

A photograph of the entrance to Xavier University. The building has 'XAVIER UNIVERSITY' written in large letters across the top. There is a circular logo on the left side of the entrance. To the right, there is a sign for 'STATE BANK' in Hindi and English. The entrance is partially blocked by a black metal gate.

ConXerv presents Paritrán

WELCOME

ConXerv is the functional committee of Xavier School of Sustainability. The committee was formed by the first batch of XSoS with the idea of strengthening student driven initiatives revolving around sustainability. In the past three years, the committee has grown its presence in Xavier University, Bhubhneswar by organizing some out of the box events like No plastic campaign and No vehicle day.

Parivartan is the flagship event of the committee wherein a number of Sustainability experts across the country engage in a dialogue and give their insights on the latest trends to the student community.

We aim to embody this spirit of knowledge sharing further by bringing the latest news on Sustainability and climate change at your fingertips through our newsletter Paritrán.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Ecuador Amazon tribe win first victory against oil companies (27 April, 2019): The oil companies in Ecuador have been constantly drilling into the rainforests for profits and exploration activities. For the first time, the Waorani tribes of Ecuador have emerged victorious against the oil giants in a ruling that blocks the companies' entry onto ancestral Amazonian lands for oil exploration activities. This ruling of the court has set a precedent for the Amazon and will help in mitigating the exploration and deforestation activities.

To read more, visit:

<https://phys.org/news/2019-04-ecuador-amazon-tribe-victory-oil.htm>

Cholera outbreak in Libya (9th May, 2019): The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of deadly diseases including Cholera in Tripoli, the capital of Libya. As per estimates, 443 people have been killed and 2,110 injured since the assault by eastern commander Khalifa Haftar's forces on the internationally-recognised government. At least 60,000 people who have fled the fighting in southern outskirts are in makeshift refuges, swelling the city centre's nearly half a million population. The humanitarian crisis has been leading to appalling living conditions for the people of Libya and has increased the refugee population in the region.

To read more, visit:

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/security/national-security/rise-in-casualties-and-cholera-expected-in-libya/>

Deloitte announces global initiative in India to empower 10 million females (23rd Feb, 2019): 'WorldClass', a global initiative launched in India by Deloitte, aims to support 10 million girls and women by 2030 through education and skill development. To achieve this goal, Deloitte will work with organisations such as Katha and Pratham. Deloitte's WorldClass programme in India will focus on improving girls' retention rate in school, higher educational outcomes and skills development for women to access employment.

To read more, visit:

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/deloitte-initiative-to-empower-10-million-females-in-india/1484516>



Green Number Plates Are Now Mandatory For All Electric Vehicles And It Is All For Good

(1st May, 2019): The Indian government has proposed a special green-coloured number plate for all electric vehicles in the country. The special number plate is required to have the vehicle number spelled out in white colour on a green background. The new mandate is expected to help provide a preferential treatment to the vehicles with no carbon emissions, like parking, free entry in congested areas as well as a concessional toll on highways. With the introduction of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME II) scheme back in February this year, the centre had announced multiple incentives for EV users and makers alike through a total allocated budget of Rs 10,000 crore. These will be used in the form of subsidies to the buyers as well as to those manufacturing electric vehicles in the country, with at least 50% indigenous production.

To read more, visit:

<https://www.indiatimes.com/auto/current/green-number-plates-are-now-mandatory-for-all-electric-vehicles-and-it-is-all-for-good-366403.html>

India to exceed climate compliance under Paris Agreement: Moody's (May 09, 2019) India has been making progress with the installation of renewable energy capacity and the current trend that the country is going to exceed its commitments to have 40% of total generation through non-fossil based fuel sources by 2030. The generation volume from coal power is expected to continue to increase through 2030 in the International Energy Agency's New Policies Scenario (NPS) and remain the largest contributor to the country's power supply. The Moody's report stated that the declining cost of renewable power will lead to increased renewable capacity and generation even without policy incentives. The tightening environmental regulations and improving economics for renewables will likely weaken investors' risk appetite for new coal power projects with long tenors given the increasing long-term risk of holding and operating coal power plants.

To read more, visit:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/india-to-exceed-climate-compliance-under-paris-agreement-moodys/69247066>

Ratan Tata Funds Ola Electric To Bring Green Mobility In India

(7th May, 2019): Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons has invested in Ola Electric Mobility Pvt Ltd as a part of the EV mobility firm's Series A funding. Ola Electric has already started deploying electric vehicles across two, three and four-wheeler segments, starting from Nagpur. In 2018, Ola subsequently announced 'Mission: Electric' to bring 1 million Electric Vehicles on Indian roads by 2021. The company's goal is to set up adequate (charging) infrastructure, a fleet of India-centric electric vehicles as well as battery swapping models on them to usher in an era of electric vehicle mobility through its ride-sharing service.

To read more, visit:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/newsbuzz/ratan-tata-invests-in-olas-electric-mobility-business/articleshow/69210169.cms>



CLIMATE CHANGE

UK becomes first parliament to declare climate emergency (1st May, 2019) : The United Kingdom became the first parliament in the world to declare a climate emergency. Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour party, hopes that this decision will trigger a wave of action from parliaments and governments around the world. The decision came out after a 11 day long protest by Extinction Rebellion that brought several places in London to a standstill. Extinction Rebellion called the vote a "first step in the government telling the truth about the climate and ecological emergency."

To read more, visit:

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/uk-becomes-first-parliament-to-declare-climate-emergency-2031616>

Over 180 countries, not including the US agree to restrict global plastic waste trade (11th May, 2019): The governments of 187 countries have agreed to control the movement of plastic waste between national borders, in an effort to curb the world's plastic crisis. However, the United States was not among them as it is one of just two countries that have not ratified the agreement. Nations have agreed to add plastic to the Basel Convention, a treaty that regulates movement of hazardous materials from one country to another, in order to combat the dangerous effects of plastic pollution around the world. The resolution means contaminated and most mixes of plastic wastes will require prior consent from receiving countries before they are traded. The new international move is a welcome step towards redressing the imbalance and restoring a measure of accountability to the global plastic waste management system.

To read more, visit:

<https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/2019/05/14/over-180-countries-not-including-the-us-agree-to-restrict-global-plastic-waste-trade/>

Inspired by Viral Thailand Shop, Chennai Store Uses Banana Leaves to Package Veggies (20th April, 2019): SunnyBee, a 3-year-old retail startup is setting eco-friendly goals and spreading the message that consumerism need not come at the cost of harmful elements. 24-year-old Sanjay Dasari, the founder of SunnyBee says, *"The idea was to build a social enterprise that would create long term impact, taking into consideration people's consumption patterns."* Their sustainability driven operations include getting produce directly from the farmers, introducing banana leaf packaging and reducing food wastage.

To read more, visit:

<https://chennaiinformer.com/105428/inspired-by-viral-thailand-shop-chennai-store-uses-banana-leaves-to-package-veggies-the-better-india/>



Most EU countries cut CO2 emissions last year (8th May, 2019): Most European Union countries reduced carbon dioxide emissions last year, as per estimates, marking a turnaround in the battle against greenhouse gases. As per Eurostat figures, EU emissions from burning oil, coal and gas were 2.5 percent lower in 2018 than the previous year, showed with 20 of the bloc's 28 countries reporting reductions. The EU has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. "After four years without substantial emission reductions, the EU has finally started to walk the road to the zero-carbon economy," said Wendel Trio, who heads the activist group 'Climate Action Network' (CAN) Europe. Portugal took the lead followed by Bulgaria, Ireland and Germany. Britain was last in line, with a slim 0.3 percent decrease on 2017.

To read more, visit:
<https://phys.org/news/2019-05-eu-countries-co2-emissions-year.html>

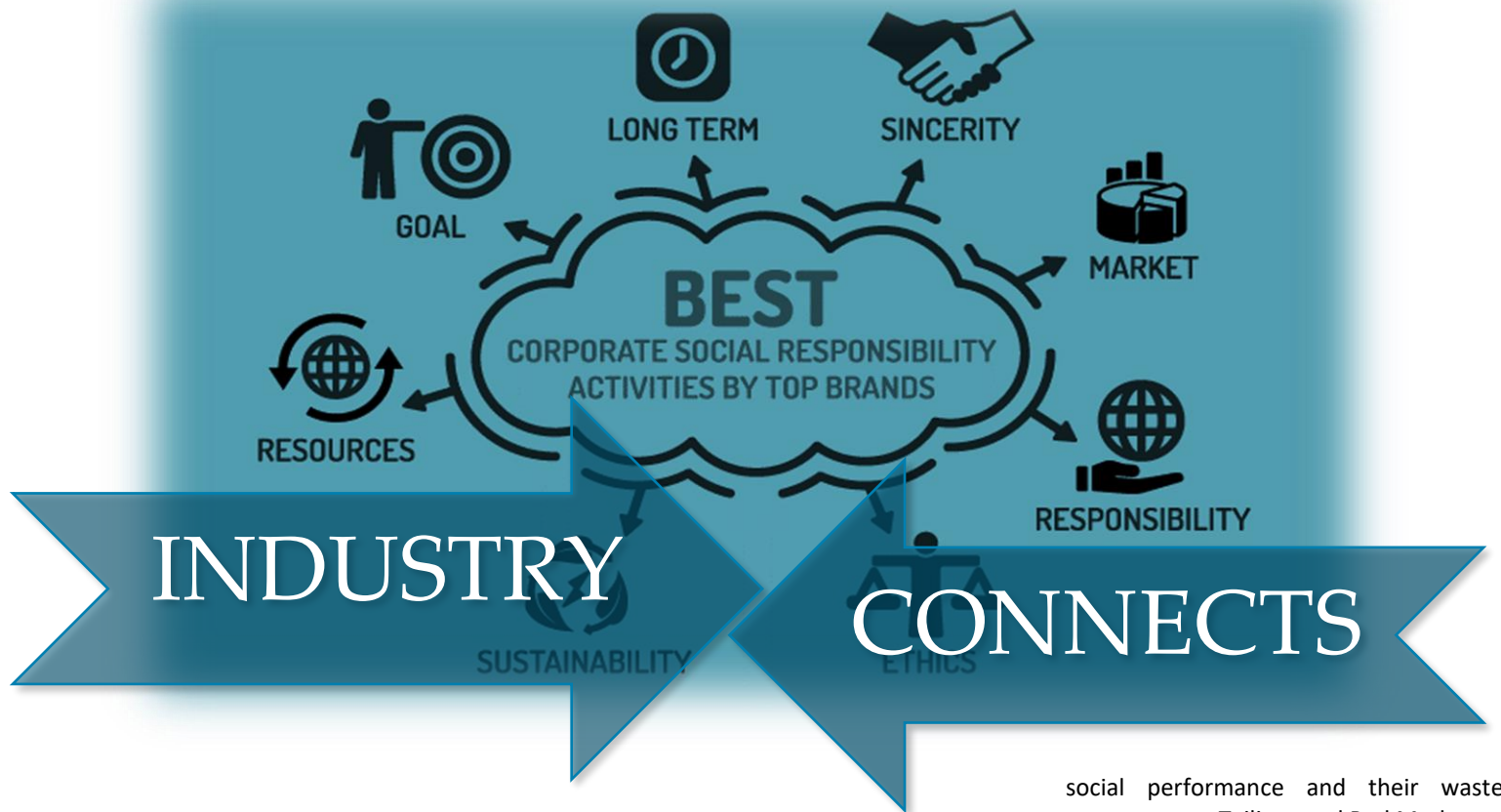
Marine plastic pollution costs the world up to \$2.5tn a year, researchers find (4th April, 2019): According to a study published in Marine Pollution Bulletin, plastic pollution in the world's oceans costs billions of dollars every year in damaged and lost resources. Fisheries, aquaculture, recreational activities and global wellbeing are all negatively affected by plastic pollution. The resulting cost in such benefits, known as marine ecosystem value, is up to \$2.5tn (£1.9tn) a year. Dr Nicola Beaumont, an environmental economist at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, who led the study, said the investigation was the first of its kind to explore the social and economic impact of plastics in the sea.

To read more, visit:
<https://thamesestuarypartnership.org/marine-plastic-pollution-costs-the-world-up-to-2-5tn-a-year/>

National Geographic Teams Up with Sustainable Brands, Leads Push for Next Sustainable Economy (15th May, 2019): Sustainable Brands today announced the addition of National Geographic to the highest level of its 'Corporate Member Network' established in 2008. The 131-year-old organization joins 80+ other companies committed to leveraging their unique role in business and society to pave the path towards a sustainable economy. The 80+ other companies that comprise the 'Sustainable Brands Corporate Member Network' collectively represent over \$2.1 trillion in annual revenue and serve over 5 billion customers worldwide. A member benchmark study indicated that 83 percent of them were consistently using sustainability as an innovation driver within one or more product level brands.

To read more, visit:
<https://sustainablebrands.com/read/press-release/national-geographic-teams-up-with-sustainable-brands-leads-push-for-next-sustainable-economy>





On 31st May, 2019, the team of ConXerv got the opportunity to engage in an insightful discussion with Mr Phil Tuner via an email interview.

Mr Phil Turner, is Group Head Safety and Occupational Health at Vedanta Resources. He has previously held a number of senior corporate and operational roles at J.K Tech, Rio Tinto and BHP Petroleum amongst others. As a HSE veteran, he has an in-depth understanding and vast experience within mining, heavy engineering and manufacturing organizations. In this enriching interview, Mr Turner shares his valuable insights on sustainability with us.

Q1. How do you see sustainability driven practices and approaches shaping business opportunities in the Indian landscape in the coming years?

The focus on Sustainability practices is increasing as obtaining the license to operate is becoming a bigger challenge for the organizations. It has also become crucial for the companies to engage frequently with the stakeholders and ensure their sustainability to enhance the sustainability of the organization. This has forced the companies to rethink and deliver on 3 key aspects:

- Doing No harm
- Keeping their promises
- Generating employment

If the companies can successfully deliver on these 3 aspects, they will be successful in the long term

Q2. In your opinion, what is the future of sustainability in the mining sector?

Mining is inherently dependent on the natural resources and large areas of land. If the mining companies can effectively reduce their footprint, ensure they have no negative impact on the water resources in terms of availability as well as quality in the areas of operation and ensure employment and opportunities for the local stakeholders, the future of mining companies will be bright and fruitful. Mining companies also need to take a keen look at their

social performance and their waste management. Tailings and Red Mud are a huge challenge for the companies and can have a significant impact on the organization’s performance.



Q3. What are the skill sets apart from academics that can be enhanced upon to help a student gain versatile knowledge on Sustainability across various sectors?

It is very important for the Sustainability students to gain practical experience coupled with deep theoretical knowledge. The fundamentals of sustainability should be clear but the focus on choosing an interest area and deep diving in getting significant experience in that field should be focused upon.