

ILO Report on Global Warming

Why in news?

The report “Working on a warmer planet: The impact of heat stress on labour productivity and decent work” was released by International Labour Organisation (ILO).

What does the report say?

- In 2030, **2.2% of total working hours** worldwide will be lost because of higher temperatures.
- The **global productivity losses** would be around **80 million full-time jobs** (equivalent to economic loss of US\$ 2,400 billion).
- The projection of 34 million jobs losses in India would make it the worst affected.
- A third of the southern Asian countries have already incurred losses greater than 4%
- This is a **conservative estimate**, assuming that the global mean temperature does not rise more than 1.5°C

How it was worked out?

- The report defines heat stress as **heat in excess of what the body can tolerate** without suffering physiological impairment.
- It generally occurs at temperatures above 35°C, in high humidity.
- **Excess heat during work** is an occupational health risk and restricts workers’ physical functions and capabilities, work capacity and thus, productivity.
- **Assumptions and basis** for the projections are,
 1. Global temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the century,
 2. Labour force trends.

What are the projections for India?

- India to lose the most working hours is southern Asia in 2030.
- It lost 4.3% of working hours in 1995 because of heat stress.
- It is projected to **lose 5.8% of its working hours in 2030**, which corresponds to 34 million jobs.
- The report projects losses in working hours as

1. 9.04% in agriculture (in shade),
 2. 5.29% in manufacturing,
 3. 9.04% in construction, and
 4. 1.48% in services.
- Most of the impact will be felt in the **agricultural sector**.
 - More working hours are expected to be lost in the **construction sector** (where heat stress affects both male and female workers).
 - Most areas have drought like conditions so there will be more **migration of agricultural workers to urban areas** - usually to work in the construction sector.
 - There has been **no direct job loss at present**, with distressed workers switching from one vulnerable sector to another.

What is the bigger picture?

- **Globally**, the two sectors projected to be **hit worst are agriculture and construction**, with agriculture worse affected.
- **In agriculture** - 60% of working hours will be lost due to heat stress by 2030.
- **In construction** - 19% of global working hours to be lost.
- More inequality between low and high income countries to be seen.
- There will be worsening working conditions for the most vulnerable, as well as displacement of people.
- To adapt to this new reality appropriate measures by governments, employers and workers, focusing on protecting the most vulnerable, are urgently needed.

Source: The Indian Express

Quick Facts

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- Found in: 1919
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.
- It became U.N. **first specialised agency** in **1946**.
- It is the only tripartite U.N. agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States.
- It sets labour standards, develops policies and devises programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.



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