

ConXerv Presents *PARITRAN*



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 four years, the committee has grown its presence in Xavier University, Bhubaneswar. Parivartan, the flagship event of the committee witnesses a number of Sustainability experts across the country engage in a dialogue and give their insights to the student community.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Latest News on Climate Change, Sustainability and Human Development from around the globe

ConXerv Speaks by the ConXerv Coordinator 2018-19

From our Faculty – By our Dean, Prof. Sutapa Pati

Industry Connects by the speakers of Parivartan'19.

Parivartan'19 – the flagship event of ConXerv

With an aim to equip the students with the latest happenings in the field of sustainability and help them to enhance their overall learning, we present to you the fourth edition of our newsletter 'Paritran'. Along with news from the sustainability world, with this edition we bring to you glimpses of Parivartan'19 and the views of experts from different domains on this year's theme of Parivartan- "Industry 4.0: An Enabler for Corporate Sustainability?".

Punjab inks MOA with UNDP for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (21 August, 2019)

Under the agreement, a Sustainable Development Goals coordination centre (SDGCC) would be set up in the planning department with UNDP's support.

To read more:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/punjab-inks-moa-with-undp-for-implementing-sustainable-development-goals/articleshow/70789660.cms>

Zimbabwe plans to pull out of CITES (27th August, 2019)

Zimbabwe's President Mnangagwa is contemplating pulling out of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to better guard its wildlife and natural resources.

To read more:

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2019/08/27/zimbabwe-plans-to-pull-out-of-cites/>

Teesta-V hydropower project in India (8 August, 2019)

The 510-MW Teesta-V hydropower station, in Sikkim in northern India, has been rated as an example of international good practice in hydropower sustainability.

To read more:

<https://www.hydroworld.com/articles/2019/08/teesta-v-hydropower-project-in-india-an-example-of-good-practice-in-sustainability.html#gref>

South Africa bans dumping of liquid waste in landfills (29th August, 2019)

It will protect groundwater reserves from toxic leachate, help hazardous wastes to be used as alternative for fossil fuels and boost the country's economy

To read more:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/waste/south-africa-bans-dumping-of-liquid-waste-in-landfills-66390/>

ConXerv Speaks



Elakiya Priya,
Coordinator, ConXerv,
2018-19 Speaks on
Industry 4.0

A significant transformation into Industry 4.0 with a combination of cyber-physical systems, Internet of things and Internet of systems has made smart manufacturing a reality. With more access to real-time data and decision making with least human involvement our factories will become more efficient, productive and less wasteful. As this transformation enables agile and enduring organisations it could truly be perceived as a catalyst for corporate sustainability, which ConXerv has rightly addressed through Parivartan'19.

ICFRE-ICIMOD's REDD+ Himalayan programme extended till 2020 (29th August, 2019)

Launched in January 2016 in Mizoram, the project addressed the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in India's Himalayan states

To read more:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/forests/icfre-icimod-s-redd-himalayan-programme-extended-till-2020-66395/>

WHO calls for research into health impacts of microplastics pollution (22 August, 2019)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called for an urgent assessment of the health impacts of microplastic pollution, warning existing data on the worrying amounts of tiny plastic particles in the planet's drinking supplies is "extremely limited".

To read more:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3080780/they-are-everywhere-who-calls-for-research-into-health-impacts-of-microplastics-pollution>

Modi Government Gives Major Push To Environment, Releases Rs 47,436 Crore

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, handed over Rs 47436 crore of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to various states, in presence of MoS Babul Supriyo.

To read more:

<https://bit.ly/2IYHRHD>

Adani Green Energy to buy 205 MW Solar assets of Essel Group for Rs 1,300 crore (30th August, 2019)

Subhash Chandra-promoted Essel Group has reached an agreement to sell 205 MW of operating solar assets of Essel Green Energy and Essel Infraprojects at an enterprise value of Rs 1,300 crore to Adani Group. The solar assets, located in Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, will be acquired by Adani Green Energy.

To read more:

<https://m.economictimes.com/industry/energy/power/adani-green-energy-to-buy-205-mw-solar-assets-of-essel-group-for-rs-1300-crore/articleshow/70895495.cms>

Amazon Forest Fire

On the afternoon of August 19, the sky over Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city went dark. A cold front combined with ash from forest fires in the Amazon rainforest and formed ominous clouds that blocked out the sun. Soon the world was paying attention to the blazes rampaging across the forest called "the lungs of the earth."

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest, located in South America, across nine countries is famous for a massive biodiversity of animals, plant life and insects. It's intersected by over a thousand rivers, including the largest river in the world, the Amazon river.

Allegedly humans are setting deliberate fires to the Amazon rainforest with the aim of deforestation, so the land can be used for business purposes like farming, ranching, logging etc. According to Brazil's Space Research Institute, which monitors deforestation, has recorded 40,341 wildfires across the Amazon this year.

But the main question that lies in front of us is that- "Should I as an individual should be concerned about this issue?" The answer to this question is certainly a Yes as Amazon forest is a crucial carbon sink as each year it absorbs in as much as 2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide- which is a greenhouse gas and contributes to global warming. Due to this forest fire the entire rainfall cycle has collapsed which will lead to winter droughts in parts of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina which will devastate the agriculture. Also, the livelihood of a large number of indigenous tribes will get affected as it will lead to their displacement to other places.

So, we need to give it a deep thought that, "at a time when the world needs billions of trees to absorb the carbon that we continue to emit on a daily basis, the planet is losing its biggest rainforest."

Aarey Forest Report

The biggest metropolitan city of India, is rapidly converting into a concrete jungle. A green belt can be hardly found in this buzzing city. While there is an ongoing debate between urbanization and environment, the city continuously loses its greenery.

2,702 trees in Mumbai's Aarey forest, Mumbai's green lungs, will be axed for a car shed for Mumbai Metro-3. Aarey forest is part of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, and supports an entire ecosystem of its own, with a rich biodiversity. An ecosystem like this takes hundreds of years to build up. Earlier in April, 2019 Supreme Court of India dismissed the application that was filed by the Aarey Colony to seek an alternative place for the car shed. In the month of August BMC deferred from the proposal to cut 2,702 trees but did not completely scrap it off. Now, the BMC's Tree Authority went back on its decision to defer Mumbai Metro's proposal to cut 2238 trees in Aarey Colony

Citizens are not against the expansion of the metro in Mumbai, but an ecologically sensitive area like Aarey forest, which functions are the largest natural air purifier for the city, cannot be cleared for the metro car shed. When government officials and citizens all over the world are investing in tree plantation drives to tackle air pollution and climate change, MMRCL is determined to fell thousands of trees for a metro car shed.

Parivartan'19

The world has witnessed rapid transformation through the remarkable journey of sustainability wherein corporations have attached different meanings to sustainability in their organizations. In keeping with a renewed spirit propelled by the changing time and transitioning markets, the fourth chapter of Parivartan, the annual business conclave of Xavier School of Sustainability was held to comprehend and discuss the theme: "Industry 4.0: An enabler for corporate sustainability?" The conclave witnessed expert opinions of speakers from diverse domains who created an engaging space to discuss whether Industry 4.0 is a greater promise or peril for corporate sustainability



Ramnath Vaidyanathan,
General Manager, sustainability, Godrej

Mr. Ramnath shared his views on Sustainability Innovations for a new epoch. He started with a very interesting question bringing out a contradiction between whether it is Industry 4.0 or Environment 4.0 should be the clarion call? He also discussed on the various components of Industry 4.0 which includes Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, IoT, Automation, and Virtual Reality. These components will bring in the 4th wave of innovation through machine learning and artificial intelligence. In his conclusion, Mr. Ramnath proposed that technology is just an enabler, what is important is to modulate and influence human behaviour.



Mr. Hitesh Kataria, Manager, Mahindra & Mahindra

shares his enriching views with us:

Industry 4.0 is a transformational revolution where in factories, workplace, production will change. Mr. Kataria put forth a question in his introduction asking-"Has the world become a better place to live in the 21st century?" Mr. Kataria elaborated on the existing metrics of life expectancy and wealth. He added that by 2030, there will be no privacy in the country and in the systems. By 2040, it is expected that robots will come in, water prices will equal oil prices and big coastal cities will be under water. By 2060, Nothing will remain private. He concluded saying that the answer is uncertain since by ensuring the 4th Industrial revolution, the industry is yet to understand and know the real state of the world.



Mr. N.D. Rao, Vice President, JSW

Mr. N.D Rao raised a very critical question in his introductory notion as to how to synergize the concepts that are existing in the field of technology and innovation. On the process, it is very important to understand how resources are utilized in different levels emphasizing that region centric approaches leads to less efficiency in terms of resource allocation. Further, he connected a web line with resource allocation and job loss and pointed out that the industry should not be sceptical about job losses with Industry 4.0 coming in.

From Our Faculty



Professor Sutapa Pati, Dean, Xavier School of Sustainability

Right from its inception, ConXerv has played a very promising role in bringing sustainability issues closer to us in reality. The ConXerv team throughout all previous and existing batches has kept the momentum going through their planned efforts, big or small. Slowly, ConXerv has become ingrained within the very fabric of Xavier School of Sustainability. In the coming batches, I have a lot of hopes and aspirations from the ConXerv members, especially the positive role they can play in taking sustainability outside XSoS to the University, the higher education community in Bhubaneswar and on a regional and national level. Communicating on sustainability is one of the responsibilities and part of the mission of XSoS and I foresee ConXerv taking a central role herein.

Parivartan'19 rightfully flagged off the school's external engagement with some of Indian industry's prominent leaders and helped students understand the perspective on some of the present and forthcoming sustainability challenges, especially in context of integrating sustainability in business. Observing the high levels of students' enthusiasm, in ensuring successful completion of Parivartan'19, the thoughtful questions raised, and the surrounding positivity, I was thoroughly impressed and moved. I sincerely hope that the high standards presented during Parivartan will be upheld through similar involvement and standards of performance within all coursework and other activities and experiences including the upcoming Sustainability Discovery Programme.