What Trump’s Climate Surrender Means for the World

It is confirmed now that US President, Donald Trump, plans to officially withdraw from the Paris climate accord in a year’s time. The action was initiated this November 4th, which was the first possible day to exit the accord with a one-year waiting period under rules set out by the United Nations. Trump’s hostility toward collective global efforts to curb emissions - and progressive environmental policy writ large - puts him at odds with some of the US’ leading companies, which recognise the long-term effects to their own bottom line posed by climate change. Beyond pulling out of the accord, the White House has set about dismantling Obama-era environmental regulations at home. These include launching a fight with California’s state government over the stringent fuel efficiency standards it demands of automakers and a federal move announced this week to relax rules on how power plants store waste from burning coal. Trump’s move only sharpens the focus on an upcoming major global climate summit next month in Madrid.

More Than 11,000 Scientists Issue Fresh Warning: Earth Faces a Climate Emergency

An international consortium of more than 11,000 scientists is backing a study with a dire warning: Earth is facing a climate emergency. The new study of how human activities have impacted the planet over the past four decades declares that harmful greenhouse gas emissions are rapidly rising, that governments are making insufficient progress in tackling the crisis, and that scientists have “a moral obligation to clearly warn humanity of any catastrophic threat.” The findings were published in the journal BioScience. The policy recommendations the study makes about gender equity and making family planning available to bring down the birth rate, are completely consistent with studies of what we need to do in response to climate change. The new study reiterates many of the same findings as seminal reports from the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but does emphasise the need to address the planet’s swelling population, which has been a contentious topic in the climate debate.

Delhi’s Pollution: Question of Life and Death

The air quality in Delhi has steeped overnight and the percentage of particulate matter (PM) has escalated. Delhi Pollution Control Committee as well as the Central Pollution Control Board indicated that the PM 2.5 which lodge deep in the lungs have climbed to very unhealthy levels in most parts of Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR). It is reported that the highest levels are in Faridabad and Ghaziabad. The Supreme Court strongly criticised the central and state governments for not doing enough to curb pollution and stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana. It is also questioned as to why the state governments cannot collect and purchase stubble from farmers. In addition to that, the odd-even scheme implemented by the Delhi government was also criticised.