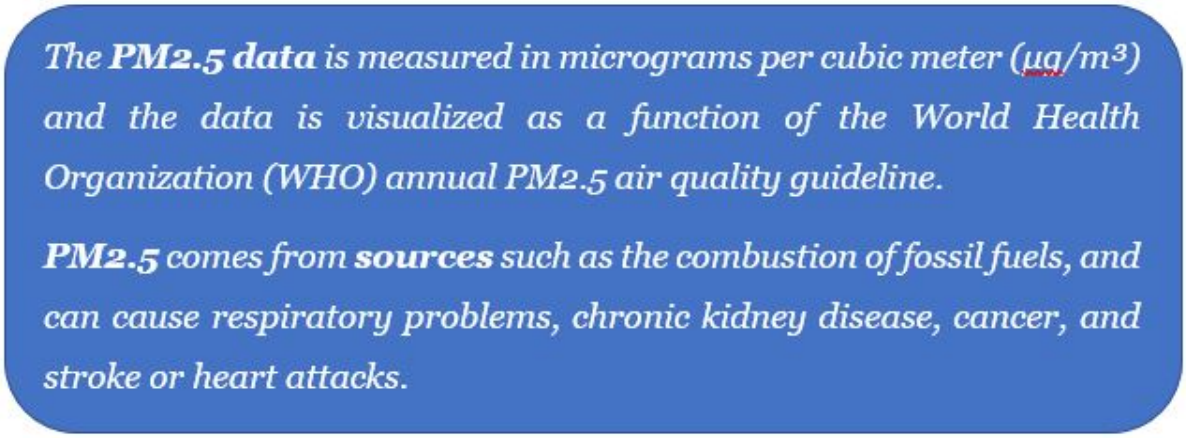
World Air Quality Report (WAQR), 2024

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.



- **Released by** – IQAir, a Swiss Air Quality technology company.
- **5 µg/m3** – Is the recommended *average annual limit of PM2.5* by the World Health Organization's (WHO).

Key Findings of the Report, 2024

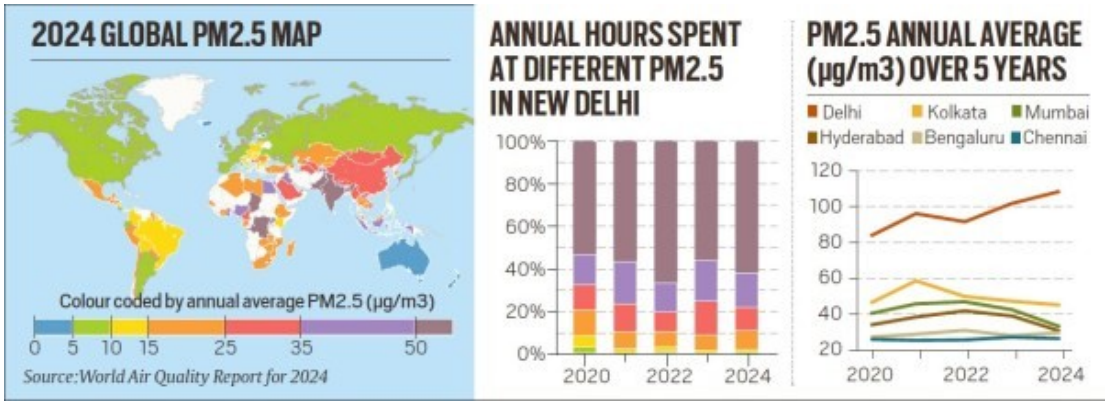
- **Global status** – *Only 17% of global cities* meet WHO air pollution guideline.
- *Only 12 countries*, regions and territories recorded PM2.5 concentrations below the WHO's recommended average annual limit of 5 µg/m3.
- **Oceania** – It is the ***world's cleanest region***, with 57% of regional cities 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/m3, 78 µg/m3, 73.7 µg/m3, 58.2 µg/m3, and 50.6 µg/m3 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

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