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Article For Reading:

An exit of bluster: On the U.S. And the climate change fight

The rest of the world must reassess the U.S.'s role in fighting climate change

President Donald Trump has fired his **howitzers** at multilateralism by **signing into decree** the United States' withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement. This sets records that are in a class of their own. The U.S. is the only country to have withdrawn thrice from a climate agreement — beginning with George W. Bush's withdrawal, in 2001, from the Kyoto Protocol. Mr. Trump, of course, sets a new low by being the only President to withdraw from a climate agreement twice. In the **run-up to** the decree, there is a **pall of gloom** in the climate world over what the U.S.'s latest exit might mean, particularly when the globe has finished its first full calendar year above the 1.5° Celsius mark. The U.S. is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases. **By virtue of** being the most powerful economy, it has **arrogated** to itself the **mantle** of 'global leadership' in addressing climate change. But now that the leader has had the **spottiest** track record of keeping to the terms of a significant agreement — one, whose rule book the U.S. played a major role in compiling — perhaps it is time for the rest of the world to reassess America's role in addressing climate change.

Under both Republican and Democratic governments, U.S. Domestic policy on greenhouse gas emissions has been **subservient** to business interests. Oil and gas production increased under the Biden administration. The U.S. Remains the world's largest crude oil producer, achieving record production in 2023. The country is also the world's largest producer of gas and, in 2022, became the world's largest exporter for liquified natural gas (LNG). Mr. Trump has only committed to **add on** to this already **substantial** base. The U.S. Is critically short of achieving its target of greenhouse gas emissions. As of 2022, the U.S. Has achieved only about one-third of its 2030 emissions reduction target. In the last weeks of his Presidency, Mr. Biden increased the U.S.'s emission-reduction commitments to 61%-66% of 2005 levels by 2035. This too, calculations suggest, will be insufficient to meet a 1.5° C target. Private capital **propping up** renewable energy has grown **exponentially** since Mr. Bush, and is now too substantial for Mr. Trump and his financial backers to ignore. While it will take a year for the exit to be formalised, it is likely that the U.S.'s behind-the-scenes engagement — especially at the next climate meet (COP 30) in Brazil in November 2025 — will continue. The politics of Mr. Trump suggests that he is not **averse** to **running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.**

Summarization:

Donald Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement, marking the third U.S. withdrawal from a climate pact, following George W. Bush's 2001 exit from the Kyoto Protocol. The U.S., as the second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, has failed to meet its climate commitments, achieving only a third of its 2030 emission-reduction target. Despite private investments in renewable energy, U.S. policies under both Republican and Democratic administrations have favored business interests, with record oil and gas production continuing. Trump's actions signal a lack of commitment to global climate leadership, though the U.S. may still engage informally at future climate negotiations, including COP 30 in 2025.

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Vocabularies:

1. Howitzers (Noun) (तोप)

Meaning: A type of large cannon used to fire shells at a high trajectory.

Synonyms: Cannon, artillery, gun.

Antonyms: Shield, defense (indirect).

Example: The army positioned its howitzers strategically to cover the battlefield.

2. Decree (Noun) (आदेश)

Meaning: An official order issued by a legal authority.

Synonyms: Order, proclamation, mandate.

Antonyms: Request, suggestion, appeal.

Example: The court issued a decree banning the use of single-use plastics.

3. Arrogated (Verb) (हथियाना)

Meaning: To claim or take something without justification.

Synonyms: Assume, appropriate, seize.

Antonyms: Relinquish, renounce, forfeit.

Example: The committee arrogated decision-making powers without consulting the members.

4. Mantle (Noun) (जिम्मेदारी)

Meaning: A role or responsibility passed on to someone.

Synonyms: Role, responsibility, duty.

Antonyms: Irresponsibility, avoidance.

Example: She accepted the mantle of leadership with great humility.

5. Spottiest (Adjective) (सबसे असंगत)

Meaning: Inconsistent or having a patchy quality.

Synonyms: Uneven, irregular, inconsistent.

Antonyms: Consistent, smooth, regular.

Example: The company's spottiest performance in sales has affected its market reputation.

6. Subservient (Adjective) (आज्ञाकारी)

Meaning: Prepared to obey others unquestioningly or less important.

Synonyms: Obedient, submissive, compliant.

Antonyms: Dominant, independent, assertive.

Example: He remained subservient to his boss despite unfair treatment.

7. Substantial (Adjective) (काफी मात्रा में)

Meaning: Of considerable importance, size, or worth.

Synonyms: Significant, ample, considerable.

Antonyms: Insignificant, minor, negligible.

Example: The project required a substantial amount of funding to succeed.

8. Exponentially (Adverb) (बहुत तेजी से)

Meaning: At a rapid, increasing rate.

Synonyms: Rapidly, dramatically, progressively.

Antonyms: Gradually, slowly, steadily.

Example: The company's profits have grown exponentially in the past year.

9. Averse (Adjective) (अप्रिय)

Meaning: Strongly disliking or opposed to something.

Synonyms: Opposed, unwilling, reluctant.

Antonyms: Willing, inclined, agreeable.

Example: She is averse to taking unnecessary risks in her business ventures.

Phrasal Verbs from the article:

1. Fire at-

Meaning: To attack or criticize someone or something strongly.

Example: Donald Trump fired at multilateralism by withdrawing the U.S. From the Paris Agreement.

2. Sign into-

Meaning: To officially approve or bring into effect by signing.

Example: The President signed into decree the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

3. Run up to-

Meaning: The period or preparation time before an event.

Example: In the run-up to the decree, there was widespread concern in the climate world.

4. Add on-

Meaning: To include or increase something additionally.

Example: Trump has only committed to add on to the already substantial base of oil production.

5. Prop up-

Meaning: To support something that is in danger of failing.

Example: Private capital has propped up the renewable energy sector despite policy challenges.

6. Engage in-

Meaning: To participate or involve oneself in an activity.

Example: The U.S. is likely to engage in behind-the-scenes negotiations at COP 30.

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Idiomatic Expressions from the article:

1. By Virtue of (किसी चीज़ के कारण या परिणामस्वरूप)

Meaning: Because of or as a result of something.

Example: By virtue of being the most powerful economy, the U.S. Has claimed global leadership in climate change discussions.

2. Runs with the hare and hunts with the hounds: (दो विरोधी पक्षों का साथ देना, ताकि कोई लाभ उठाया जा सके या विवाद से बचा जा सके।)

Meaning: To try to support or stay on the good side of two opposing parties at the same time, often to avoid conflict or gain an advantage.

Example: Donald Trump's politics suggest that he runs with the hare and hunts with the hounds by appearing to support renewable energy while also promoting fossil fuel production.

3. An Exit of Bluster (शोरगुल या दिखावे के साथ की गई विदाई, जिसमें ठोस या असरदार कदम कम हो।)

Meaning: A departure marked by loud, aggressive, or boastful behaviour without much substance or meaningful action.

Example: Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement can be seen as an exit of bluster, as it emphasized bold rhetoric and criticism of multilateralism but lacked a constructive plan to address climate change effectively.

3. Pall of Gloom(उदासी, निराशा या मायूसी का माहौल)

Meaning: A feeling or atmosphere of sadness, despair, or pessimism.

Example: In the run-up to the decree, there is a pall of gloom in the climate world over what the U.S.'s latest exit might mean.