

RAGHAVA SAROVARA PRATISHTANA

Raghava Sarovara

A man-made lake gripped by greenery

Introduction



Located in the holy town of Mantralaya within the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, a major eco-spiritual undertaking is underway, centered around a sprawling man-made lake enveloped by dense, lush greenery. Mantralaya, widely celebrated as the divine abode of the revered 17th-century saint Shree Guru Raghavendra Theertha, serves as the spiritual foundation for this project. Under the guidance of the present pontiff, Sri Sri Sri Subudhendra Theertha Swamy, the Shree Raghavendra Swamy Mutt generously granted 25 acres of sacred land to the Raghava Sarovara Pratishtana, a dedicated trust entrusted with the mission of executing, overseeing, and maintaining this sacred venture.

Need for the project

Mantralaya is characterized by high humidity levels, rocky terrain, and small hillocks that contribute to significant heat radiation. The maximum temperature recorded during the summer months reaches 48.8 degrees Celsius. The flow of the Tungabhadra River is contingent upon the release of water from the Tungabhadra Dam located in Hospet, near Vijayanagara. Notably, there are no reservoirs or lakes specifically allocated for Mantralaya. While the river flows for a duration of three months, it remains entirely dry for the remaining nine months, making groundwater the sole source of water in the region. Furthermore, extensive areas lack green vegetation, and the predominant soil type is black, which also contributes to heat radiation. The current water table has been measured at 250 feet, indicating a continuous decline over the years. The implementation of a project addressing these issues is deemed essential.

Location of the site

The site for the proposed project is located on the Madhavaram main road, adjacent to the magnificent statue of Bhagvan Shree Rama at Mantralaya within a radius distance of 2 km from Shree Raghavendra Swamy Mutt. This land is in close proximity to the Tungabhadra River.

Project area

The Shri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt in Mantralaya has allocated and handed over 25 acres of pristine, untouched land for a dedicated lake creation and afforestation project. Because the terrain is entirely flat and undisturbed, it provides an ideal canvas for ecological restoration and conservation efforts.



Elements of the project

The lake

Raghava Sarovara will span 12 acres with an average depth of 21 feet, offering a total storage capacity of approximately 340 million liters. The lake will be enclosed along most of its periphery by an earthen bund 12 feet wide and of appropriate height.

Biodiversity forest

The afforestation program will accommodate up to 30,000 trees across more than 200 diverse species, incorporating high-density planting techniques. Designed as a conservation sanctuary, the project includes rare and endangered flora, along with flowering, fruit-bearing, aromatic, medicinal, and commercially valuable species. Furthermore, the selected tree species will provide an ideal habitat for birds to nest and breed.

Walk path with benches

A dedicated walking path will wind along the lake's periphery, offering serene offshoots through the dense, afforested canopy. Visitors will immerse their senses in a truly rejuvenating environment—welcomed by the fresh scent of earth, water, and foliage, the gentle breeze off the mini-forest, and a soothing chorus of bird song. Enriched by abundant natural oxygen and thoughtfully placed resting benches, the trail offers a peaceful, refreshing retreat for every walker.

Water springs

Engineered water springs, created by recirculating lake water, will bubble up at regular intervals along the walking path to bring vibrant energy to the landscape. These continuous, naturalistic streams will create a lively aquatic feature, enriching the walking experience with the soothing sights and gentle sounds of flowing water.



Watch tower

A 50-foot watchtower will be constructed to offer a breathtaking aerial view of the entire sanctuary. Standing above the tree canopy, this elevated platform will provide visitors with a panoramic vista of the shimmering lake, lush mini-forest, and vibrant birdlife, creating an unforgettable vantage point for nature enthusiasts and photographers.

Open air theater

An open-air amphitheater will be developed to host a wide array of cultural and spiritual gatherings, including Dasara Pada, devotional music, spiritual workshops, religious discourses, yoga sessions, and divine rituals. To ensure year-round comfort regardless of weather, the venue will feature a collapsible roofing system that can be deployed whenever necessary. This landmark will stand as a living showcase of our ancient Hindu wisdom, cultural heritage, and spiritual tradition.

Gazebos

Ten thoughtfully designed gazebos will offer devotees and seekers a serene space for meditation, chanting, and quiet introspection. Designed to accommodate groups of 8 to 10 people while providing shelter from sun and rain, these shelters serve as tranquil sanctuaries for individual and group reflection.

Learning center of sacred plants

India’s plant kingdom is a marvel of spiritual depth, medicinal power, and ecological diversity. Bridging this natural wealth with human curiosity, a groundbreaking new learning center—the first in the country dedicated solely to Indian forestry species—has opened its doors. Under the guidance of eminent scholars and experts, seekers can immerse themselves in timeless botanical wisdom. Located alongside the revered pilgrimage destination of Mantralaya, this center beautifully unites spiritual devotion with environmental enlightenment.



Plant nursery

A state-of-the-art plant nursery will be set up to systematically stock and nurture a diverse range of plant species. The facility will feature advanced environmental controls to maintain optimal growing conditions across all seasons. In addition to supporting initial planting phases, the nursery will provide a continuous supply of healthy specimens to replace any failing vegetation, thereby securing a self-sustaining pool of flora to meet long-term operational demands.

Plant distribution centre

A dedicated distribution center will be established to provide plants free of cost to plant lovers and devotees. The center will offer a diverse selection of flora, including social forestry plants and essential household plants such as Tulasi, Jasmine, Hibiscus, and various other flowering and aromatic species that support daily Pooja rituals. By removing financial barriers, this initiative aims to cultivate a widespread passion for gardening while actively propagating green cover across the region.

Oxygen generators in the lake

A network of grid-powered oxygen generators will maintain optimal dissolved oxygen levels year-round, rapidly boosting water quality to prevent fish die-offs and rejuvenate aquatic life. By eliminating toxic algae and foul odors, this continuous aeration system circulates the water column to trap excess nutrients within the sediment, rendering the lake crystal clear and highly appealing.



Sacred gardens

Nakshatra Vana	Nakshatra Vana is a sacred garden featuring 27 specific native trees, each planted in a precise direction to align with one of the 27 lunar constellations (Nakshatras) of Vedic astrology.
Raashi Vana	This zone features twelve specific trees, each representing one of the twelve signs of the zodiac. Visitors can connect directly with the tree corresponding to their birth sign, offering a dedicated space for personal prayers, spiritual connection, and seeking divine benevolence.
Sapta Rishi Vana	Dedicated to the Saptarishis, the seven revered sages of Indian mythology. It features seven distinct trees associated with the lineage of these ancient seers.
Panchavati Vana	A legendary arrangement from the Ramayana that served as the forest abode of Bhagvan Shree Rama. It features five highly auspicious trees planted in specific directions: Peepal, Bael, Banyan, Amla, and Ashoka.
Tulasi Vana	A sacred sanctuary planted exclusively with diverse varieties of the Tulsi plant, revered as an earthly manifestation of Goddess Lakshmi. Cultivating this grove provides temples with daily ritual offerings while naturally purifying the air, releasing rich concentrations of life-giving ozone, and dispelling negative energies from the surroundings.
Sri Krishna Vana	Gardens featuring trees and shrubs associated with Lord Krishna’s pastimes, prominently showcasing the Kadamba tree, Tulsi, and Parijata.
Panchabootha Vana	A sacred space representing the five elements of nature. It hosts key indicator trees that energetically represent each element – Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space.
Navagraha Vana	A sacred astronomical grove designed around the nine celestial bodies of Vedic astrology. It consists of nine specific trees and plants geometrically arranged to mirror the alignment of the cosmos, channeling positive environmental and spiritual energies.
Curious Gardens	The landscape will feature thematic gardens shaped as sacred symbols—including the Swastika, Omkara, Shankha, Chakra, Gada, Padma, Tilaka, and Brindavana—to deeply resonate with the spiritual essence of the pilgrimage destination.



The journey so far

Nineteen moments, from the first trust meeting to the first week of work

START HERE

1



The first trust meeting where it all began

2



Seeking the blessing of Sri Subudhendra Teertharu

3



The chosen land, close to the Tungabhadra river

4



25 acres granted by the Shree Raghavendra Swamy Mutt

PART ONE

A vision takes root

It began with a meeting of the trust and one idea: a lake for Mantralaya. With the blessing of Sri Subudhendra Teertharu, the Shree Raghavendra Swamy Mutt granted 25 acres of land close to the Tungabhadra. Soon the machines moved in to clear and level the site for the ground breaking ceremony.

5



Clearing and levelling the land

6



The cleared site, seen from above

7



Earth movers lined up for the ceremony

8



Arrangements for the ground breaking ceremony

9



Trustees beside the Raghava Sarovara master plan



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

4th November 2026

PART TWO

Breaking ground

On 4th November 2026, trustees, devotees and school children gathered at the site. Sri Subudhendra Teertharu lit the lamp, spoke about the lake and broke the ground for it himself. The new borewells were inaugurated too, and a week later the machines were hard at work levelling the land.

And the work goes on.

10



Trustees with the earth-moving fleet

11



Devotees and school children at the ceremony

12



Sri Subudhendra Teertharu lights the lamp

13



Sri Subudhendra Teertharu with the trustees on stage

14



Sri Subudhendra Teertharu speaks about the project

15



Trustees perform the pooja

16



Sri Subudhendra Teertharu breaks the ground

17



Borewells inaugurated at the site

18



One week on, clearing and levelling continue

19



Work carries on into the evening



START DATE OF THE PROJECT	PROPOSED COMPLETION DATE
4th November 2026	30th April 2028

Cost of the project

The project requires an all-inclusive estimated investment of 14 crore rupees, covering the complete development of the lake, afforestation initiatives, and all associated infrastructure.

Source of funds

The necessary funds to bring this vision to life will be mobilized through a public crowdfunding campaign, inviting collective support from the community.

Accountability in action

The project will be executed with absolute accountability and commitment, adopting new-age scientific techniques to ensure radical transparency and provide real-time updates for an exceptionally fulfilling donor experience. By integrating advanced tools like geo-tagging, regular social audits, and digital tracking platforms, the project will operate under a flawless, verifiable format that guarantees every rupee creates a measurable ecological impact.

Benefits of this initiative

- The created forest naturally boosts local oxygen levels, and invites migrating birds while enriching soil quality, conserving groundwater, and showcasing a diverse ecosystem of native species.
- The integration of a man-made lake will immensely revitalize the local water table, transforming the surrounding landscape into a self-sustaining ecological zone that secures water resources for the entire community. By capturing monsoon runoff and facilitating natural groundwater recharge, this reservoir ensures long-term climate resilience and communal prosperity.
- During the harsh summer months, this lake will serve as a vital lifeline for the local inhabitants of Mantralaya, warding off severe water scarcity. By providing a reliable supply when alternative sources run dry, the reservoir ensures long-term water security and resilience for the entire community.
- This dense vegetation will decisively cool the local microclimate, establishing a refreshing sanctuary within a region known for extreme weather. Even when summer temperatures in the district soar to a scorching 48.8 degrees Celsius, this lush pocket of land will remain resiliently cool, acting as a natural shield against the blistering heat. By shading the ground and lowering surface temperatures, the thick forest mitigates intense heatwave conditions to provide immediate relief for the entire area.
- This pioneering project can stand as a definitive role model for environmental conservation, inspiring other communities to actively participate in restoring the natural world. By transforming a challenging landscape into a thriving ecological sanctuary, it serves as a powerful visual showcase of what sustainable action can achieve. Ultimately, this initiative will act as a dynamic catalyst, sparking a chain reaction of similar green undertakings across the region and empowering others to champion the cause of environmental stewardship.



Appeal

We invite individuals, NGO partners, and philanthropic donors to join us in this vital mission. Through strategic collaboration, we can achieve measurable impact and build a sustainable future. Your support, solidarity and sponsorship is greatly appreciated!

Tax exceptions

The donations made towards this project are eligible for exemption under Indian Income Tax under 80G.

DONATE TO RAGHAVA SAROVARA

BANK DETAILS

Account Name:	**RAGHAVA SAROVARA PRATISHTANA**
Bank Name:	**Axis Bank Limited**
Account Number:	**926020034019763**
IFSC Code:	**UTIB0001110**

SCAN TO DONATE

RAGHAVA SAROVARA PRATISHTANA | Reg. No. 2/26-27

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