

'Restoring ozone layer will take decades'

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A student speaking at the elocution competition.

Of all the protocols framed by the United Nations, only the Montreal Protocol concerning the depletion of the ozone layer is being followed by most of the countries, said Joint Chief Engineer of A.P. Pollution Control Board T. Rajendra Reddy.

"If all countries follow the protocol, as is being done at present, we can fully replenish the depleted ozone layer by around 2050-60," he said.

Mr. Rajendra Reddy was speaking at a prize distribution ceremony for elocution and scientific model competitions for schoolchildren organised by *The Hindu* and Essar at the Visakha Public Library on Tuesday, as part of the World Ozone Day celebrations.

“Develop a love for the beauty of nature and things will fall in place, as love for nature is the seed for a better environment,” he said, urging students to adopt a green lifestyle.

Joint Collector of Visakhapatnam N.V. Suryakala, in her address, said that greenhouse effect is of prime concern as the rise in frequency of natural disasters is directly linked to it. “From the government’s side, our prime objective is to plant more trees as only that can sustain the planet for the future generations,” Ms. Suryakala said.

Talking about the Miyawaki forest concept, D.S. Varma of Essar said that it was a proven and tested model to grow forests in urban areas.

“We have grown such a forest in 750 sq yds in our facility, which houses over 1,900 trees. Such models can be replicated in urban spaces, as emission of more oxygen can repair the the ozone layer,” he said.

Mr. Varma highlighted the ill-effects of ozone depletion and how it can be repaired by planting more trees.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/restoring-ozone-layer-will-take-decades/article29443013.ece>