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## **No correlation between temperature/air pollution and COVID-19, says IITM scientists**

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Scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Ministry of Earth Sciences, have found that temperature and air pollution have no connection with COVID-19. This revelation comes after a preliminary analysis of COVID-19 cases in six major cities of India such as Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata.

Prof. Gufran Beig, a scientist at the Pune-based IITM, said that we cannot associate COVID-19 with any parameter like temperature, pollution, ambient air quality, and major pollutants like PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). Further, the correlation of ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> with mortality and morbidity due to COVID-19 has also been found to be very poor, about 1 percent and 18 percent, respectively. In the case of nitrogen dioxide, its correlation with the disease is just about 10 percent, indicating that there is no correlation at all with COVID-19.