

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. Since its inception, the committee has grown its presence in Xavier University, Bhubaneswar.

With an aim to empower the student community in XUB and help them to stay updated about the latest developments in the field of sustainability, we present to you the fifth edition of our newsletter, 'Paritran'.

With this edition, we are celebrating the completion of five years of Xavier School of Sustainability and present the views of our faculty coordinator. In the 'ConXerv Connect' section, we have Abha Mohapatra, batch of 2015-17 sharing her views and experience with us.

Banks worth \$47 trillion adopt new UN-backed climate, sustainability principles (September 22, 2019)

Banks collectively with more than \$47 trillion in assets, or a third of the global industry, signed up to new United Nations-backed responsible banking principles in a massive boost for climate action and the shift from “brown to green” models of economic growth.

Read more at:
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1046982>

Amazon forest fires: 63 arrested, fines amounting to \$8.7 million issued.(September 24, 2019)

Brazil's defence minister said that 63 people were arrested and issued fines amounting to \$8.7 million after the military was sent to fight raging fires in the Amazon rainforest.

Read more at:
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.firstpost.com/world/amazon-forest-fires-63-arrested-fines-amounting-to-8-7-million-issued-says-brazils-defence-minister-fernando-azevedo-e-silva-7393371.html/amp>

Tensions in the Middle East have escalated following drone attacks on two major oil facilities in Saudi Arabia (16th September, 2019)

The pre-dawn attacks on Saturday knocked out more than half of crude output from the world's top exporter - five percent of the global oil supply - and cut output by 5.7 million barrels per day.

Read more at:
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/saudi-oil-attacks-latest-updates-190916102800973.html>

Malaysian and Indian Palm Oil Industry Join Hands to Promote Sustainable Palm Oil Production and Trade (September 27, 2019)

The objective of the MoU is to jointly promote Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) and Indian Palm Oil Sustainability Framework (IPOS) through harmonization between the two national standards.

Read more at:
https://www.google.com/amp/s/m.economicstimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/malaysian-and-indian-palm-oil-industry-join-hands-to-promote-sustainable-palm-oil-production-and-trade/amp_articles/71334075.cms

Russia formally joins Paris climate agreement (September 23,2019)

The world's fourth largest emitter, Russia, has formally adopted the Paris Agreement, drawing an end to months of national tensions on the subject.

Read more at:

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/09/23/russia-formally-joins-paris-climate-agreement/>

Unilever achieves 100% renewable electricity across five continents (16 September, 2019)

Unilever announced that its factories, offices, R&D facilities, data centres, warehouses and distribution centres across five continents are now powered by 100% renewable grid electricity.

Read more at:

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/unilever-achieves-100-renewable-electricity-use-target-across-five-continents-1568631394719.html>

E-tailers push for electric mobility in India (14 September, 2019)

While usage of electric vehicles is still at a nascent stage in the country, online retailers such as bigbasket, Grofers, and Flipkart are ramping up their EV fleet for last-mile delivery.

Read more at:

<https://www.fortuneindia.com/enterprise/e-tailers-push-for-electric-mobility-in-india/103572>

Nigeria shows way to reverse land degradation (12th September,2019)

Nigeria, where about 35% of the total land area was affected by desertification by 2015, has rehabilitated over 1,558.62 hectare (ha) of degraded land and lifted more than 8,000 people out of poverty, through a World Bank project aimed at reducing vulnerability to soil erosion.

Read more at:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/nigeria-shows-way-to-reverse-land-degradation-66536><https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/nigeria-shows-way-to-reverse-land-degradation-66536>

Time for talks over, world needs to act: PM Modi at UN Climate summit. (September 23,2019)

PM Modi spoke about the importance of using renewable energy and urged world leaders to ban single-use plastic. He also highlighted key campaigns started by India to protect the environment.

Read more at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.indiatoday.in/amp/india/story/time-for-talks-over-world-needs-to-act-pm-modi-at-un-climate-summit-1602366-2019-09-23>

Three iconic species endemic to India gone extinct due to desertification: Researchers (11 September, 2019)

The Indian Cheetah, pink-headed duck, and the Great Indian Bustard - three of the most iconic species of wildlife in India, have gone extinct over the last century.

Read more at:

<https://www.firstpost.com/tech/science/three-iconic-species-endemic-to-india-gone-extinct-due-to-desertification-researchers-7320651.html>

Bills and Melinda Gates foundation to honour PM Modi for Swachh Bharat Mission (17th Sept 2019)

The foundations Global Goalkeeper award will honour PM Modi's leadership in and commitment to improve sanitation in india.

Read more at:

<https://theprint.in/india/bill-melinda-gates-foundation-to-honour-pm-modi-for-swachh-bharat-mission/292751/>

Google goes green; makes biggest corporate purchase of renewable energy (20th September, 2019)

Google announced a record-high boost to its green electricity purchases, saying the deals will spur construction of millions of solar panels and hundreds of wind turbines.

Read more at:

[https://brandequity.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/business-of-brands/google-goes-green-makes-biggest-corporate-purchase-of-renewable-](https://brandequity.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/business-of-brands/google-goes-green-makes-biggest-corporate-purchase-of-renewable-energy-7320651.html)



NTPC to invest Rs 25,000 crore to set up solar park (19th September, 2019)

India's largest power company, will not undertake any new coal-based generation for the next few years as part of measures to reduce its carbon footprint and has decided to invest about Rs 25,000 crore to set up one of the world's largest solar parks at Kutch in Gujarat.

Read more at:

<https://energy.economictimes-indiatimes.com/cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/renewable/ntpc-to-invest-rs-25000-crore-to-set-up-solar-park/71194182>

Worldwide commission aims to end energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia by driving investment in new technology (13th September,2019)

Electricity could be delivered to more than a billion people currently living without it within a decade by linking up small-scale projects into a giant, environmentally-friendly network.

Read more at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/sep/13/global-renewable-energy-initiative-aims-to-bring-a-billion-people-in-from-the-dark>

India gifts Gandhi Solar Park to power UN with green electricity (20th September, 2019)

The UN headquarters will be powered with green electricity when the Gandhi Solar Park gifted by India comes online on September 24 symbolising New Delhi's commitment to fighting climate change.

Read more at:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/india-gifts-gandhi-solar-park-to-power-un-with-green-electricity/71213913>

Modi bats for South-South ties, plastic ban at UNCCD meet (9th September, 2019)

PM raises land reclamation target to 26 mln hectares by 2030. India will try to reclaim 26 million hectares (mha) of land by 2030, Modi said. This will help the country achieve its target of creating a carbon sink 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through forest cover, he added. The target earlier was 21 mha.

Read more at:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/modi-bats-for-south-south-ties-plastic-ban-at-unccd-meet-66602>

Faculty Speaks

Prof.Dr. Vikrant Vijay Patil, Professor at Xavier School of Sustainability is the Faculty Coordinator of ConXerv who has mentored and guided the committee throughout the journey of ConXerv.

Xavier School of Sustainability is completing its five years, what are your views on the journey of the school so far?

XSOS has made tremendous strides in the area of Sustainability since its inception in 2015. For a school which is just 5 years old, the achievements are highly commendable. XSOS has fared equally well in academics, research, and consultancy. As far recruitment of MBA in Sustainability Management students are concerned, Career Advisory Services has achieved great success by reaching a 100% mark for the last two batches. XSOS has also established strong connections at both academia-academia as well as industry-academia interface. In a very short span of time, we are recognized in the industry and the credit goes to our alums from 3 passed out batches who are now reaching at promising positions of their career. I always envision the journey of XSOS very similar to the journey of a river - at the origin, the water is highly disturbed, falls and rises from great heights, bangs on rocks but gains lots of minerals. Further, it reaches plains and nourishes the lands to grow crops, fruits, forests, and animals, adding more to its experience. Eventually, the river meets the vast ocean. As far as XSOS is concerned this river has finished its journey in the mountains and reached the plains nourishing its students.

Goldman Sachs released a 34-page analysis of the impact of climate change. The results are terrifying. (25th September, 2019)

Goldman Sachs released a report on the effect of climate change on cities around the world and the results made for grim reading.

Read more at:

https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/goldman-sachs-climate-change-threatens-new-york-tokyo-lagos-cities-2019-9-1028552494?utm_campaign=postbeyond&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&utm_term=%23313145



According to you, what role does ConXerv, as the functional committee of Xavier School of Sustainability undertake?

This functional committee undertakes the role of catalyst to the progress of the students in XSOS. The committee in true sense aligns the students to triple bottom line, through various kinds of activities garnered by them. It plays a crucial role in enhancing the personal as well as professional skills of the students, which eventually helps in the CAS process. However, this committee goes beyond XSOS as far as mainstreaming sustainability in other lives is concerned. This is achieved by conducting awareness campaigns like No vehicle day, No Plastics day, Sustainability Quiz and many such events. Thus, the committee in true sense is the torchbearer of Sustainability in the whole university.

Apple reduces mining impact through recycled rare earth elements (23rd September, 2019)

Apple is claiming to have developed the first smartphone to use 100 per cent recycled rare earths in its new iPhone. A key component of its new models, the Taptic Engine, contains only recycled rare earth materials, representing around a quarter of the total rare earth elements used in a new iPhone.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3081766/apple-reduces-mining-impact-through-recycled-rare-earth-elements>



ConXerv Connects

As a Development Professional in the field of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), I can only say that this sector has been affected enormously because of Climate Change. Be it water scarcity or flooding, change in livelihoods and migration, Climate has affected everyone. But, the group which is contributing least towards the causes of Climate Change are being affected the most. I have seen slum settlements being washed away by abnormal water level rise in rivers due to unseasonal rain, Cyclones uprooting lives, which were built by sacrificing blood and sweat of family members, forcing them to start again from zero. While, industries are taking up the path of innovation to adapt towards the effect of Climate Change and face the consequences as late as possible. Political leaders are in denial.

Our behavior towards these threats has always been reactive, not proactive. I request all the readers to follow a lifestyle of minimalism on your part for Climate Change.



Abha Mahapatra (Batch 2015-17) Project Associate Urban Management Centre

India Inc can deploy CSR funds on research:

The Union government has decided to allow corporate India to use their mandatory corporate social responsibility spending on publicly-funded incubators and contribute to research efforts in science, technology, medicine and engineering at major institutions and bodies.

Read more at:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/now-india-inc-can-deploy-csr-funds-on-research/article29468367.ece>

More than 100,000 have gathered in Melbourne as the world begins climate demonstrations

From London to New York City and from Perth to Paris, climate activists will take part in a global general strike on Friday in what is expected to be the biggest day of climate demonstrations in the planet's history.

Read more at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/09/20/world/global-climate-strike-september-intl/index.html>

