



CONXERV

PARITRAN



HIGHLIGHTS

Latest News On

*Climate Change,
Sustainability and Human
Development from around
the globe*

Parivartan'21 – the flagship
event of ConXerv

Industry Connects

*by the speakers of
Parivartan'21*

Student Speaks:

Avani Jha from batch 2019-21

INTRODUCTION

ConXerv is the functional committee of Xavier School of Sustainability. The committee was formed by the first batch of XSoS with the aspiration to create an enriching environment that fosters sustainable learning and holistic development, intending to help the student community reach their highest potential and be the torchbearers of change for a sustainability-driven future.

To empower the student community in XUB and help them stay updated about the latest developments in the field of sustainability, we present to you the March edition of our newsletter, 'Paritran'. Along with news from the sustainability world, we have Annual Business Conclave 'Parivartan' and industry connects by the speakers of Parivartan'21. Along with that, we have the Coordinator of IlluminatiX, batch of 2019-21, sharing views about her journey at XSoS.

Proceed with caution: What to consider before India takes 'net-zero' pledge (March 31, 2021)

Building on its own track record, may suggest a more compelling way for India to address the climate challenge than uncritically taking on a net zero target

Read more at:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-climate-change-paris-agreement-7247120/>

Google Maps to show more eco-friendly routes (March 30, 2021)

Google worked with the US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab to build a routing system that takes into account traffic congestion and steepness of roads to minimize fuel consumption.

Read more at:

<https://techxplore.com/news/2021-03-google-eco-friendly-routes.htm>

WII study finds 44% of Indian forests affected by lantana (March 24, 2021)

With 44% of India's forests, including 269 protected areas (PAs), under the grip of lantana, an invasive species which has degraded rich biodiversity and associated services, the MoEFCC has asked the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to form a multi-disciplinary group of experts from leading institutes to prepare a comprehensive roadmap on ecology.

Read more at:

https://m.timesofindia.com/city/nagpur/wii-study-finds-44-of-indian-forests-affected-by-lantana/amp_articleshow/81658014.cms

Study shows why India should increase renewable energy target of 2030 (March 23, 2021)

The study examines electricity and carbon mitigation costs associated with achieving aggressive renewable energy targets in India's electricity grid in 2030, and finds that wind-majority or balanced wind-solar targets have the most cost-effective potential for power in India.

Read more at:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/study-shows-why-india-should-increase-renewable-energy-target-of-2030/81661897>

Biz responsibility, sustainability report mandatory for top 1,000 listed cos from FY23: Sebi (March 25, 2021)

Regulator Sebi on Thursday decided to have a new format for business responsibility and sustainability reporting, and top 1,000 listed companies will be compulsorily required to prepare such reports from financial year 2022-23.

Read more at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.financialexpress.com/market/biz-responsibility-sustainability-report-mandatory-for-top-1000-listed-cos-from-fy23-sebi/220414/lite/>

IMD launches portal to aid climate change mitigation in India (March 25, 2021)

The mean temperatures have shown a steep rise across all seasons since 1996 over India with the sharpest trend recorded in the pre-monsoon season. The data highlights the impact of climate change on India's mean temperature trends.

Read more at:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/imd-launches-portal-to-aid-climate-change-mitigation-in-india-101616498935980.html>

STUDENT SPEAKS



Avani Jha

Student Coordinator of IlluminatiX (Batch of 2019-21)

Being a part of this family has been a phenomenal experience. I came in as a person looking to develop my skills in this MBA program. The school of sustainability has given me much more than anything in the world has yet to offer me. I began my journey in school by being a part of almost everything I could have thought of. I try to do well academically, try to be a part of extracurricular, and give me so many opportunities to succeed in everything I wanted to do today. I will complete my two years very soon.

Academically and professionally as well, the school has helped me a lot. I did my internship with Stenum Asia in strategy, and the learning I had from the school was very instrumental in shaping the way my summer internship went. I was able to do a great job, deliver outstanding results, and excel well because of my knowledge through this course. The constant support of my teachers had helped me throughout my internship. A proper foundation can take you a long way. The school of sustainability does just that!

Very soon, I'll be completing my two-year journey in school, and the experience has been very overwhelming. I have honed my skills, developed my personality, gained a lot of technical know-how and a lot of managerial insights, and I am immensely thankful to my teachers and my peers for that. I genuinely believe that its peers judge the school's strength in the kind of discussions you have. I am incredibly blessed to have these people around me. The school of sustainability has supported me in many endeavours and has given me many opportunities. I'm nothing but very, very thankful to them. I hope everyone who comes in next year has the same experience, and I am truly honoured to be a part of the school.

Thank you.

Netflix lays out plans to slash its greenhouse gas emissions (March 30, 2021)

Netflix set out goals today to limit the damage the company does to the climate. By the end of 2022, it wants to reach “net zero” greenhouse gas emissions. That means it plans to reduce some of its emissions and find ways to offset or capture the rest. By 2030, Netflix says it plans to cut emissions from its operations and electricity use by 45 percent.

Read more at:

<https://www.theverge.com/platform/amp/2021/3/30/22353098/netflix-greenhouse-gas-emissions-climate-change-goals>

India's push for more coal to increase its methane emissions (March 23, 2021)

A latest study by Global Energy Monitor, a non-profit research organisation, states that 52 proposed coal mines (of at least one million tonne capacity each) could increase its methane emissions by 45 million tonnes.

Read more at:

<https://india.mongabay.com/2021/03/indias-push-for-more-coal-to-increase-its-methane-emissions/>

Hero Future Energies, DIAL raise \$810 m in ESG bonds (March 19, 2021)

India, with Hero Future Energies and Delhi International Airport (DIAL) garnering about \$810 million between them from global investors that are increasingly tilting toward ESG-centric investment choices.

Read more at:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/green-in-demand-dial-hero-future-raise-810-mn-at-cheaper-rate/articleshow/81574888.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Climate change to put UK's farming, dairy sector under massive stress (March 21, 2021)

The UK's two important farming sectors, dairy and potato growing, will be badly hit by climate change over the next 30 to 50 years, the country's national weather service the Met Office has warned in a study.

Read more at:

https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/current-affairs/climate-change-to-put-uk-s-farming-dairy-sector-under-massive-stress-121032100105_1.html

Microplastics' Hidden Contribution to Snow Melting (March 8, 2021)

Black carbon particles, produced by combustion of gasoline, diesel fuel, coal, and other organics, have been found to be the second-largest driver of climate warming, after carbon dioxide (CO₂), since the Industrial Revolution [Myhre et al., 2013]. Much of black carbon's role in this warming results from the fact that it contributes to the melting of snow and ice and thus to darkening of Earth's surface, reducing the amount of sunlight the planet reflects and increasing the amount it absorbs.

Read more at:

<https://eos.org/opinions/microplastics-hidden-contribution-to-snow-melting>

Russia, an oil giant, goes big on timber (March 24, 2021)

In a dense forest northeast of Moscow, logging machines cut down rows of trees as Russia taps foreign demand for its wood as part of efforts to reduce its dependence on oil exports.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Vologda, a region 500 kilometres (310 miles) northeast of the Russian capital, where forests of birch and pine stretch.

Read more at:

<https://m.timesofindia.com/business/international-business/russia-an-oil-giant-goes-big-on-timber/amp/articleshow/81663272.cms>

PARIVARTAN' 21

Parivartan, the sixth annual business conclave, was organized by ConXerv, the Committee of Sustainability, on 5th February 2021. It is organized every year, with an aim to bring speakers from different domains on a common platform and get their expert opinions on sustainability. The speakers were from both India and the U.S., which gave the business conclave a global dimension, which is very much needed in times of pandemic as there is a need for collaboration for practitioners of sustainability.

The theme was, **'Leveraging energy transition stimulus to take a giant leap towards decarbonization. The next big move?'** Removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is becoming technologically feasible, but will it ever be commercially viable at the scale needed to halt climate change? The shift can start from the use of clean energy and the elimination of fossil fuels.



Mr. Ganga Charan Sharma, TÜV Rheinland India Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Sharma talked about sustainability being not a one institution role instead of a global role and that it is getting closure to the inner part of any business day by day. He focused on energy as an important part of any infrastructure and that good consumption habits along with smart energy can help in reducing the carbon footprint. Also, decarbonization covers the entire life cycle, so it should be a closed-loop, and linking it with recyclability, it can reduce the impact on the Earth. Sustainability can only be achieved when each stakeholder plays their own role, and he ended the talk by wishing students great success.



Dr. Neal Phillip, Bronx Community College, City University, New York

Dr. Neal Phillip, who is the Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Environmental Science at Bronx Community College, City University of New York, gave the keynote address. He framed decarbonization as a journey that started a long time ago. He talked about technologies that can be used to monitor the air quality of faraway places in a pandemic, measure pollutants in ice samples, etc. He also pointed out that most of the challenges we face are the result of human activities like the burning of fossil fuels, and to discontinue it, strong measures will be needed. He emphasized the need for decarbonization and talked about what can be done and what has been done so far in this arena. The event had four speakers from diverse backgrounds, locations, covering both academia and industry domains, giving the summit a holistic view.



Mr. Masood Mallick, Joint Managing Director, Ramky Enviro, REEL

Mr. Mallick talked about setting up his waste management plant, the failures faced, mistakes made, and the current position of how the waste management concept has evolved from linear to circular over time and multiple routes to achieve decarbonization. He emphasized the importance of segregation of wastes at the individual level and the factors like affordability, accessibility, innovation in leveraging technology.



Prof. Paramita Sen, Adjunct Lecturer, Bronx Community College, City University of New York

Prof. Sen put forward that power demand will rise with the rise in activities, and there is a need for the introduction of new technology and individual participation. She pointed out that the tertiary sector is more responsible for carbon dioxide emission and what New York is doing to reduce these emissions, such as congestion pricing program, strict regulations, etc. She ended on a positive note that if we strive together, we can go for a sustainable future with less carbon dioxide and control the temperature and have a wonderful journey for future generations.



Dr. Sunita Purushottam, Head of Sustainability, Mahindra Life space Developers Ltd.

Dr. Purushottam gave insights on the impact of real estate on the environment, where she highlighted the growth challenge and the percentage of infrastructure that is yet to be built. She further linked waste to the carbon problem and talked about commitments and the strategies that the company has taken up to lower its carbon footprint. She also talked of behavior change, and that demand reduction is the key to sustainability.

Biden targets big offshore wind power expansion to fight climate change (March 29, 2021)

The Biden administration on Monday unveiled a goal to expand the nation's fledgling offshore wind energy industry in the coming decade by opening new areas to development, accelerating permits, and boosting public financing for projects.

The plan is part of President Joe Biden's broader effort to eliminate U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change.

Read more at:

<https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN2BL2B9>

UK criticised for ignoring Paris climate goals in infrastructure decisions (March 30, 2021)

Prominent scientists and lawyers have said the UK government's decision to ignore the Paris climate agreement when deciding on major infrastructure projects undermines its presidency of UN climate talks this year.

The experts – including the former Nasa scientist Jim Hansen, the former UK government chief scientist Sir David King and the economist Prof Jeffrey Sachs – have written to ministers and the supreme court about a recent ruling that the government need not take the UK's obligations under the treaty into account when setting policy, made in a case concerning the proposed expansion of Heathrow airport.

Read more at:

<https://amp.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/30/uk-criticised-for-ignoring-paris-climate-goals-in-infrastructure-decisions>