

16 – 09 – 2024

News: Ozone day

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 2023 was **“Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change”**.
- Theme for the 2024 is **“Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action”**.

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, with Kigali amendment being 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

Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol

- On October 15, 2016, with the United States' leadership, 197 countries adopted an amendment to phase down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda.

- The Kigali Amendment aims for the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by cutting their production and consumption.
- The goal is to achieve over 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047.
- Given their zero impact on the depletion of the ozone layer, HFCs are currently used as replacements of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in air conditioning, refrigeration and foam insulation, however they are powerful greenhouse gases.
- The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is legally binding and came into force from January 1, 2019.
- Under the amendment developed countries will reduce HFC consumption beginning in 2019, most developing countries will freeze consumption in 2024 and some developing countries including India with unique circumstances will freeze consumption in 2028.
- The plan also provides financing to certain countries, to help them transition to climate-friendly alternatives.
- With the Kigali Amendment, the Montreal Protocol has become an even more powerful instrument against global warming.
- India recently ratified its accession to Kigali Agreement.
- The Sustainable Goals that are to be achieved through the achievement of Kigali Agreement Targets are **SGD 3** (Good Health and Well Being), **SDG 7**

(Affordable and Clean Energy), **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities), **SDG 12** (Sustainable Consumption and Production), **SDG 13** (Climate Action) and **SDG 17** (Partnerships for the Goals).

- India has to reduce its HFC use by 80% by the year 2047, while China and the United States have to achieve the same target by the year 2045 and 2034 respectively.
- India will complete its phase down of HFCs in four steps from 2032 onwards with a cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 80% in 2047.