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## SCIENCE NEWS

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### YOUNG SCIENTISTS BRAIN STORM SESSION

This two-day session was held at the Department of Zoology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati from 29 to 30 October, 1987. On this occasion, a National Symposium on 'Man-environment interaction in India—Past, present, future challenges and excitements', jointly sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development, UGC, ICMR and the Sri Venkateswara University was organized. It covered a wide range of topics including the impact of environmental pollution, impact of agriculture and industrial development, bioresources utilization, resources plans, environmental management and education.

Inaugurating the symposium, Prof B. V. Rao outlined the importance of environmental protection and its assessment and called for efforts to safeguard the environment. Prof V. S. Rama Das, in his keynote address, said that environmental protection was for long regarded exclusively as a problem of the industrial nations. The forests, so highly cherished the world over, are now ailing owing to air pollution and acid rain and in view of this alarming situation, government should promote research in the ecological sector.

The symposium was unique in that sessions were arranged for different age groups and in the first session, about 50 school-going children in the second session 15 college students, and in the third session several researchers presented papers. In the fourth session, a programme was arranged to bring young scientists to interact with senior professors and in the last session, several posters were exhibited depicting the hazards of environmental pollution, deterioration of wildlife, problems relating to sewage disposal, food poisoning events etc. On the concluding day Prof. K. Sitaram delivered the valedictory address and suggested strict enforcement measures by the government while sanctioning licences to industries.

In conclusion, Mrs Leela Srinivasan, distributed prizes to the best exhibits and papers. The first prize went to Miss M. Lochani for her paper on 'Environment' and the other award winners included Mr Anil Kumar, Miss Sailaja Rao and Miss Umarani.

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