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News: World Air Quality Index

## World Air Quality Index

- World Air Quality Index is published by IQ Air, a Swiss air quality technology company specializing in protection against air borne pollutants.
- Delhi ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 50 of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2022.
- Out of 131 countries, India ranked 8<sup>th</sup> with a population weighted average PM2.5 level of 53.3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2022.
- The 2022 report is based on PM2.5 data from 7,323 cities and 131 countries.

### Highlights of 2022 report

- Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh are the 5 most polluted countries in 2022.
- Delhi had an average PM2.5 level of 92.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2022, a little below the average of 96.4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2021.
- The report makes a distinction between New Delhi and Delhi, with New Delhi having an annual average PM2.5 level of 89.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

- The WHO guideline for annual PM2.5 levels is 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .
- Lahore was the most polluted city in the world, followed by Hotan in China, and Bhiwadi in Rajasthan.
- New Delhi is the second most polluted capital city in the world, with N'Djamena in Chad topping the list.
- A total of 39 Indian cities (including 'Delhi' and 'New Delhi') are on the list of 50 of the world's most polluted cities based on annual average PM2.5 levels in 2022.

## PM 2.5

- PM 2.5 is an atmospheric particulate matter of diameter of fewer than 2.5 micrometres, which is around 3% the diameter of a human hair.
- PM 2.5 particles are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, and long-term exposure to PM 2.5 can lead to lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and other chronic health conditions.