



**ENVIS Hub Centre on
Status of Environment related issues
Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Puducherry Pollution Control Committee**

(World Wetland Day, 2018)

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 02.02.2018 to raise global awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and for the sustainable ecological balance. It also marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. India is also a party to the convention since 1982 and has so far identified 26 wetlands as Ramsar sites covering 15 states. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is the nodal Ministry and proactively involved in conservation and management of the Ramsar sites and other wetlands. The government agencies, non-government organisations, students and NGO's celebrated World Wetlands Day by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Every year World Wetland Day is celebrated on a specific theme to protect wetlands. The theme for 2018 was “**Wetlands for a sustainable urban future**”. The present theme for World Wetland Day 2018, imparts on reduced flooding, replenish drinking water, filter waste, provide urban green spaces, and are a source of livelihoods. Urban wetlands should be integrated into a city's sustainable future planning and development.

As a part of the “World Wetland Celebration” the following activities were organized by the Puducherry ENVIS Hub Centre.

1. Conducted Drawing Competitions on the theme “**Wetlands for a sustainable urban future**” on 01.02.2018 at Aruchelvi Ayiamman Arasu Girls Middle School, Muthirapalayam. Head master of the school gave the Welcome address and Shri. Vipin Babu, Envis Coordinator was delivered the inaugural lecture on World Wetland Day. Nearly 80 Students (VIIth & VIIIth Students) participated in the event.



2. Conducted Drawing and Quiz Competitions and Special Lecture on Biodiversity Conservation by Resource Person Dr. Bubesh Gupta (Founder Director, Universal Eco Foundation) at Government Middle School, Ariyankuppam on 02.02.2018. Head master of the school gave the Welcome address and Mr. Arun Nagalingam, Secretary (Pondicherry Science Forum) delivered the inaugural lecture on World Wetland Day. Nearly 50 Students participated in the event. Road rally Programme were also conducted for the students. Visit of nearby mangrove habitat was organized. Programme Officer of Envis coordinated the events.



3. Conducted Drawing and Quiz Competitions and Special Lecture on Wetland Conservation by Resource Person Mr. Arun Raj (Head Master, AICE School, Ariyankuppam) at Government High School, Mettupalayam on 02.02.2018. Head master of the school gave the Welcome address and Mr. Arun Nagalingam, Secretary (Pondicherry Science Forum) delivered the inaugural lecture on World Wetland Day. Nearly 50 Students participated in the event. Film on wetlands was shown to the students.



4. Conducted Drawing and Quiz Competitions at Artchouna Soupraya Naikar Government Middle School, Mudaliarpet on 02.02.2018. Nearly 30 Students participated in the event.



5. Drawing Competitions was conducted by Department of Forest and Wildlife, Puducherry in coordination with ENVIS Hub Centre at Ousteri Lake for Shri Patcheappane School for the Hearing Impaired on 02.02.2018. Boating and Bird Watch were also arranged for the students. Nearly 40 Students participated in the event.



6. Conducted Awareness Programme on Wetland Conservation to National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers of Indira Gandhi College of Arts and Science, Kathirkamam at Kanaganeri Lake on 02.02.2018. The lake cleaning activities were taken up. The lake was open for public on 04.02.2018.

