



Prakrithi Mitra

NATIONAL GREEN CORPS

**Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Department
Government of Andhra Pradesh**

MEDIA RELEASE

“God’s gift umbrella is disappearing i.e., Ozone layer. It plays an important role in stopping the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun from reaching the earth's surface, by providing a protective shield for plant and animal life. This Ozone layer in the stratosphere has been depleting at a faster rate earlier. The harmful effects of Ozone Layer depletion include increased skin cancer, eye cataracts, suppression of the human immune system, damage natural ecosystems and adverse impact on aquatic life and climate change. Hence Ozone layer protection has become a mandate of the nations world over and 16th September and International Day for the Prevention of the Ozone Layer is being observed since 1994 to sensitize the world community on the significance of this issue”. These points came forth in the competitions conducted at Jawahar Bal Bhavan by Prakrithi Mitra – National Green Corps, today to mark the day and to spread the information and create awareness in and through School children. Various competitions conducted today included Painting, Essay writing, Group discussions and Umbrella Rally. The theme for this year’s competitions is ‘**A healthy atmosphere, the Future We Want**’ as announced by the Ozone Secretariat at UN.

School students enthusiastically participated in these competitions and depicted their views through Painting, Group discussions and Essay writing. They described the greener, cleaner and healthier atmosphere they wanted in future and expressed their commitment to protect take actions which protect our natural umbrella i.e., Ozone Layer.

An Umbrella Exhibition rally was conducted by the students at Public Gardens to bring awareness among the people and also to prove that they would protect the Ozone umbrella. About 434 School students from 33 Schools in twin cities participated in these competitions guided by T Radhika Project Officer Prakrithi Mitra-NGC. P. Sandhya Director Jawahar Bal Bhavan was present on the occasion.

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