

Prelim Bits 16-12-2018

Women Entrepreneurship Platform

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- The upgraded portal of Women Entrepreneurship Platform was recently launched by NITI Aayog.

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- The platform is a one-stop resource centre for future and budding women entrepreneurs.

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- It acts as a medium for various stakeholders and offer integrated services such as Incubator Support, Mentorship, Funding venues, Compliance etc.

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- It seeks to transform the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country.

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Outcome of COP 24

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- The 24th Session of the of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24) was held in Katowice, Poland on 02nd- 15th December 2018.

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- It focused on 3 key issues such as

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1. Finalization of guidelines/ rules for the implementation of Paris Agreement,
2. The conclusion of 2018 Facilitative Talanoa Dialogue and
3. The stocktake of Pre-2020 actions implementation and ambition.

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- The guidance on adaptation recognizes the principle including equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

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- Parties have also agreed to initiate the work on setting up the new collective finance goals post-2020 from the floor of USD 100 billion.

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- The guidance on Nationally Determined Contributions provides for Parties to submit different types of contributions including adaptation.

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- The outcome on Talanoa dialogue also recalls the commitment of developed country Parties to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020.

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Talanoa Dialogue

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- The countries put in place a road-map for 'Talanoa Dialogue' in COP 23 which is a year-long process to assess the countries' progress on climate actions.

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- Under this, it was agreed that the next two climate conferences, in 2018 and 2019, will have special 'stock-taking' sessions.

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- This stock-take would focus on the 'pre-2020 actions' being taken by different countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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- It included the progress made by developed nations in their obligations to provide finance and technology support to the developing countries.

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- It reflected a strong message to developed countries that post-2020 climate action as part of the Paris Agreement cannot be divorced from pre-2020 commitments.

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Task Force to protect Wildlife

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- India, Nepal and Bhutan are considering having a joint taskforce to protect wildlife across the Kanchenjunga Landscape, a trans-boundary region spread across Nepal, India and Bhutan.
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- It will allow free movement of wildlife across political boundaries and checking smuggling of wildlife across the landscape.
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- The landscape stretches along the southern side of Mount Kanchenjunga covers Nepal (21%), Bhutan (23%) and India (56%).
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Deep Earth

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- It is the region that exists between 2 km and 3 km below the ocean-floor.
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- It consists of about 2-2.3 billion cubic km, which is about twice the volume of the oceans combined.
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- Its biosphere constitutes “Subterranean Galapagos” which includes members of all 3 domains of life – Bacteria, Archaea and Eukarya.
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- Bacteria and archaea (microbes with no membrane-bound nucleus) dominate deep earth.
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- Eukarya, multicellular organisms with cells that contain a nucleus as well as membrane bound organelles, found less in numbers.
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- Scientists say about 70% of earth’s bacteria and archaea live in the subsurface.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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