

# "Current Affairs - 2019"

Q-3:

Elaborate the reasons and impacts of Donald Trump's withdrawal from Climate Change Paris Agreement 2015.

## Introduction

President Donald Trump stunned the world on June 1 by announcing his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord. Mr. Trump's decision to back out has drawn strong criticism both at home and abroad, with world leaders, international organizations, civil society and media voicing disappointment and protests. Only future generations will be able to calculate the full consequences of President's incredibly shortsighted approach to climate change, since it is they who will suffer the consequences.

## Paris Climate Agreement : A Glance

COP 21 was the first ever serious effort on global level to ensure the carbon cuts. This agreement was signed and ratified by 190 countries including the world leading emitters like US, China, and India. It was unique in the sense that for the first time :

- 25 leading multi-national industries committed to make cuts in their carbon emission.
- It was promised to reduce the world temperature by 2°C by 2025.
- The resolve to send carbon back to earth through forestation was re-affirmed.
- Financial and technological support for the developing and climate affected countries was increased.

All the promises made in Paris were ratified in Morocco Climate Conference 2016.

**Reasons of Trump's with-  
-drawal**

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On his 2016 presidential campaign trail, Donald Trump talked skeptically about or even denied climate change, and he vowed to pull out from the Agreement once he was elected. Trump eventually chose to back out of the agreement.

### • Trump Administration's Fossil Fuel Ties :-

Trump Administration is closely tied to the fossil fuel industry. The fossil fuel industries hold powerful political clout over the Trump Administration and the Republican Party. It has been reported that Trump himself, Vice President Pence and EPA administrator Pruitt are all personally closely associated with the petrochemical mogul Koch Industries.

### • Trump's Withdrawal is Fueled by Polarization :-

Current political and social polarization embolden Trump's withdrawal decision; the partisanship, social tension, and ideological antagonism

that define today's U.S. leave little room for bipartisan cooperation, and the Charlottesville riot on 21 August, 2017, is just the latest incident that testifies to the worst polarization. Seeing that his constituency was not going to react negatively to his withdrawal decision, Trump was emboldened to announce the exit, hoping that it would help him in the next election.

### • Trump's Climate Skepticism and Resistance to Global Cooperation Standards :-

Trump is skeptical of climate change. He refuses to acknowledge the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibility in global climate cooperation. In his withdrawal speech, Trump stated that "the Paris Accord is very unfair at the highest level to the U.S. and compared China and India's mitigation obligations with U.S., taking no notice of the common but differentiated responsibility principle."

## • Contrasting Foreign Policies of Trump and Obama :-

Trump's undue emphasis on America First departs significantly from Obama's foreign policy philosophy.

**Obama's Policy :** Economically, Obama believes that the Paris Agreement enhances America's climate security, promotes America's low-carbon economy and renewable energy industry and is indispensable for securing employment and maintaining the U.S. competitive edge.

**Trump's Policy :** On the contrary, Trump believes that the Paris Agreement undermines U.S. competitive edge and impairs both employment and traditional energy industries.

## • Trump's Vendetta : Dismantling Obama's Legacy :-

Trump holds personal animosity against Obama and relishes destroying Obama's political legacy ;

during the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump and Obama openly attacked each other with a high degree of animosity.

“There have been instances in the past where the current President and a former President do not get along at all”, said Timothy Naftali, a historian at New York University; “what is different this time is that the two are showing it. That the animosity is so clear.”

## Impacts of Trump's withdrawal

### • Global leadership shift:-

Trump's decision to withdraw signaled a shift in global climate leadership away from the United States, historically one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases. This departure left a void in international efforts to combat climate change.

## ◦ Diminished Credibility :-

The withdrawal undermined the credibility of the United States on the global stage, as it appeared to backtrack on previous commitments to address climate change. This could affect diplomatic relations and the country's influence in international negotiations.

## ◦ Impact on Emission Reduction Efforts :-

Without the participation of the United States, the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement became more challenging. The absence of U.S. leadership could slow down global efforts to reduce emissions and transition to renewable energy.

## ◦ Economic Implications :-

The withdrawal could have economic implications, both domestically and internationally. Domestically, it may affect investments in

renewable energy and clean technology sectors, potentially hindering job growth and innovation. Internationally, it could lead to trade tensions as other countries may impose tariffs or sanctions on US goods perceived as environmentally harmful.

### • Environmental Consequences:-

Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement could exacerbate the impacts of climate change, leading to more frequent and severe weather events, rising sea levels, and loss of biodiversity. These environmental consequences could have far-reaching effects on ecosystems, human health, and socio-economic systems worldwide.

## Conclusion

There is a strong realization that the growing carbon emission is an established threat to the world. It would see in the coming days how badly Trump's decision to opt US out of Paris Agreement would affect the world eco-system.