

## Celebration of World Ozone Day – September 16, 2025

The Department of Chemistry, DEI, celebrated World Ozone Day on September 16, 2025, with great zeal and participation from faculty, research scholars, and students. The day's programme was conducted in two sessions – morning and afternoon – marked by interactive competitions, a talk by an invited expert, and distribution of certificates to winners of the competitions.

### **Morning Session**

The celebration commenced with the Institute Prayer, followed by welcome address by the Head of the Department, Prof. Rohit Shrivastav, who emphasised the importance of the ozone layer as a protective shield against harmful ultraviolet radiation. To engage students and spread awareness on environmental conservation, two competitions were organised: *On-the-Spot Slogan Writing Competition*, where students expressed creative and impactful messages on ozone protection; *Quiz Competition*, in which participating teams of students were tested on their knowledge of ozone science, environmental issues, and the Montreal Protocol. Both events witnessed enthusiastic participation, and the winners were awarded certificates in the afternoon session.



### **Afternoon Session**

The afternoon session was graced by the presence of Prof. Shyam Lal, Emeritus Professor, Space and Atmospheric Sciences Division, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), ISRO, Ahmedabad.



The session began with a warm welcome and felicitation of Prof. Lal by the Head of the Department, Prof. Rohit Shrivastav, who presented him a bouquet and card prepared by the students.

Prof. Lal delivered a highly insightful lecture on *“The Importance of Atmospheric Ozone and Why We Celebrate Ozone Day.”* He explained the vital role of the ozone layer, its depletion due to human-made chemicals such as CFCs, halons, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroform, and the historic success of the Montreal Protocol (1987) in reversing ozone depletion. He also shared perspectives on the linkages between ozone depletion and climate change, leaving the audience inspired and reflective.

Following his talk, an interactive Q&A session with him allowed students to seek his views on lessons from the Montreal Protocol, challenges of climate change, and the possible future interactions between greenhouse gases and ozone chemistry. His thoughtful responses enriched the discussion and motivated the participants.

After the lecture, Prof. Lal awarded certificates to the winners of two competitions held in the morning session.

The programme concluded with Vote of Thanks by Prof. Anita Lakhani. She extended deep gratitude to Prof. Shyam Lal for his inspiring presence, to the jury members, Prof. K. Maharaj Kumari, Dr. Ranjit Kumar, and Dr. Aparna Satsangi, for their support, and to the Institute authorities for their encouragement. She also acknowledged the tireless efforts of colleagues, non-teaching staff, research scholars, and the enthusiastic participation of students, which made the event a grand success.

The following day (September 17, 2025) Prof. Lal visited the Department of Chemistry’s Instrumentation Lab, where he interacted with research scholars, discussed their ongoing work, and shared valuable insights, further enriching their academic experience.

