

# 31st World Ozone Day

## Why in News?

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) organized the **31st World Ozone Day** in New Delhi on 16th September 2025.

### **Key Points**

- About: World Ozone Day is observed on the 16th of September each year, commemorating the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, a significant international treaty aimed at phasing out the production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).
- Theme: The theme for 2025, 'From Science to Global Action', emphasizes the power of scientific discovery in policy formulation and international cooperation to protect the planet and its future.



# India's Montreal Protocol Implementation

#### Signatory Status

India becomes a signatory to the Montreal Protocol in June 1992.

#### HCFC Reduction

India achieves a 67.5% reduction in HCFC production and consumption.

#### **ICAP Launch**

India launches the India Cooling Action Plan in March 2019.

#### Phase-out Success

India successfully phases out ODS by January 1, 2010.

#### HCFC-141b Phase-out

India completes the phase-out of HCFC-141b.

#### **ICAP Focus**

ICAP focuses on reducing cooling demand and transitioning to alternative refrigerants.



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#### Ozone

- The ozone layer, located in the <u>stratosphere</u> between 10 and 40 kilometers above Earth's surface, shields us from harmful UV radiation.
  - This protective layer, known as stratospheric ozone or good ozone, prevents
    adverse health effects like cataracts and skin cancer and safeguards agriculture,
    forestry, and marine life.
  - However, man-made <u>Ozone Depleting Substances</u> have caused ozone depletion in the stratosphere.
- The international community recognized the need for action, leading to the Vienna Convention in 1985 and the subsequent Montreal Protocol in 1987.
- The inclusion of <u>Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)</u> in the Montreal Protocol led to the Kigali **Amendment**, with India ratifying it in September 2021.

## **Tropospheric Ozone**

- Tropospheric (or ground-level) ozone, or bad ozone, is a short-lived climate pollutant that remains in the atmosphere for only hours to weeks.
- It does not have any direct emission sources; rather, it is a compound formed by the interaction of sunlight with <u>volatile organic compounds (VOCs)</u> - including <u>methane</u> - and nitrogen oxides (NOX) emitted largely by human activities.

