have collected and utilized rainwater. Rainwater is a natural, pure resource that is widely used in agriculture and household activities. In modern times, water resources have diminished, and pollutants are damaging water sources. Thus, rainwater harvesting becomes essential. During the rainy season, rainwater is collected from rooftops through pipes, stored for various uses, and, after purification, used for drinking. This water serves irrigation, bathing, and cleaning purposes. In rural areas, rainwater is highly valuable for farming. By using rainwater for irrigation, farmers can address water scarcity efficiently.

Today, the issue of water scarcity is severe. Many people around the world are affected by water crises. Rainwater harvesting is an effective way to address this crisis. When rainwater is properly collected, it can be distributed as clean water to people. Using rainwater reduces soil erosion and raises the groundwater level. Rainwater harvesting significantly contributes to sustainable community development. It is essential for preventing pollution from hazardous substances, recharging groundwater, and solving water scarcity. With proper planning, rainwater harvesting can adequately address the nation's water crisis.

"May our rains be abundant." (Let us strive to keep water unpolluted)

"Do not harm the waters."

Rainwater is clean and sacred. It always brings benefits. Following the verse, "Rains, bring us goodness," the conservation of rainwater continues even today. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University also conserves rainwater.

Rainwater Harvesting Structures in the University

Rooftop Collection: Rainwater is collected from rooftops, channeled through pipes, and stored in underground reservoirs.

Groundwater Recharge: Soak pits, absorption wells, and other groundwater recharge methods help raise the groundwater level. In 2004-2005, under the guidance of senior scientists from the Central Ground Water Board of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, seven rainwater harvesting bores were constructed in four distinct areas within the university campus based on the proposals of the C.G.W.B. This arrangement ensures proper rainwater storage. Here, rainwater is stored directly in the ground rather than through wells or boreholes.

Criteria-7

Final

The university spans 10.65 acres, with seven rainwater storage structures built in four different areas to conserve groundwater. Over the past five years, there has been no water scarcity on campus. This preserved rainwater is regularly utilized by the university.

Benefits

The benefits include water conservation, reduced expenses, groundwater level increase, environmental preservation, and increased student awareness. Examples include:

Campus Utilization of Rainwater: Methods of reuse include gardening, toilet use, and laboratory work. Additionally, the university uses stored rainwater at residential, educational, dormitory, and administrative buildings. Rainwater stored underground is used for various university activities, such as irrigation, toilet flushing, handwashing, and cleaning utensils. Thus, rainwater is used across the university's residential, academic, dormitory, administrative, and garden areas. Regularly, students, faculty, staff, and residents use this rainwater, and no misuse occurs.

Although the university is located in Delhi, groundwater scarcity has never been an issue due to rainwater harvesting. In alignment with Vedic principles, the university has established a rainwater harvesting center.

"There is ambrosia within the waters; within the waters is a healing balm. In the waters, the gods bestowed vigor to honor those who revere them."