

OCTOBER 2021

PARITRAN

News Letter



Introduction:

ConXerv is the functional committee of the School of Sustainability. The committee was established in the year 2015 with the goal of creating an enriched atmosphere that promotes sustainable learning and holistic development, with the goal of assisting the student community in reaching their full potential and serving as transformational leaders for a sustainable future.

This newsletter's objective is to maximize environmental awareness amongst students of XIM University. We present you with the October edition of our newsletter, Paritran, in order to empower XIM University students and keep them informed about the newest advancements in the field of sustainability.

Along with news from the sustainability world, we interacted with Mr. Diganta Chaudhuri, the batch of 2016-18, who shared his overall experience at Schneider. We have conducted an Immersion Course on SDG 13- Climate Action as well as an Immersion Course on Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure. We also have a dedicated section for the School of Sustainability - undergraduate Achievements.



Highlights:

Latest News on

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

Events:

*World's Sustainability Day
&
Immersion Course
&
Sustainability Development
Immersion Course*

Achievements:

Undergraduate Achievements

World's Sustainability Day

World Sustainability Day is celebrated to remind the community of the importance of the environment. The last Wednesday of October each year is dedicated to this day. This year we celebrated it on the 27th of October.

Our ecological footprint is increasing day by day. Already we have exceeded the one earth limit for our needs (global average 1.7 earths). There is an enormous disparity of ecological footprint between the USA (five earths' resources) and African countries (less than 1 earth's resources). Our infinite growth is not possible with finite natural resources. So, the best feasible approach could be to use natural resources judiciously. We should target our functionality towards net-zero harm to the ecosystem.

Through this day, people are motivated to think and behave sustainably to preserve something for the future contemporaries. Everybody observes sustainability in their way, let's try to inculcate sustainable habits into our daily courses by following these thumb rules: Support sustainable brands, buy less and buy better, take care of your water consumption, Practice 3 R every day: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, try to use vegan products, and Use bicycles as often as possible.

Middle East Green initiative: "Pathbreaking work" to protect the planet (October 25, 2021)

The Middle East Green Initiative launch in Saudi Arabia on Monday was hailed by the UN's deputy chief as a valuable commitment and strategic vision, to transition regional economies away from unsustainable development, to a model "fit for the challenges of the 21st century".

Read more at:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103992>

Plant from plastics: Bio-based polymers can be transformed into fertilizer (October 28, 2021)

Bioplastic can be chemically recycled into nitrogen-rich fertilizers in a facile and environmentally friendly way, as recently demonstrated. Their findings pave the way towards sustainable circular systems that simultaneously address issues such as plastic pollution, petrochemical resource depletion, and world hunger.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211028093248.htm>

Farming reboot could lay seeds for prosperity in poor and food-insecure regions (October 27, 2021)

An irrigation re-think in sub-Saharan Africa is improving food security, reducing water waste and lifting people out of poverty.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211027122117.htm>

A cost-effective and quick way to find groundwater in arid regions (October 26, 2021)

Water is a scarce commodity in many countries worldwide, but new cost-effective technology pioneered by researchers in Australia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia could ensure sustainable water supplies for decades to come.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211026124307.htm>

ALUMNI CONNECT



A short interview with **Mr. Diganta Chaudhuri, Batch of 2016-18** was conducted by the Alumni Committee. Mr. Chaudhuri is **Manager-ESS, Schneider Electric Energy & Sustainability Services**.

1. How has your experience been in Schneider and can you tell us about your experiential learning?

Great people make Schneider Electric a great company. "Learn Every Day!" is one of Schneider's 5 Core Values true to the last word! Every day it's a new opportunity for everyone to learn from Schneider.

Schneider Electric's global data center in India was built to efficiently support Schneider's global teams, spread across multiple geographies and multiple verticals. As the first recruit on the team and transitioning from my previous sales & marketing profile, it was my initial thought that this would bring about multiple challenges in learning and performing at the same time. With patience, support, and structured training from the global teams, I was able to support and perform on every project assigned to me. We currently have over 65 analysts supporting teams all over the world from December 2019 to the present, with the vision to continue expanding over the years.

2. What is your role to helping Schneider achieve it's target?

Schneider's targets are not limited to a single vertical or department. We have separate goals mapped across all the teams globally. Currently, I am managing a team of 17 analysts in the India-Global support data centre with the comprehensive goal of successfully training each analyst through their regional teams in specific market domains. This is to best enable them to continue supporting their teams and projects they are mapped to, regionally & functionally. As the analysts gain expertise in those global markets, it will not only help them to leverage their individual domain knowledge and skills but also enhance visibility in global teams, promoting the need to expand support analysts in India. The analysts, in a matter of a few years, will gain expertise in regional markets with high functional & operational skills that will be rarely found in others in India. My purpose is to support the growth of my team & teammates and promote their expansion across more functional domains and verticals globally.

3. What will be the opportunities created by Schneider Electric for Future Sustainability Managers in India?

Schneider is growing rapidly throughout all of its verticals, and I'm sure there will be several opportunities for "Sustainability Managers" leading those teams. Candidates with 4-5 years of experience in the related domain will be a good fit for such related roles. My team is mostly concentrated on the operational side of the global power and gas commodities markets. Here we do not look for candidates from any specific educational background. Instead, candidates who have a keen interest in learning about such markets from scratch and are passionate about the role with a vision to grow with us for the longer term, will be an ideal fit for us.

4. On what factors do different interviewers evaluate a candidate?

Every interviewer has their own way to evaluate a candidate. What can be known from a 30–60-minute interview can only be limited. Personally, communication skills & attitude, honesty & integrity, analytical thinking, fitment to the open requirements, and reflection of Schneider's core values & principles are things that I look out for in a candidate for Schneider. Well written and structured CVs are of prime importance to me. CVs reach the recruiter's desk before the candidate, and I consider CVs to be a reflection of the candidate. As an example, a CV with typographical and structural errors can mean the candidate, lacks attention to detail, a CV that is not aligned properly or a CV with repetitive and generic words and phrases brings about the idea that the candidate is not serious about what he or she is doing or is hoping to do. To me, it demonstrates a lack of seriousness. The same goes for CVs with blank pages, too many fonts, unaligned paragraphs, generic writing, and mentioning skills that the candidate has forgotten overtime.

5. Can you describe few ways wherein the budding corporates can build their profile?

When it comes to students freshly moving into the corporate world, industry-relevant technical skills are something that must be learnt and embedded in their profiles. Having core knowledge of basic to intermediate Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint are must-haves for any student (especially management students) looking to move into corporate life. Another thing to look out for as a student is choosing the right internship and projects to work on and being able to substantiate on those during their interviews. Candidates with no work experience are usually asked about their projects and internships which is why it becomes highly necessary for one to be as detailed as possible.

Students need to be clear that their peers have almost the same profile with similar educational knowledge and skill sets, so it becomes highly necessary to leverage one's skills through additional certification courses (relevant to their line of interest) & extracurricular activities.

Plant from plastics: Bio-based polymers can be transformed into fertilizer (October 28, 2021)

Bioplastics can be chemically recycled into nitrogen-rich fertilizers in a facile and environmentally friendly way, as recently demonstrated. Their findings pave the way towards sustainable circular systems that simultaneously address issues such as plastic pollution, petrochemical resource depletion, and world hunger.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211028093248.htm>

A cost effective and quick way to find groundwater in arid regions (October 26, 2021)

Water is a scarce commodity in many countries worldwide, but new cost-effective technology pioneered by researchers in Australia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia could ensure sustainable water supplies for decades to come.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211026124307.htm>

SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT IMMERSION COURSE

ConXerv, the Committee of School of Sustainability hosted an Immersion Course on **SDG 13 –Climate Action**, on 27th September 2021. Climate change is a real and undeniable threat to our entire civilization. Our speaker, Prof. Randall S. Abate referenced his recently published book “**Climate Change and The Voiceless**” and gave some interesting insights on the same.

Prof. Abate spoke about the evolution of climate change factors in US and abroad, the Anthropocene era and conservation of natural resources. He explained about some of the U.S. Federal Environmental Laws based on science and the linkage between environmental contamination with human health problems. In his address he discussed how the Government has failed to deliver commitments to address climate change and needs to raise its ambition to address it effectively. He also talked about the proposals of Enhanced Protection of Voiceless in which he mentioned about the role of regulatory bodies focused on the voiceless.

IMMERSION COURSE- TCFD

ConXerv, the Committee of School of Sustainability hosted an Immersion Course on **TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES (TCFD)** to improve and increase reporting of climate-related financial information. Mr. Souvik Sen, the speaker of the event is a climate change expert with over 7 years of experience specializing in climate risk, decarbonization and net-zero strategies.

He started his speech by stating that India is the 5th most vulnerable country to the impacts of Climate Change. Impacts that India would face due to changes in temperature and how India will end up losing USD 2,070 billion per year in 2100 because of Climate Change. He further stated that due to the unprecedented changes in climatic conditions and its impact, it has resulted a growing concern for governments as well as businesses. He further added India has set up a committee constituting of members from 14 ministries to oversee the implementation of climate change targets, hence the committee will investigate the contributions made by the private sector as well as multi-lateral agencies. Lastly, he mentioned that 24 private companies in India have pledged to become Carbon Neutral to collectively take the Country towards Net Zero. After an insightful session our speaker interacted with the students and welcomed their queries on the topic.

ENERGY MODELING AND DESIGN

Mr. Vivek Gilani, the event's speaker, is an Environmental Engineer with consulting experience in Greenhouse Gas mitigation, energy conservation, water, and wastewater treatment, and a BEE Certified Energy Auditor.

His presentation began with the subject of the Climate Justice movement by looking at it through a social lens. Climate change is affecting the poor more than the more affluent sections, who have been consuming an increasing number of resources. He further added that Climate Justice is a phenomenon where the most responsible suffer the least and the least responsible suffer the most. During the subsequent discussion, he showed us some infographics that showed how the ice caps melted over time, from 1980 to 2012, and it is expected that the polar ice caps will melt and disappear by 2030. It was observed that in the process of Globalization, as more goods were produced, the environment suffered in a variety of ways, including increased emissions, habitat destruction, increased Greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and so on. As a result, energy consumption is linked to global GDP growth, and growth means developments that can impact the environment. We also came across a graph mentioning India's Per capita energy consumption, which rose by five times in 1970-2011.

He also discussed the Energy Efficiency rebound effect, which states that it provokes higher net consumption. Finally, he discussed the infrastructural glitches with the inclusion of more glass façade, which absorb heat and cause a greenhouse effect and are not suitable for the countries with hot climates.

World leaders urged to prioritize action on water and climate (October 29, 2021)

Countries must step up urgent action to address the water-related consequences of climate change, the head of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and nine other international organizations said on Friday in a letter to world leaders issued ahead of the COP26 UN climate change conference.

Read more at:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1104442>

Countries most at risk, lead the way on climate action (October 28, 2021)

Vulnerable countries are stepping up and taking climate action, amid a slow response from some of the biggest emitters of carbon dioxide, said the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Thursday.

Read more at:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1104382>

At the G20 Summit, PM Modi says India is ready to produce 5 billion Covid vaccine doses by 2022 end. (October 30, 2021)

PM Modi confirms in Rome at the G20 summit that India is ready to produce 5 billion doses of covid vaccines by the end of 2022. India will continue its global mission to eradicate covid in 150 countries worldwide by its vaccines.

Read more at:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news>

India, UK to launch solar Green Grids Initiative at COP26 (October 31, 2021)

India and the UK are set to enhance their International Solar Alliance partnership (ISA) with the launch of the new Green Grid Initiative. The new Global Green Grid Initiative- One Sun One World One Grid initiative is a multilateral initiative by (ISA) to foster interconnected solar energy infrastructure worldwide.

Read more at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/87428227.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

World spends \$423 billion a year to subsidize fossil fuels, UN research says (October 29, 2021)

The head of the United Nations Development Programme told CNBC that \$423 billion of taxpayers' money is being spent on subsidizing fossil fuel use each year, and is preventing a transition toward cleaner energy.

Read more at:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/29/world-spends-423-billion-a-year-to-subsidize-fossil-fuels-un.html>

Battleground Sri Lanka: Can Organic Farming feed a Nation? (October 10, 2021)

On 29th April 2021, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa government approved a ban on importation of chemical fertilizers and other agrochemicals in the bid to become the first country ever to practice organic only agriculture.

Read more at:

<https://www.prakati.in/battleground-sri-lanka-can-organic-farming-feed-a-nation/>

School of Sustainability- Undergraduate Achievements

Run for Pure Beach:

On World Tourism Day 2021, Odisha Ecotourism Foundation organized a run for pure beach. The main motive behind the run was to spread awareness about the adverse effects of single use plastic. Around 300 young volunteers participated in the run and collected 112.8kg of plastic from the beach.



Swarnim Vijay Varsh at Blue Flag Beach, Puri:

On 5th November, the Swarnim Vijay Vaesh was celebrated at Blue Flag beach in puri. This event celebrates 50 years of our victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan. The “swarnim vijay mashaal” truly imbibed the sense of patriotism, courage and sacrifice in the hearts of everyone present there. It was indeed a feeling of great pride for me to be associated with this auspicious celebration as the host and a youth volunteer.



Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Blue Flag Beach, Puri:

Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative by the Govt of India to celebrate 75 years of free and progressive India. On 7th October 2021, it was celebrated at the Blue Flag Beach, Puri. The occasion was graced with the presence of dignitaries like Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Smt Aprajita Sarangi and Shri Samarth Verma.



School of Sustainability- Undergraduate Achievements

Subhashree Banita's Achievement:

Under the School of Sustainability UNICEF initiative MOU

1. UNICEF DOCUMENTATION ON CYCLONE YAAS

After interning with UNICEF in the Public Health and Nutrition sector as a Nutrition Intern, I was offered to write a documentation on the cyclone YAAS 2021 where I had to go through and proofread all the official documents of each districts that were affected i.e., Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kendrapara, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jagatsinghpur, starting with the pre cyclone preparation by the government of Odisha and the DSWO(District social welfare officer), with the preparations done during the cyclone and post cyclone preparation ensuring zero casualties.

2. UNICEF PROGRAM “MANY NEW PATHS”

Was a part of the UNICEF program, “many new paths”, where I shared my experience as a young person talking about mental health and peace. It was fascinating to be a part of this program where I spoke about mental health from a student’s perspective and how we should deal with the pandemic and engage in our daily lives.

3. Policy and governance Internship

I continued my Internship with UNICEF in the sector Public Health and Nutrition as a Policy and Governance Intern with IIM Calcutta students. Learnt about the Nutritional policies made during the COVID to protect the women and children and strategies planned to empower the rural management.

4. United Nations Volunteer

Was selected as a Research Intern for United Nations Volunteer where I researched and gathered information necessary for automated analysis of Sustainable development Goals by using the OSDG Community platform.

Milinda Mishra's Achievement:

Ms. Milinda Mishra, A final Year, Bsc. Sustainability Development student of XIM University wrote an article which was recently published in the website DownToEarth, on the theme “CoP 26: Greening of polar ice should top agenda; here’s why” which talks about the climate change and its impact on the polar ice caps. Milinda also points out the reasons why this issue should be at the top of the agenda for the upcoming CoP 26 in Glasgow to be held in November.

School of Sustainability- Undergraduate Achievements

Millennium Campus Network Fellowship – UNAI

1. Project Inaayat:

Safar - "Safar- The healing begins" was organised to create mental health awareness among young students and to enlighten young minds about effect of Covid-19 on mental health, suicide mortality rate and remedies other than medications for various mental health issues.

Talaash - "Talaash" , an event organised on 7th November, comprising of three competitions i.e., 'Ehsaas,' 'Lafz,' and 'Kalpana' with the aim of portraying mental health in different aspects.



2. Project Sustainability under Microscope:

A webinar on the topic “**The Role of Businesses in Achieving Sustainability from a Climate and Energy Specialist's Point of View**” advocating SDG 9, 13 & 17 under UNAI principle 9 was organized with Bharath Mahadevan, a Climate and Energy Specialist.

A webinar on the topic **Leading Corporate Sustainability in Developing Economies** at its headquarters in Davos, Switzerland, was hosted earlier this month. The discussion revolved around the need for sectoral transitions to green economic principles and their impact on the environment.



School of Sustainability- Undergraduate Achievements

3. Project Chilika Junior Rangers

Chilika junior rangers is an initiative by Shagun kar and Subhashree Banita under the Millennium Fellowship and the guidance of the prestigious XIM University.



Plant-based jet fuel could reduce emissions by 68% (October 14, 2021)

Replacing petroleum-based aviation fuel with sustainable aviation fuel derived from a type of mustard plant can reduce carbon emissions by up to 68%, according to new research.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211014172747.htm>

Commercial flights that fly 'entirely on hydrogen' planned for 2024 (October 27, 2021)

Plans to operate commercial hydrogen-electric flights between London and Rotterdam have been announced, with those behind the project hoping it will take to the skies in 2024.

Read more at:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/27/commercial-flights-that-fly-entirely-on-hydrogen-planned-for-2024.html>

Amazon-backed wind farm in Scotland begins operations (October 29, 2021)

A 50-megawatt onshore wind farm in Scotland is now operational, and tech giant Amazon will purchase all of its output.

Read more at:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/29/amazon-backed-wind-farm-in-scotland-begins-operations.html>

Maldives calls for rapid and immediate action to fight climate change (October 18, 2021)

The world's largest carbon emitters are not listening to what's happening to countries facing extreme weather changes, said the minister of environment of Maldives, an island nation at risk of disappearing by the end of the century.

Read more at:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/19/climate-change-maldives-minister-on-carbon-emitters-weather-crisis.html>