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### 1. The Rise of the 4B Movement: "No Sex with Trump Voters"

#### The Rise of the 4B Movement: "No Sex with Trump Voters"

With Donald Trump's return to the White House, the US has seen the resurgence of the '4B' movement on social media. This movement involves women rejecting sex and marriage as a protest against patriarchal systems. The movement is gaining traction among those disillusioned with Trump's supporters, many of whom hold anti-progressive views on women's rights, although a significant number of women also voted for him.



#### What is the 4B Movement?

The term "4B" originates from South Korea and stands for four "no's" in Korean:

**Bihon:** No marriage

**Bichulsan:** No childbirth

**Biyeonae:** No romance

**Bisekseu:** No sexual relationships

The movement, rooted in radical feminism, argues that heterosexual relationships perpetuate oppression. Its proponents believe that women can only achieve true independence by breaking free from societal expectations tied to love, marriage, and family life.

### **Historical Context: Origins in South Korea**

The 4B movement began in South Korea around 2016 after the murder of a young woman in a Seoul subway by a man who claimed he felt ignored by women. This period also saw a surge in reports of women being secretly filmed by spycams, often with little support from law enforcement. The #MeToo movement further fueled women's advocacy for their rights in South Korea.

### **Criticisms of Patriarchy and Gender Roles**

The movement critiques societal norms where women bear the burden of domestic duties, child-rearing, and face workplace penalties for motherhood. In contrast, men's responsibilities are often limited to financial provision. The 4B movement calls for men to actively contribute to a gender-just society before women engage in romantic or sexual relationships.

### **A Focus on Women's Independence and Solidarity**

Beyond rejecting men, the 4B movement emphasizes women's self-empowerment and solidarity. It encourages women to prioritize personal goals, happiness, and independence rather than conforming to traditional roles as wives or mothers. The movement also supports building strong bonds among women, which can include but is not limited to lesbian relationships, as a way to foster mutual support.

### **The Expansion to 6B4T**

The 4B movement has evolved into "6B4T" for some followers, which extends its principles to rejecting:

- a. Misogynistic firms
- b. Fandom cultures
- c. Beauty standards imposed by the male gaze

### **Arguments Against 4B's Approach**

While some dismiss the movement as radical, there are thoughtful critiques as well:

- 1. Lack of Accountability:** Critics argue that isolating from men places the burden on women to avoid oppression, rather than holding men accountable for change.
- 2. Exclusion of Transgender Rights:** Some feel that the movement's strict focus on separating from men overlooks the inclusion of transgender individuals.
- 3. Limiting Choices for Women:** Critics point out that the movement may inadvertently restrict women's choices, especially those who desire children or find fulfillment in heterosexual relationships.

### **Advocating for Change from Within**

Opponents argue that meaningful social change is possible through raising awareness among men and encouraging accountability within relationships, rather than cutting off contact entirely.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Issues

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Here is a guide to key terms in the climate change conversation.

COP is an international climate meeting organised annually by the United Nations (UN). COP is short for Conference of the Parties. 'Parties' is a reference to (now) 198 countries that have joined the international treaty called the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 'Parties' to the treaty have pledged to take voluntary actions to prevent "dangerous anthropogenic [human-caused] interference with the climate system."

The Kyoto Protocol was an international treaty that placed obligations on the set of rich and industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by assigned amounts. It was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, and came into effect in 2005. The treaty formally expired in 2020 and was replaced by the Paris Agreement as the main international treaty for coordinating global action against climate change.

## **Paris Agreement**

Adopted in 2015 at COP21 in Paris, the agreement is aimed to limit rising global average temperature. It is considered a landmark deal as it legally binds (now) 195 nations, for the first time ever, to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.

## **1.5 degree limit**

Under the Paris Agreement, the world governments have agreed to keep average global temperature "well below" 2 degree Celsius this century compared to pre-industrial levels. They have also pledged to pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degree Celsius — an important threshold, crossing which would unleash far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall.

## **Glasgow Pact**

Reached at the COP26 summit in Scotland's Glasgow, the pact called for phase down of coal and phase out of fossil fuel. This was the first time that a UN climate agreement explicitly mentioned coal. The pact also marked the resolution of the deadlock over carbon markets.

## **Carbon markets**

Such markets are essentially trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought. They allow countries, or industries, to earn carbon credits for the greenhouse gas emission reductions they make in excess of their targets. These carbon credits can be traded to the highest bidder in exchange for money.

The buyers of carbon credits can show the emission reductions as their own and use them to meet their reduction targets.

One tradable carbon credit is equal to one tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced, sequestered or avoided. Once a credit is used to reduce, sequester, or avoid emissions, it becomes an offset and can no longer be tradable.

## **Greenhouse gases**

The gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are known as greenhouse gases (GHGs). They allow sunlight to pass through the atmosphere, but obstruct the heat the sunlight brings from leaving. The main source of GHGs is the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, diesel, gasoline or petrol, kerosene, and natural gas. Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are among the most prominent GHGs.

## **Net-zero**

Also referred to as carbon-neutrality, net-zero does not mean that a country would reduce its emissions to zero. Rather, it is a state in which a country's emissions entering the environment are equal to the greenhouse gases being removed from the atmosphere. The removal can be done by creating more carbon sinks such as forests or by implementing futuristic technologies such as carbon dioxide removal (CDR).

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) marked 2050 as the deadline by which the world must reach net zero if it wants to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius.

**Carbon capture and storage (CCS)**

CCS is basically a process that captures carbon dioxide and traps it beneath the earth. It is usually used at fossil fuel plants and factories, where it prevents the gas from escaping into the atmosphere. Notably, CCS is different from carbon dioxide removal (CDR), which involves sucking out carbon from the atmosphere.

**Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS)**

CCUS goes a step further than CCS and uses the captured carbon in the production of goods such as alcohols, biofuels, plastics or concrete.

**Geo-engineering**

It is the deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems to tackle climate change. There are numerous proposed geo-engineering techniques, including CDR. Their effectiveness and potential side effects, however, remain widely debated.

**IPCC**

The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). IPCC's main activity is to prepare assessment reports, special reports, and methodology reports assessing the state of knowledge of climate change.

**Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

The Paris Agreement requires each country to prepare an outline for their efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These commitments are known as NDCs. They are submitted every five years, and successive NDCs are supposed to be more ambitious than previous ones.

**National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)**

The NAP helps countries develop plans to respond to climate change's present and future impacts. They are aimed to reduce vulnerability to the severe effects of climate change and strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience. NAPs also play an essential role in updating and improving the adaptation elements of the NDCs.

**New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)**

The NCQG is the new amount that must be mobilised by developed countries every year from 2025 onward to finance climate action in developing countries. It has to be more than the \$100 billion that developed countries, collectively, had promised to raise every year from 2020, but had failed to deliver.

The NCQG is expected to be finalised at COP29.

**Global stocktake**

It refers to a five-year review in which countries assess where they are in the fight against climate change, and what needs to be done in the next five years to make this fight more effective and potent.



### **Triple Renewable Energy**

In 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) published its 'Roadmap to Net Zero by 2050' report, which said that if the world needs to meet the net zero goal, it has to commit to tripling global renewable capacity by 2030. If met, this single step could avoid carbon dioxide emissions by seven billion tonnes between now and 2030, the agency said. This would be equal to eliminating all the current carbon dioxide emissions from China's power sector.

### **Just transition**

The term describes a shift to a low-carbon or net-zero economy without jeopardizing the rights of workers and the needs of communities, which could be affected due major changes to industries like fossil fuels.

### **Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)**

It is a principle of international law which states that different countries have different capabilities and responsibilities to address cross-border environmental problems such as climate change. One example of the CBDR principle is the 1989 Montreal Protocol, an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer. It gave a 10-year grace period for 'developing countries' to implement the control measures.

### **Loss and damage**

There is no agreed definition of 'loss and damage' in the international climate negotiations, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In broad terms, it refers to the unavoidable social and financial impacts caused by extreme weather events.

At COP27, a loss and damage fund was established to provide financial help to countries struck by climate disasters. A year later, at COP28 in Dubai, the fund was officially launched.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Environment

Source: Indian Express

## **3. Evaluating Biden's foreign policy legacy: Four years on, a world far more unsafe**

### **Introduction**



Joe Biden entered the White House with two extraordinary qualifications that no other US president had had in the past 70 years — nearly 50 years of experience in government, and over a decade on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Yet, he is leaving behind a foreign policy legacy — perhaps also a first for a US President — of almost zero diplomacy.

Following four turbulent years of the Trump presidency, when Joe Biden won the office of the US president in 2020, a phrase that spread fast was "adults are back in the room." But today, a veteran diplomat leaves behind a world that is fundamentally more unsafe and unsound over the last four years.

In evaluating the US foreign policy under President Biden, while it is a struggle to find positives, critics are ironically enumerating a whole list of 'achievements':

uniting China and Russia like never before; uniting Hamas and Hezbollah; worsening confrontation between the Global South and the West; and so on.

### **Biden helped bring China and Russia together**

Arguably, the relative decline of US power since the early 1990s, and the simultaneous rise of China on one hand and the hardening of the "illiberal" bloc of countries informally led by Russia on the other hand, created an opportunity for China and Russia to band together against the US-led Western geopolitical order. In the words of John Feffer, the director of think tank Foreign Policy in Focus (FPF), "This involves a debilitating anxiety within the 'globalist' elite in Washington about the ability of the United States to remain *primus inter pares* (first among equals) within the liberal international order."

It is this that led successive US administrations, from the Barack Obama presidency to the Trump era to Biden's four years, to try and contain the Chinese "dragon" through trade and tariff wars, and curb Russia through the NATO eastward expansion.

Trump, when in office, had followed policies consistent with his predecessors. However, his rhetoric has been loudly 'America first', where he puts little value on the USA's perceived role as the global policeman of liberal ideals. As evident in the recent election campaign, Trump's approach to many international conflicts is that the "United States does not have a dog in that fight."

In his trademark bragging style, Trump told a large audience in a live interview on October 31, "It was Biden who united them [Russia and China]. I want to break them up. I have the ability to break them up."

Larry C Johnson, CEO and co-founder of the US business firm Berg Associates and international relations expert, said: "Prior to the start of Russia's 'Special Military Operation' nobody really thought of it... that Russia and China will be collaborating in such intense way...now look at them!"

### **The bloodshed in Middle East**

It was Biden's flawed strategy in Israel that emboldened Benjamin Netanyahu to carry out the bloodshed in Gaza, many believe. If Biden had a plan to rein in the Israeli PM, it failed completely, and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's frequent visits to Israel definitely left Washington looking complicit. In fact, the joke in Washington's elite political circles is that the solitary achievement of Biden diplomacy is the "frequent flyer miles earned by Blinken".

On a more serious note, experts are concluding that ironically, the "greatest threat to US strategy in the Middle East hasn't come from Iran, but from its closest ally – Israel."

On a different but related note, the result of the American bungling in the Middle East has been a "historic" unity of Sunni and Shia communities. Larry Johnson, quoted above, who is

also a former CIA analyst, noted: "Biden has helped remove the separation between Sunni and Shia. Biden made Hamas and Hezbollah come together to oppose Israel."

Trump, meanwhile, has reportedly told Netanyahu — as reported by The Times of Israel — that he "wants the Gaza war over by the time he enters office."

### **NATO, and China**

In July 2023, the 75th NATO leaders' summit was hailed as Biden's "signature achievement" on largely two counts: for the alliances' powerful resurgence and expansion since the Russian invasion of Ukraine (Finland and Sweden becoming two new members); and Biden leading the alliance in responding quickly and comprehensively to the war in Ukraine, without getting into a direct conflict with Russia.

However, a year on, critics point out that the NATO expansion has made the world far more unstable, and possibly crossed a red line for Russia. Some even say that US-Russia relations may never recover.

Trump, on the other hand, has said he will "end the Ukraine war in 24 hours", though without elaborating on how.

When Biden assumed office, sections in China had called him a "Cold War warrior". As he demits, he seems to have proven this sobriquet right. In the over four-and-a-half decades since China and the US established diplomatic relations, he remains the first US President to not have been hosted by Beijing.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian Express