

7. But such climate mitigation in India and elsewhere is painfully slow, because of a lack of political will in the major emitting countries for decisive action.

#### **Adaptation is essential:**

1. In the meantime, hotter temperatures are making outdoor work unbearable, in addition to other dire consequences.
2. Climate mitigation or de-carbonisation of economies on the part especially of the big emitters, such as the United States, the European Union, China, and India remains an imperative.
3. But **temperatures are set to rise** regardless of mitigation, based on the emission damage already done.
4. That means climate adaptation, or coping with the predicament, is as big a priority as mitigation.
5. A crucial aspect of adaptation is **better environmental care** that can contribute to cooling.
6. Heatwaves are rooted in degraded land and relentless deforestation, which exacerbate wildfires.
7. **Agriculture, being water-intensive**, does not do well in heat wave-prone areas.
8. A solution is **to promote better agricultural practices** which are not water-intensive, and to support afforestation that has a salutary effect on warming.

#### **Health Ministry asks health facilities to be ready for soaring temperatures:**

1. **Health facilities need to increase resilience to extreme heat** by arranging uninterrupted electricity for constant functioning of cooling appliances, installation of solar panels (wherever feasible), measures to reduce indoor heat through cool/green roofs, window shades, shade outside, etc.
2. The Ministry has written to all stakeholders advising that health facilities' preparedness must be reviewed for availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines, I.V. fluids, ice packs, ORS (oral rehydration solution), and all necessary equipment.
3. **Availability of sufficient drinking water** at all health facilities and continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas must be ensured.