

# World Environment Day celebrated

Celebrations included a plantation drive carried out by various organisations along with a 'Green Marathon'

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World Environment Day was celebrated across the state by different organisations as well as the state government on Wednesday.

Forest minister Bikram Kesari Arukh addressed the state level function at Bhubaneswar and awarded several people involved in protection of forests.

Saplings were planted by Sanjeev Kishore, Regional Executive Director (ER-2) NTPC at its guest house premises in Pokhariput. A large number of enthusiastic NTPC employees also planted saplings to mark the occasion. Prakash Tiwari, Director

(Operations) NTPC said that as a responsible Corporate Citizen, NTPC has been in the fore front in mitigating the adverse impacts on the environment by not only installing and upgrading the equipment, planting trees and avoiding usage of plastics, but also by increasing its portfolio of renewable energy.

NALCO undertook a plantation drive at the company's units and offices. At Bhubaneswar, Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD, NALCO, formally launched the plantation drive by planting a sapling in the premises of Nalconagar – the residential colony of the company.

IIT Bhubaneswar too held a plantation drive inside the



campus aimed at campaigning for green culture and promoting a greener ecosystem along with providing a pollution-free atmosphere to the residents inside the campus. The drive was inaugurated by Prof

R.V. Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar.

"We at IIT Bhubaneswar are committed towards building a green campus, we have achieved a fairly good amount of success in this endeavour, and the same will continue" he said.

The cycling culture adopted by students at our institute is a glaring example of the wellness aspect and greener environment, he noted.

Prof R.V. Raja Kumar also said that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change initiated a National Clean Air Programme with all IITs, IIT Bhubaneswar along with Odisha State Pollution Control Board taking an active part in this initiative.

Vedanta Aluminium, Langgarh unit organised a mass plantation drive in Kalahandi district.

A massive sapling distribution ceremony was conducted at the 36 Child Care Centres, and plantation drives were organised at 10 Child Care Centres in Niyamgiri Vedanta Nagar (NVN) colony, Basantapada, Kendubardi, Harekrushnapur, Chanalima, Kasibadi, Jodabandh, Chandanpur and Old Ambodala.

At the end of the day, a total of 1,800 saplings were planted and distributed with a pledge to care for the plants until these grow into trees.

A report from Angul said Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) celebrated the World

Environment Day with a host of activities.

Like previous years a run for environment, known as Green Marathon, along with massive plantation drive was organised at Jindal Nagar Township and periphery villages in Angul. JSPL's Executive Director (Maintenance) Mr. Suresh Kumar flagged off the Green Marathon.

It also held a drawing, essay and quiz competition on the theme of environment protection and mitigation of air pollution. School students, house wives and employees took part in the competitions and the winners were also felicitated with certificates of merit and trophies by the Guests.