

# IMC seeks IIT expertise to combat air pollution

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**Indore:** Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) has approached IIT Indore and IIT Bombay to conduct a comprehensive source apportionment study aimed at identifying and reducing air pollution sources in the city. The initiative comes as Indore and nearby Dewas feature among 131 Indian cities failing to meet national air quality standards. The study will focus on creating an emission inventory and developing targeted solutions for pollution control.

“We have sought proposals from IIT Indore and IIT Bombay for conducting the source apportionment study, creating an emission inventory, and other relevant studies to help devise a proper plan to reduce air pollution in the city. Letters have been sent to them,” said a senior official from IMC wishing anonymity.

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Transport emissions and road dust have been identified as primary contributors to Indore's deteriorating air quality. While the city previously saw progress under the International Clean Air Catalyst Programme initiated in 2021, the recent suspension of US funding disrupted ongoing research and technical training programmes. The halt in funding particularly affected the Source Apportionment Study, which was nearing completion. This setback impacted various scientific analyses and knowledge-sharing initiatives that were crucial for local govt bodies.

Environmental expert OP Joshi said

that while recent measures helped reduce PM10 levels, the rising PM2.5 concentration remains a significant health concern. These fine particles pose greater risks due to their ability to penetrate deep into the respiratory system.

“The proposed study will help to develop evidence-based strategies for pollution control and improve the city's air quality management system. The technical expertise from IIT will provide crucial insights into pollution patterns and effective mitigation measures. This scientific approach aims to strengthen Indore's position as a leader in environmental management while ensuring better air quality for its residents,” said the official.

The outcomes of this study will be instrumental in formulating targeted interventions and policy measures to combat air pollution in the region effectively, said the official.