

A Report on the celebration of World Environment Day on 5th June 2007, in Jayadev Bhavan, Bhubaneswar

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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 2007 is “Melting Ice – A Hot Topic?”



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. 5000/- and a certificate. “Prakruti Bandhu” is given to individuals for their excellence in environmental conservation and awareness. This carries a cash prize of Rs. 1000/- and a certificate. Earlier these two Awards were given to each district. But this year the scope of the award is extended to sub-division level. State level sit & draw competition has been conducted on the eve of this day.



On 5th June 2006, the Centre for Environmental Studies, an autonomous organization of the Environment Department organized the World Environment Day Function in Jayadev Bhavan. Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department of Orissa was the Chief Guest and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests was the Guest of Honour. Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department distributed “Prakruti Mitra” prizes to 32 organisations. Dignitaries from Forest Department, Environment Department, Pollution Control Board, students, and general public attended this function. The 7th issue of ENVIS Newsletter published by CES has been released by the Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Deptt. 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, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Khurda, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Boudh participated in the exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department.