

THE IPCC CLIMATE CHANGE 2022 IMPACTS REPORT

Vanshika Tushir
Satyawati College, University of Delhi

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published a new report, following the first installation of the Sixth Assessment Report, in February 2022. Working group II contribution to this report paints a very bleak image. This report represents cumulative studies of thousands of scientists, 270 authors from 67 countries, and is approved by 195 governments. The report states how human-caused climate change is affecting the ecosystem, what's already irreversible, and things to do so that the consequence can be limited to some extent. The report clearly describes that the impact of climate change affects everyone and everything from regional to global levels. It draws a direct line between climate change and some major consequences such as food insecurity, water scarcity, humanitarian crisis, premature death, and many more. In addition to this, the report also mentioned some policymakers with a clear vision of reality and the threat of global climate change as well as examined the vulnerability of the natural world and human society to adapt which is warned to be at risk.

The IPCC's second part of the sixth assessment report declares India as one of the most vulnerable countries. It comments that by 2050, over 35 million people could be affected by annual coastal floods. Furthermore, 45-50 million individuals are predicted to be at risk by the end of the century. The IPCC also predicted that by 2050, the damage to Mumbai from rising sea levels might reach \$162 billion per year.

India's country-level social cost of carbon emissions was estimated to be the highest at \$86 per tonne of CO₂, according to Down to Earth. It means that each additional tonne of CO₂ will cost the Indian economy \$86. India is followed by the United States, where the economic damage to CO₂ emissions would be \$48 per tonne. The report finds that Earth's average temperature touching 1.5 degrees Celsius is fairly serious. For instance, with just 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming, many glaciers throughout the world will either vanish or lose the majority of their mass; an additional 350 million people will confront water scarcity by 2030, and up to 14% of terrestrial species will face severe extinction threats. If warming exceeds 1.5 degrees Celsius, even for a short period of time, the consequences will be irreversible and have a permanent impact. Beyond the impacts, this report also mentions some adaptation policies to deal with the consequences of climate change. Depending on where you are, and the hazards encountered, adapting will take on different forms. Coastal areas must prepare for storm surges, and regions with less rain require effective water management systems. If adequately funded and executed, these adaptation measures can help to mitigate climate risks.

Over the years, climate change has become a well-known term. Earth's average temperature recorded in 2021 was 1.2 degrees Celsius. If exceeded further, there will be some serious and irreversible repercussions. This report can serve as a wake-up call. Countries build policy responses to tackle climate change on the basis of finding IPCC reports. We as individuals need to adapt to the new conditions and decrease the alarming global temperature.