

16– 09 – 2023

News: International Day for the Preservation of Ozone layer

International Day for the Preservation of Ozone

Layer

- **16th September** of every year is celebrated as International Day for the Preservation of Ozone layer as **declared by UN General Assembly** to **commemorate the signing of Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**.
- This designation had been made on December 19, 2000, in the General Assembly session.
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** implements the celebrations on behalf of UN General Assembly worldwide.
- 2020 marked the 35th year of Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer.
- Theme for the year 2022 was “**Global Cooperation to Protect Life on Earth**”.
- Theme for the 2023 is “**Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change**”.

Vienna convention for the protection of ozone layer

(1985)

- Vienna Convention was adopted on 22nd March 1985 and came into effect from 22nd September 1988 at the ratification by 20 signatories.
- India became a party to Vienna convention in 1992.
- COP is done in every three years.
- Later, adoption of Montreal protocol on substances that deplete ozone layer in 1987, the amendment in Montreal protocol in London (1990) and Vienna (1995).

Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete Ozone layer

- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is an important Multilateral Agreement regulating the production, consumption, and emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODSs).
- The Protocol was signed in 1987 and entered into force in January 1989.
- The protocol gives provisions to reduce the production and consumption of ODSs to protect the ozone layer.
- It phases down the use of ODSs in a stepwise, time-bound manner.
- It gives different timetables for developing and developed countries.

- All member parties have specific responsibilities related to the phasing out of various groups of ozone-depleting substances, controlling ODS trade, reporting of data annually, controlling export and import of ODS, etc.
- Developing and developed countries have **equal but differentiated responsibilities**.
- However, both groups of nations have **time-bound, binding, and measurable commitments** under the protocol, making it effective.
- It has successfully curbed the 98% production of chlorofluorocarbons and other ODSs and significantly contributed to the repair of the ozone hole.
- Under the protocol, there is a provision for it to be amended and adjusted according to the new scientific, economic, and technological advancements made.
- The Protocol has undergone nine amendments or revisions.
- Kigali amendment is the eighth amendment to this protocol.
- The governance body for the protocol is the Meeting of the Parties. Technical support is given by the Open-ended Working Group. Both meet once every year.
- The Parties are aided by the Ozone Secretariat, which is based at the headquarters of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) at Nairobi.
- It has been ratified by 197 Parties (196 member states of the UN plus the EU) making it the first United Nations treaty to be ratified by every country in the world.

The Montreal Protocol's provisions relate to the following:

- Article 2: Control measures
- Article 3: Calculation of control levels
- Article 4: Control of trade with non-Parties
- Article 5: Special situation of developing countries
- Article 7: Reporting of data
- Article 8: Non-compliance
- Article 10: Technical assistance and, other topics

The ODSs regulated by the Protocol are listed in:

- Annex A: CFCs, halons
- Annex B: other fully halogenated CFCs, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform
- Annex C: HCFCs
- Annex E: Methyl bromide
- Annex F: HFCs

- India has successfully met the phase out targets of all the Ozone Depleting Substances as per the Montreal Protocol Schedule.

Multilateral Fund

- The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was set up in 1991 to help developing countries to comply with the provision of the Protocol. This is under Article 10 of the convention agreement.

The activities of the Fund are implemented by four bodies:

- UNEP
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- World Bank