



# विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस कार्यक्रम पर एक रिपोर्ट

## A REPORT ON WORLD WETLAND DAY EVENT

World Wetland Day, celebrated annually on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests. Yet, wetlands are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability, world economies, and more. It is urgent that we raise national and global awareness about wetlands in order to reverse their rapid loss and encourage actions to conserve and restore them.

An awareness program on "World Wetland Day 2024" for students was organized by ICFRE-Coastal Ecosystem Centre (CEC) on 02.02.2024 at Andhra University English Medium High School, Visakhapatnam. Shri T. Srinivas, Scientist - C, In-charge of ICFRE-CEC, guided team including Shri M. Ganesh, TA, Smt. Gayathri Girish, TA, and Smt. T. Anusha, Technician participated in the program. The program was initiated by an introduction to ICFRE-CEC by smt T. Anusha, Technician continued by brief explanation regarding the importance of wetland day.

Later the session was continued by shri T. Srinivas, scientist - C by explaining the ecological and economic importance of wetlands. He pointed out that wetlands provide habitats for immense variety of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, and mammals. He also pointed out about the livelihood activities created by various coastal wetlands.

Smt. Gayathri Girish explained about the "The Mangroves of Visakhapatnam" to create awareness amongst the students. She explained about the Mangrove biodiversity, adaptations, importance, threats, and various conservative measures.

Later Shri. M. Ganesh, TA explained about the various life forms of different wetland ecosystems and various conservative methods. A total of 30 students along with teachers were present in the program. After the program, all students along with school principal and faculty gathered for a group photograph.

