

Report on International Ozone Day Celebration

On 16 September 2024, the Institute of Vocational Studies (IVS)'s NSS Cell organized a **Poster Competition** to mark International Ozone Day under the guidance of Dr. Mandira Gupta, Principal IVS, aiming to build student awareness and agency around ozone layer protection.

The ozone layer is a delicate shield high in the atmosphere that filters the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, protecting human health, crops, and ecosystems; when it thins, risks like skin cancer, cataracts, and ecological imbalance rise. Many everyday industrial chemicals—especially halocarbons containing chlorine and bromine—damage ozone, with substances like methyl bromide, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and halons historically contributing heavily to depletion. Students were made aware of the efforts to save the ozone layer.

Students designed posters that turned complex atmospheric science into simple, actionable messages, transforming scientific facts into visuals that peers could understand at a glance. The competition served as both a creative outlet and a public-awareness platform, with learners sharing protective practices and the importance of phasing out ozone-depleting substances.

Faculty guidance ensured that scientific accuracy and social responsibility were embedded in student work, reinforcing informed citizenship. Students grasped how halocarbons break down ozone and why bromine-bearing compounds often carry higher ozone-depleting potential than chlorine-bearing ones. Students connected campus action to global frameworks, recognizing how international cooperation shapes local choices. Participants articulated everyday behaviours and advocacy steps that align with ozone-safe practices.

The event framed student creativity within the world's most successful environmental agreement—the Montreal Protocol—whose central aim is to curb global production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances. Its phase-outs have safeguarded the ozone layer for current and future generations, while also contributing to climate mitigation and reducing UV-related health risks.

Poster showed the ozone as a protective umbrella. Some have highlighted gases like halons and carbon tetrachloride while some guides what products should be chosen and promoted in our community. Posters were displayed across campus to extend learning beyond participants, and promote conversations about safe alternatives and responsible consumption.

By turning science into story and policy into practice, the IVS Ozone Day poster competition nurtured informed, compassionate action—helping learners see themselves as guardians of the planet's protective shield.

