



Cool it

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Cool it-Increased exposure to heatwaves needs a policy response, nationally and globally

- The staggering loss of an estimated 153 billion hours of labour during 2017 due to rising temperatures around the globe is a reminder to governments that they are not doing enough to dramatically curb greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Lancet countdown on health and climate has reported that India was particularly affected by the rising frequency of heatwave events and lost about 75 billion hours of work, a significant part of it in the agricultural sector.
- This has worrying implications for rural employment and the well-being of a large section of the population that depends on farming.
- At stake for all countries in the developing world is the health of millions, many of them already vulnerable to extreme weather events.
- Coming on the eve of the UN climate conference in Katowice, Poland, the report of the Lancet panel for 2018 brings clarity, placing connected issues in perspective for governmental action.
- The consensus on climate change is that it has begun to affect the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.
- India's approach to adaptation should, therefore, prepare for catastrophes with a well-considered plan to provide relief and rehabilitation.
- The aggravated impact of climate change on health is a serious issue for policymakers to consider when they gather in Katowice for the conference on December 2.

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