

World Air Quality Report (WAQR), 2024

Why in News?

According to the recently released World Air Quality Report, 2024 13 out of world's 20 most polluted cities are in India.

- **WAQR** - It is an annual report, which evaluates the global state of air quality from the previous year.
- It is a comprehensive report presents PM2.5 air quality data collected from 8,954 cities across 138 countries, regions and territories.

The **PM2.5 data** is measured in micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and the data is visualized as a function of the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 air quality guideline.

PM2.5 comes from **sources** such as the combustion of fossil fuels, and can cause respiratory problems, chronic kidney disease, cancer, and stroke or heart attacks.

- **Released by** - IQAir, a Swiss Air Quality technology company.
- **5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** - Is the recommended average annual limit of PM2.5 by the World Health Organization's (WHO).

Key Findings of the Report, 2024

- **Global status** - Only 17% of global cities meet WHO air pollution guideline.
- Only 12 countries, regions and territories recorded PM2.5 concentrations below the WHO's recommended average annual limit of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **Oceania** - It is the world's cleanest region, with 57% of regional cities meeting the WHO guideline.

Based on WHO Annual PM2.5 Guideline

7 Countries met Average Guideline

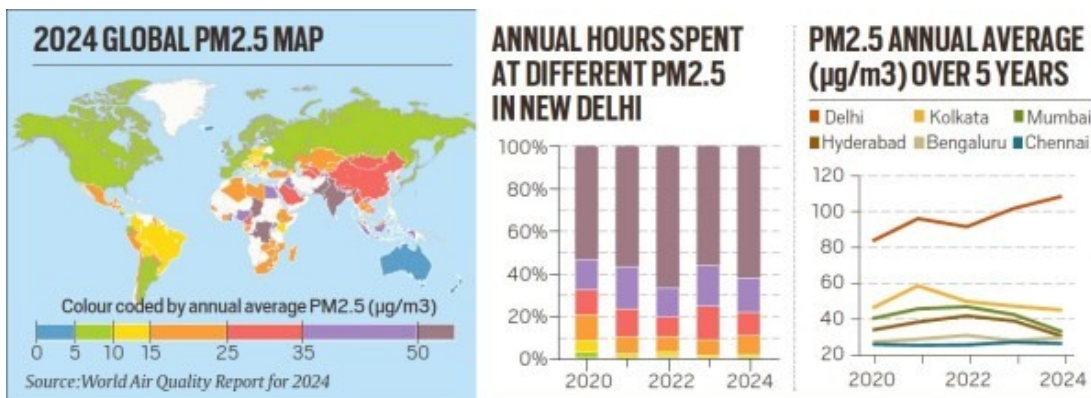
5 Most Polluted Countries

Countries & Regions Exceeded Guideline

Australia Bahamas Barbados Estonia Grenada Iceland New Zealand	Chad Bangladesh Pakistan Democratic Republic of Congo India	126 (91.3%)
The annual average PM2.5 concentrations of the % most polluted countries is 91.8 µg/m ³ , 78 µg/m ³ , 73.7 µg/m ³ , 58.2 µg/m ³ , and 50.6 µg/m ³ respectively.		

Key Findings of the Report, 2024 in India

- **India** - *Byrnihat* (128.2 µg/m³) in meghalaya, *most polluted city in the world*.
- **Delhi** - It continued to see high levels of pollution (91.6 µg/m³), which almost unchanged from 92.7 µg/m³ in 2023.
- **Top 5 polluted cities** - Rourkela, Nagpur, Nasik, Asansol and Gurugram.
- **Top 5 cleanest cities** - Varanasi, Prayagraj, Coimbatore, Bengaluru and Chennai.



References

1. [The Indian Express| World Air Quality Report, 2024](#)
2. [IQAir| World Air Quality Report Summary](#)