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TIMES

At IIT, US scientist praises Swachh Indore's fresh air

Kargel Says Air Pollution In Delhi Has Hit India's Tourism Biz

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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Indore: Increasing air pollution at Delhi is severely affecting Indian tourism industry as no one would like to expose to such harmful air and government should come out with measures to control it, Planetary Science Institute (Arizona, USA) senior scientist Dr Jeffrey S Kargel said.

Kargel, a geologist, glaciologist and planetary scientist, hailed Indore for its fresh air and cleanliness.

"Indore has such fresh air. I was under impression that Indore must be as bad as Delhi. (International) tourists just see news about Delhi where visibility is almost zero and this is affecting the tourism in India," said Kargel.

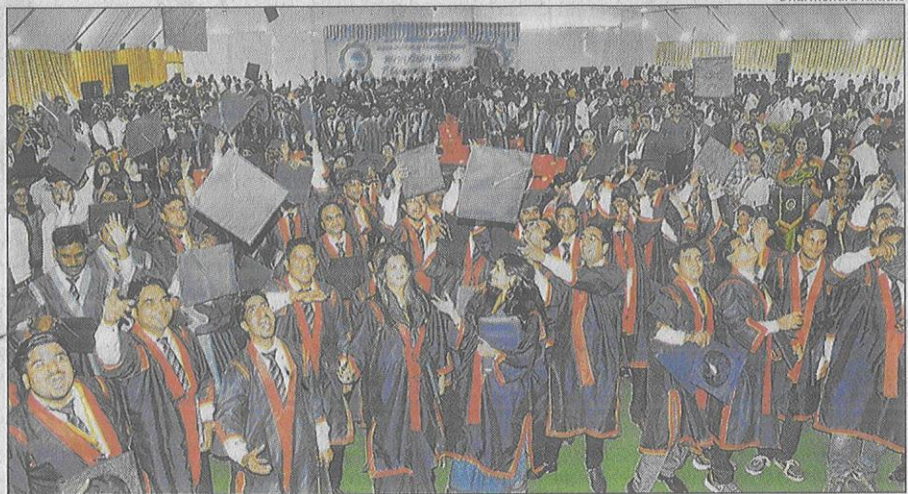
He was in Indore to attend the 7th convocation ceremony at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore as the chief guest.

Kargel said that solutions to air pollution is possible by bringing change in habit and convincing farmers not to burn stubble, provide financial assistance to change habits and take alternatives.

"It may be expensive for farmers to change habits but it is extremely expensive for India to be inhaling smoke that leads to health issues and also hitting tourism sector."

The planetary scientist remarked the soft launch of Chandrayaan-2 as a technology marvel and India's rise to space power.

"It was probably a slight timing issue when to start



IIT-Indore students throwing graduation hats in air during 7th convocation ceremony on Saturday

the descent. There is a loss, no question about it but I see the mission as an amazing success. India has risen as a space power and next step will be equivalent to Europe," said Kargel.

He also praised India for live telecast of the mission and carrying it out in relatively small budget.

Kargel expressed concerns about melting glaciers and it's leading to loss of snow and ice changing the water equation, but it does not mean that water will disappear.

IIT-I director Professor Pradeep Mathur emphasized that the institute has attained exceptional level of excellence by being different and urged students to continue to be different.

Mathur said, "Over the last three years, amongst the second generation IITs, IIT-Indore has been a leader with most citations, it's the



AWARDING EXCELLENCE: USA Planetary Science Institute's senior scientist Dr Kargel felicitating gold medalist Rahul Choudhary

top 300 institute in computer science as well as in physical science categories."

A total of 275 degrees were awarded, of which 108 were BTech, 29 MTech, 55 MSc and 83 PhD. The President's gold medal was awarded to Rahul Choudhary and six silver medals were awarded to Hitesh, Apoorva, Ashish

Kiran, Vanitha Reddy, Mayank Shah and Vinit Hareesh.

Gold medalist Rahul Choudhary said, "Being a new institute, I got to learn a lot and was part of multiple committees that gave me exposure and insight. I identified the needs of the students and worked on many new ideas."