



## World Wetlands Day Celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 and Organized a Green Rally on Conservation of Kolleru Lake by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Eluru, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

*World Wetlands Day* is observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February every year worldwide. It marks the date of signing of the convention on wetlands on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. This day presents us with a welcome opportunity to join together in acknowledging the benefits that we all receive from wetlands, as well as to raise the awareness of the local communities who derive their livelihood about the importance of these vital ecosystems for our common future. This year's theme, Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, with the slogan "CARING FOR WETLANDS- An Answer To Climate Change", captured the sense of urgency about the need to address the potentially disastrous consequences of global climate change, it emphasizes our belief that the role of wetlands in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change must be central in all future debates. We are all aware that the wetlands provide livelihood to the local communities and more importantly the ecosystem services may provide is of great significance to the local communities. Through the celebration of WWD -2010 it is emphasized that, wetlands must not only be a key part of any progress in global climate change context, but also that the problems of climate change must be addressed in a holistic, multi-sectoral, ecosystem-based manner.

**Kolleru** is one of the biggest shallow fresh water lakes in Asia which is located in Krishna & West Godavari District in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. The lake serves as a natural flood balancing reservoir for the two rivers and has sustained the rich native flora and fauna as well as the people living around it. It used to be an ideal habitat to hundreds of species of birds including migratory birds, 63 species of fishes, fresh water turtles and amphibians etc. and world's one of the very few breeding sites of Grey Pelican. Recognizing the rich bio diversity of Kolleru lake it was listed as a wetland of International importance in the Ramsar Convention. India became signatory to Ramsar Convention in 1981. Kolleru has been designated as Ramsar site in November 2002.



A.P.Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Eluru Conducted a **Green Rally** on the occasion of "World Wetlands Day". Considering the importance of the theme of the WWD 2010 the students were involved in a big way. The Green rally started from P.W.D grounds, Eluru and passed through Fire Station Centre, Court Centre and end at G.M.C.Balayogi Science Park. The Joint Collector, West Godavari participated as Chief Guest and flagged off the Rally. More than 1000 School children's from Various Educational Institutions, NGO's, Government officials from various Departments also participated in the Rally. The Educational Institutions located in and around Eluru, West Godavari Participated in the Green rally are St.Theresa's Autonomous College for Women, St.Theresa's Inter College, St.Theresa's Girls High School, Sri Edara Subbamma Devi Municipal Corporation High School, Sree Sasi Public School, Bhashyam Public School and KPBT School.

The Participants of the rally carrying the placards Showing slogans and themes for protection of Wet lands and control of Pollution. The Students formed a Manavaharam at fire station centre. The entire atmosphere was charged with high spirit. Staff of the A.P.Pollution Control Board distributed pamphlets to the general public for creating awareness among the public.

Sri. Venkata Rami Reddy, Joint Collector, West Godavari) Sri. B.Nageswar Rao, Divisional Forest Officer, Sri.Y.Nagasunder, GM-DIC, Sri. Prasad, NEDCAP-Manager, Sri. Binni Babu, D.S.D.O, Sri.C.H.R.M.Chowdari, District Science Officer, and staff of Educational institutions also participated in the rally.



Flagging off the Green Rally of WWD2010 by Chief Guest



School children participating in the WWD - 2010



Manava-Haram Formed by School childrens on WWD - 2010