Centurion University
Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...

SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Collaboration for Shared Aquatic Ecosystems

A Pond for the People: Centurion University Restores Community (Jamakhala) Pond

Jamakhala Pond in Gopalpur, Odisha, is a shared community resource. It has existed since before 1950 and served as a source of drinking water for around 100 village families. It also supports local fishermen and plays a part in the regional festival of Dola Purnima. Over time, urbanisation and pollution left the pond degraded, which threatened both the ecosystem and the community's connection to it.

In October 2023, Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) secured custodianship of the pond and began restoring it in collaboration with the Government, local residents, students and volunteers. Together, the partners diverted wastewater away from the pond, introduced water lilies for natural cleansing, and reintroduced indigenous fish species.

In 2025, CUTM held community awareness activities at and around the pond. The sessions explained why the pond matters for clean water, local fish stocks and the village's cultural heritage and how residents can help keep it healthy. Centurion University's students helped lead these activities, sharing what they had learned through their fieldwork with the community.

The University's Cultural, Sports and Responsibility Cell lead this ongoing engagement, advocacy and long-term stewardship. This keeps local people involved in caring for the pond rather than leaving them as passive beneficiaries.

The restored pond is now a thriving ecosystem, home to 30 recorded indigenous aquatic species. It has re-established the economic and cultural links between the pond and the village.

The Jamakhala pond is adorned with a diverse array of indigenous fish varieties, flourishing through careful conservation efforts and successful breeding programs. Below is the list of the fishes in it:

Sl. No	Scientific Name of the Fishes at Jamakhala Pond
1	**Anguilla Bengalensis**
2	**Trichogaster Fasciata**
3	**Rasbora Borapetensis**

4	**Pethia Ticto**
5	**Puntius Chola**
6	**Eleotris Fusca**
7	**Glossogobius Giuris**
8	**Labeo Calbasu**
9	**Acetes Indicus**
10	**Penaeus monodon**
11	**Metapenaeus Affinis**
12	**Channa Micropeltes**
13	**Climbing Perch**
14	**Heteropneustes Fossilis**
15	**Heteropneustes Microps**
16	**Wallago Attu**
17	**Ceylon Snakehead**
18	**Channa Punctata**
19	**Nandus Nandus**
20	**Belonidae**
21	**Trichiurus lepturus**
22	**Anguillifrmes**
23	**Ompok**
24	**Notopterus Notopterus**
25	**Stolephorus Indicus**
26	**Clown Featherback**
27	**Puntius Sophore**
28	**Mystus Cavasius**
29	**Parambassis Ranga**
30	**Pangasius Pangasius**





Jamakhala Community Pond - Restored by Centurion University

CUTM demonstrated its commitment to collaborative aquatic ecosystem stewardship through engagement with Kailash Hatchery (Orissa) along with the broader community partnerships documented by the School of Fisheries. These collaborations provide platforms for technical knowledge exchange, capacity building, responsible aquaculture and community participation. Collectively, they contribute to the long-term maintenance and sustainable management of shared aquatic ecosystems. In 20/08/2025-24/08/2025 total 44 students went there. They got trained in chinese hatchery operation for carp culture. They trained in freshwater fish culture specially for catfish.







Chinese hatchery for freshwater fish culture

Case Study: Field Visit to Ramsagar Reservoir - Collaborative Freshwater Ecosystem Management

The School of Fisheries, Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), organised a field visit to Ramsagar Reservoir, Gajapati District, Odisha, on 23 April 2025, involving approximately 40 second-year students and two faculty members. The visit focused on freshwater ecosystem observation, water and sediment sampling, and the management of unwanted aquatic vegetation.

Students observed the reservoir's aquatic environment, collected water and sediment samples, and participated in removing unwanted aquatic weeds from accessible areas under faculty guidance. These activities provided practical exposure to freshwater ecosystem monitoring and the ecological considerations involved in maintaining aquatic habitats.

The visit aligns with CUTM's broader efforts to support the sustainable management of shared freshwater ecosystems. The University has previously documented reservoir restoration initiatives involving aquatic weed management, fish biodiversity studies and collaboration with the State Fisheries Department to support fisheries development at Ramsagar Reservoir. Such initiatives demonstrate the relevance of coordinated scientific and management efforts to

maintaining aquatic ecosystem health and supporting the communities that depend on freshwater resources.

Through field-based learning and practical engagement, the 2025 visit strengthened students' understanding of freshwater ecosystem management and the importance of responsible, locally informed approaches to aquatic vegetation control, water resource conservation and sustainable fisheries.

