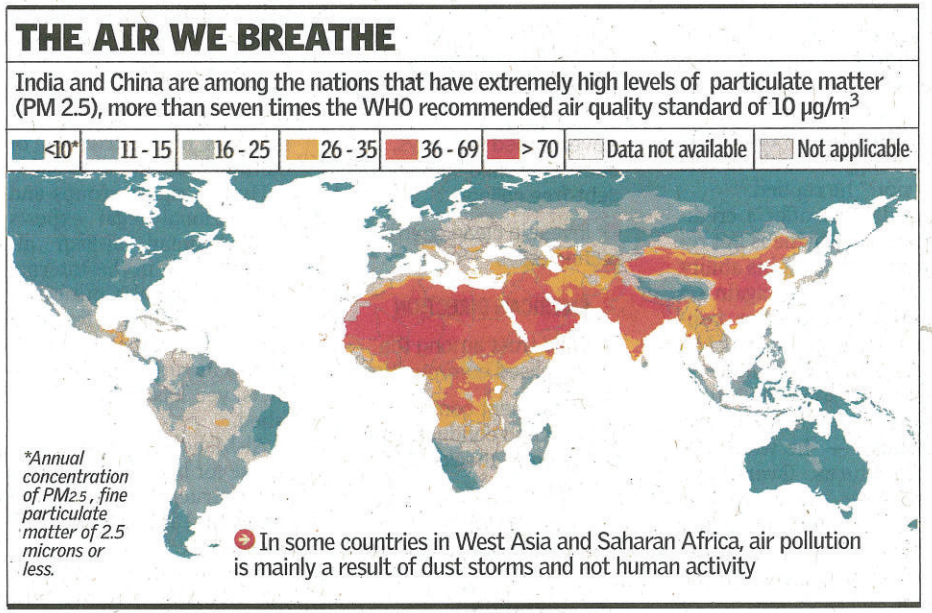
Fine particulates causing chronic illn

Low- and middle-income countries disproportionately experience the burden of lung cancer and c

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI: The impact of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) highlighted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) study is felt through a broad spectrum of acute and chronic illnesses that cause premature death.

These include lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cardiovascular diseases. Worldwide, it is estimated to cause about 16 per cent of lung cancer deaths, 11 per cent of COPD deaths, and more than 20 per cent of ischaemic heart disease and stroke. Particulate matter pollution is an environmental health problem that affects people worldwide, but low- and middle-income countries disproportion-



said, "Air pollution is the

ority basis as it continues to

on data derived from satellite

locations, both rural a urban, were developed WHO in collaboration wi the University of Bath in U

Urban nightmare

In instances where accu ate PM2.5 (that is, 2.5 micr meters or less) measur ments were unavailable, t researchers derived their a erages based on PM10, whi are larger dust particle-co centrations. It notes th more than 80 per cent of pe ple living in urban areas th monitor air pollution are e posed to air quality leve that exceed the World Heal Organization (WHO) limi The study gave the WHO quality guidelines for PM as 10 micrograms per cub metre annual average, and micrograms per cubic me 24-hour average.