



World Ozone Day

Every year, **16th September** is observed as the **International Day** for the **Preservation of the Ozone layer**.

- The **theme** for the year 2019 is '**32 Years and Healing**'.
 - It celebrates over three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the **ozone layer** and the climate under the **Montreal Protocol**.
 - It reminds that the world must keep up the momentum to ensure healthy people and a healthy planet.
- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16th September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, **commemorating** the date of the signing, in 1987, of the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**.
 - The Montreal Protocol has led to **the phase-out of 99% of ozone-depleting** chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners and many other products.
 - The latest Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion completed in 2018, shows that **parts of the ozone layer has recovered at a rate of 1-3% per decade since 2000**.
 - Ozone layer protection efforts have also **contributed to the fight against climate change** by averting an estimated 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, from 1990 to 2010.

Ozone

- **Ozone (composed of three atoms of oxygen)** occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere (**stratosphere**) and at ground level (**troposphere**). It can be good or bad, depending on where it is found.
- **Good Ozone:** Ozone occurs naturally in the **Earth's upper atmosphere (Stratosphere)** where it forms a protective layer that **shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays**.
- **Bad Ozone:** In the **Earth's lower atmosphere (troposphere)** near ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight.
 - Surface level ozone is a **harmful air pollutant**.

[Source: HT](#)