

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 founder
of the
committee,
Jasmin Pani*

*Industry
Connects by the
CEO of RSM-GC
Advisory PVT.
LTD.*

With an aim to equip the students with the latest happenings in the field of sustainability and help them to enhance their overall learnings, we present to you the second edition of our newsletter 'Paritran'. Along with the latest news on Sustainability, climate change and renewable energy, we bring to you corporate leaders' perspective on sustainability and its scope. To provide our fellow readers a glimpse of corporate sustainability, we present herein with this edition 'ConXerv Speaks' from the founder and first student coordinator of ConXerv.

Climate change threatens India's crop production, rice yields may be hit hard (June 25th, 2019)

Climate change can render India's supply of rice and farmers are advised to expand areas planted with alternative gains to counter the loss. The findings published in the journal Environmental Research Letters have come at a time when large parts of India, covering Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Jharkhand are reeling under drought conditions.

Read more at:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/climate-change-threatens-india-s-crop-production-rice-yields-may-be-hard-hit-1561435191944.html>

Climate change exacerbates the refugee crisis (June 20th, 2019)

Climate-induced displacement is witnessing a gradual rise. Last year, climate-related factors resulted in the displacement of around 16.1 million people. It is being estimated that, by 2050, between 150 to 200 million people are at risk of being forced to leave their homes as a result of desertification, rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions.

Read more at:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/06/how-climate-change-exacerbates-the-refugee-crisis-and-what-can-be-done-about-it/>

ConXerv Speaks



Jasmin Pani, the first student coordinator of ConXerv shares her enriching experiences with us:

What was your vision behind launching this committee?

When the course started in 2015, as the 1st batch, we faced a lot of questions, such as what sustainability is, what's our course curriculum, how it's different from other branches, and what will be our future etc. So, for us, it was not a committee, rather an identity, a forum to represent us, our batch and our branch. The aim was to create awareness about sustainability both inside and outside campus and to change the way in which sustainability was perceived.

How has ConXerv helped you in your professional endeavours?

ConXerv gave me the much-needed self-confidence and perseverance, which, I definitely was lacking. It made me a better team player and polished my networking skills.

In your view, how are Sustainability driven practices being viewed and utilized by organizations?

With the world concerned over climate change, war and refugee issues, now even investors are seeing sustainability as much critical aspect before investing. So according to me a large section of stakeholders is aware about the importance of sustainability and related activities. However, I believe, there is a long way to go before people start thinking of sustainability as a means of reducing cost, increasing profit and efficiently, rather than terming it as an activity or a "not for profit" obligation.

Project to ensure people's role in development (June 18th, 2019)

As part of the Indo-German bilateral cooperation, the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India are jointly implementing Sustainable Urban Development-Smart Cities (SUD-SC) project. The objective of the project is to support sustainable development in various cities.

Read more at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/69833057.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=ext&utm_campaign=cppst

EU's ambitious 2050 climate goal relegated to a footnote (June 21, 2019)

A push by European Union countries for the world's biggest economic bloc to become carbon-neutral by 2050 was dropped to a footnote at a summit in Brussels, drawing widespread anger from activists demanding immediate climate action. The leaders of the bloc's member states met on Thursday for secret deliberations in an attempt to reach a consensus on who should fill the EU's top jobs.

Read more at:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/eu-ambitious-2050-climate-goal-relegated-footnote-190621062145398.html>

Daily Court Digest: Major environment orders (June 4, 2019)

- Assess recharging of Delhi's groundwater: NGT:** On May 31, 2019, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the constitution of a Joint Committee of the Central Pollution Control Board, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and the Central Ground Water Board to take samples of groundwater from across Delhi and study the methodology used in recharging it.
- Use of plastic for packaging to be examined by a joint committee:** On May 31, 2019, a petition calling for restrictions on the use of plastic bottles and multi-layered plastic packages used for packaging of carbonated soft drinks, liquor as well as other items, in view of the adverse impact on the environment and human health, came up for hearing before the NGT.
- 'Polluter pays' principle needs to be applied once pollution is caused: NGT:** The tribunal said that "once pollution is being caused, 'Precautionary', 'Sustainable Development' and 'Polluter Pays' principles have to be applied" and directed such actions to be taken in accordance with law and a further report submitted in a month.

Read more at:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/daily-court-digest-major-environment-orders-june-4-2019--64920>

Industry Connect



Dr. Rambabu Paravastu,

CEO, RSM-GC, holds 35 years of experience in consulting, research and teaching in governance, sustainability and climate change. He has advised ITC, various companies of Tata Sons and a number of multinational companies in preparing Sustainability reports and Sustainability performance improvement. In a telephonic interview conducted on 1st July, 2019, Mr Ram Babu shares his valuable insights with us:

In your view, how is sustainability influencing the overall strategy adopted by organizations at present?

In my view, no organization's overall strategy is completely influenced by sustainability. At present, there are certain critical trends and risks in the operating climate of businesses that need to be addressed. Organizations are taking care of these trends and addressing them appropriately. However, no organization's overall strategy is comprehensively shaped and driven by sustainability.

What is your view on government policies aligning with sustainable development?

Governments do play an integral role in the pursuit of sustainable development. They broadly articulate the vision which can play a guiding role for organizations. Through their acts and policies, government can put the spotlight on pressing environmental issues such as water scarcity. However, very often there are visible gaps between policy setting and policy implementation. Thus, we need adequate regulatory mechanisms to address these gaps and ensure effective implementation of government policies in practice.

How do you think consultancies are shaping up the future trajectory of Sustainability?

I strongly believe that consultancies are purely driven by commerce. They do address the immediate requirements however there is a lack of thought leadership in consultancies. Very often, consultancies do little with regards to advocacy. It's mainly NGOs and think tanks who actively engage in advocacy and demonstrate thought leadership.

Britain is obtaining more power from 0-carbon sources than fossil fuels (June 21, 2019)

The milestone has been passed for the first five months of 2019. National Grid says clean energy has nudged ahead with 48% of generation, against 47% for coal and gas. The transformation reflects the precipitous decline of coal energy, and a boom from wind and solar.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-48711649>

54K mangroves to be razed in Maharashtra for Ahmedabad bullet train project (25th June 2019)

At least 54,000 mangroves spread across 13.36 hectares (ha) in Maharashtra will be razed for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, the state government confirmed on Monday. The floodwater will not enter Navi Mumbai, as no mangroves are being cut in the area. The government is in talks with locals who will be affected by the project and will give them appropriate compensation.

Read more at:

<https://m.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/54k-mangroves-to-be-razed-for-bullet-train-in-maharashtra/story-VWD4CQFhEYgXU6XwhZdMI.html>

India wins solar case against the US at the WTO (27th June 2019)

India on Thursday won a major trade dispute against the US at the World Trade Organization, with a dispute settlement panel pronouncing that subsidies and mandatory local content requirements instituted by eight American states breached global trade rules.

Read more at:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-wins-solar-case-against-us-at-wto-1561634893762.html>

The City of Sydney has officially declared a climate emergency (June 25th, 2019)

Sydney has officially declared a climate emergency, with the city's councillors voting that climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Sydney and the rest of Australia.

Read more at:

https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-city-of-sydney-has-officially-declared-a-climate-emergency?fbclid=IwAR0iKbqAcxL9KYV8SVpFEkqd-npmfCAkpH_nYo5UOD1dvmKS2UukwSmlawU

India plans to add 500 GW renewable energy by 2030 (June 26th, 2019)

India plans to add 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy to its electricity grid by 2030 in a bid to clean up the air in its cities and lessen the rapidly growing economy's dependence on coal, the government said on Tuesday.

Read more at:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/india-plans-to-add-500-gw-renewable-energy-by-2030-government/69951730>

UNSC non-permanent seat: India's candidature receives unanimous endorsement (27th June 2019)

India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term in 2021-22. The development is particularly significant given that Pakistan and China, both countries with which India has had diplomatic challenges at the UN, supported the move.

Read more at:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/unsc-non-permanent-seat-indias-candidature-endorsed-by-55-countries-including-pakistan/article28142769.ece>

Flipkart to replace 40% of its delivery vans with electric vehicles (30th June 2019)

Flipkart, the Indian e-commerce giant, recently announced its plan to replace 40 per cent of its fleet of delivery vehicles with electric vehicles. This initiative will first see the introduction of 160 electric vans by the end of 2019.

Read more at:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/auto/features/article/flipkart-to-replace-40-of-its-delivery-vans-with-electric-vehicles/446563>