

Vigyan Samachar: MoES News

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MoES Webinar Series: Air Pollution and COVID-19 by Prof. Gufran Beig

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Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India is organizing a Popular Lecture Webinar Series for Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune and its other institutes across the country.

On May 12, 2020, Prof. (Dr.) Gufran Beig, Scientist G, IITM Pune spoke on “air pollution and COVID-19”. Ozone therapy is an alternative medical treatment to disinfect and treat diseases by introducing medical ozone to human body. There were speculations that ozone could destroy coronavirus by breaking through its outer shell, entering the core and damaging the RNA, But Prof. (Dr.) Gufran Baig, in his Webinar lecture said that though ozone is increasing in some cities during the nationwide lockdown, the level to disinfect or kill the virus should be in 'ppm' (parts per million) and the ambient level at ground is in 'ppb' (parts per billion).

But putting a person even under ppm levels of medical ozone would be detrimental to human health. Breathing of even small amounts of ozone can be harmful. A higher concentration of ozone is indicated by a smell that it produces. Debunking the use of ozone to kill COVID-19, he cautioned people against ozone therapy and its harmful health consequences.

Prof. Baig has done pioneering work in atmospheric chemistry and air pollution in India including the development of India's first air quality forecasting system "SAFAR" (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research).