

IIT-I study

'Air pollution poses health risks in MP'

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

Air pollution in the state is rising at an alarming rate, posing a serious health hazard, a study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore has revealed.

As per the study, PM_{2.5} (particulate matter 2.5) level increased by 140 percent and the number of days with PM_{2.5} exceeding 40 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre) jumped by 230 per cent from 1980-1990 to 2010-2020.

The study by Prof Manish Kumar Goyal and his team

WOMEN MORE VULNERABLE DUE TO INDOOR POLLUTION

The study also examined the impact of air pollution on public health, particularly on women, who are more vulnerable due to indoor pollution from cooking fumes etc. It found that cases of respiratory infections and tuberculosis ranged from 40,000-60,000 in men and 35,000-55,000 in women. Neurological disorders affected 2,000-3,000 men and 1,800-2,800 women, while chronic respiratory diseases impacted 20,000-30,000 men and 18,000-28,000 women. Cardiovascular diseases affected 40,000-50,000 men and 35,000-45,000 women.

from the civil engineering department in IIT Indore, highlighted that Madhya Pradesh had lower PM_{2.5} concentration compared to Delhi/NCR and

Uttar Pradesh, but still faced serious pollution concerns. The state's annual PM_{2.5} levels range between 40-45 µg/m³, lower than Delhi/NCR (65-70 µg/m³) and

U.P. (60-65 µg/m³).

However, on maximum pollution concentration, PM_{2.5} levels in Madhya Pradesh rise to 200-250 µg/m³. Heavily polluted areas in Madhya Pradesh have PM_{2.5} levels of 60-70 µg/m³, whereas Delhi/NCR and UP exceed 100 µg/m³.

The number of days exceeding the safe limit of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (40 µg/m³) is also lower in Madhya Pradesh (70-80 days per year) than in Delhi/NCR and U.P.

► **Continued on | P8**

Page - 01

'Air pollution poses health...

IIT Indore director Prof Suhas Joshi said, "The rising trend of PM_{2.5} concentration and its severe health impact, especially on women, cannot be overlooked. The findings highlight the urgent need for better air quality management."

Prof Goyal said "The study compares pollution levels with India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which set an annual PM_{2.5} limit at 40 µg/m³ and a 24-hour limit at 60 µg/m³.

Contd. Page - 08