

**A Report on the celebration of World Environment Day
on 5th June 2011, 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 the year 2011 is “**Forests: Nature at your Service**”



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 2011, the Centre for Environmental Studies organized the World Environment Day Function at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Hon'ble Forest & Environment Minister of Orissa was the Chief Guest, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department and Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary was present. Hon'ble Forest & Environment Minister of Orissa distributed "Prakruti Mitra" prizes to 243 organisations. 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, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Mayurbhanj, Puri and Sambalpur participated in the exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Forest & Environment Minister of Orissa. Dignitaries from all departments, retired officers, all staff of Environment Department, Pollution Control Board, Chilika Development Authority, Regional Plant Resource Centre, students and general public attended this function.

