

A Report on the celebration of World Environment Day on 5th June 2010, in Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar

World Environment Day was announced by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment on June 5, 1972. It is on the same day the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was created. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. Every year a theme is chosen by UNEP to observe this Day. The theme selected for 2010 is “**Biodiversity - Connecting with Nature**”

Government of Orissa in Environment Department have instituted “Prakruti Mitra” and “Prakruti Bandhu” awards which are given in the World Environment Day celebrations on 5th June every year. “Prakruti Mitra” is given to any Institution or Voluntary Organisation / NGO for their excellence in environmental conservation and promotion of environmental awareness and education. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 10000/- and a certificate. “Prakruti Bandhu” is given to individuals for their excellence in



environmental conservation and awareness. This carries a cash prize of Rs. 2000/- and a certificate. These two Awards were given to each block. State level sit & draw competition has been conducted on the eve of this day.

On 5th June 2010, the Centre for Environmental Studies (CES), an autonomous organization of the Environment Department organized the World Environment Day Function in Rabindra Mandap. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa was the Chief Guest & Chief Secretary as the Guest of Honour, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department of Orissa, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests was present.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa distributed "Prakruti Mitra" prizes to 211 organisations. Dignitaries from Forest Department, Environment Department, Pollution Control Board, Chilika Development Authority, Regional Plant Resource Centre, students and general public attended this function. The special issue on "Biodiversity" published by CES has been released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa. Govt. of Orissa has prepared "Draft Climate Change Action Plan" for the state. Same has been hosted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Govt. Website for feedback from the public. An exhibition of the award winning drawings and paintings was organized. Also an exhibition on eco-models was organized. Students from eco-clubs of Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Cuttack, Ganjam, Kendrapara, Mayurbhanj, Puri and Sambalpur participated in the exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa.

