

Programme Plan: January 12, 2026

Venue: Red Audi, Fourth Floor, K J Somaiya Institute of Management

8:30am - 9:20 am	Registrations & Creating Sustainability Message Wall
9:30am - 10:10 am	<p>Inaugural Ceremony & Leader's Perspectives - "What's Sustainability?"</p> <p>Shri Samir Somaiya Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai Chairman and Managing Director, Godavari Biorefineries Ltd</p> <p>Dr Ajay Kapoor Vice Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai</p> <p>Dr Arun Kumar Nayak Dean – Research and Director - SIRAC, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai</p> <p>Dr Larry Walker Former Professor, Cornell University; Professor of Eminence, Somaiya Vidyavihar University;Co-Director, CASCADE</p> <p>Dr Matthew Daum Associate Provost and Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University</p> <p>Dr Karim Maredia Professor; Assistant Dean and Director of International Programs, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University</p>
10:15am-11:30am	<p>Chola Maati : Pardhan Gond Rituals from Birth to Death <i>This session explores how indigenous communities model sustainable living through resource stewardship, biodiversity conservation, and harmonious human-nature relationships. It invites reflection on ethical borrowing and community-led conservation.</i></p> <p>It includes a presentation followed by a panel discussion with authors of Chola Maati: Pardhan Gond Rituals from Birth to Death, Ms. Padmaja Srivastava, architect and promoter of India's folk and tribal arts; Ms. Komal Bedi Sohal, creative designer and former Chief Creative Officer at Saatchi & Saatchi Dubai; and Mr. Mayank Singh Shyam, well known Gond artist, in conversation with Dr. Shivangi Pareek, a sociocultural and a postdoctoral research affiliate at the Yale InterAsia Initiative.</p> <p>Drawing from their book they will offer insights into how rituals, songs, oral traditions and lived knowledge of the Pardhan Gond community, provides a textured and holistic worldview. More than a record, it animates cultural experience through art, photography and narrative, revealing a world in which human life is deeply interwoven with earth, water, ancestors, forests and the unseen.</p>
11:30am - 11:45am	Tea Break



11:45am -12:45pm	<p>Beyond the Conflict <i>This session will have a film screening of filmmaker Atharva Raut's critically acclaimed work <i>Beyond the Conflict</i> followed by a discussion with Dr. Varad Giri, Head Scientist at Reliance Foundation.</i></p> <p>In the film we witness how Mumbai has experienced intermittent episodes of human-leopard conflict over several decades. The Rescue team of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) go above and beyond to mitigate this conflict where the leopards are voiceless victims. This film unravels the story of interwoven lives of the leopards and people that care for them at the SGNP Rescue Centre. This is an unseen story that showcases the themes of dedication, compassion and tragedy that exist beyond the obvious conflict.</p> <p>The discussion will help participants gain a deeper understanding of coexistence in shared landscapes, the practical and ethical dimensions of conservation, and the emotional realities that shape human-wildlife relationships.</p>
12:45pm – 1:00pm	Vote of thanks
1:00pm - 1:45pm	Lunch
Somaiya Citizen Science Initiative (Parallel Sessions)	
11:30 onwards	<p>Session I Nest Watchers'-Bird Nest Design and Monitoring Challenge with Dr. Ninad Marathe, Scientific Officer at SOCLEEN School Children (Standards 6-8) <i>Venue – The Somaiya School, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai</i> A hands-on Nest-Making Workshop for students to support urban birds, explore biodiversity, and develop creativity, teamwork, and environmental stewardship.</p>
2:00pm onwards	<p>Session II Aero Trackers': Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Workshop with Dr. Nilesh Wagh, Associate Professor and HoD Environment Science, Somaiya Vidyavihar University Undergraduates and Postgraduates <i>Venue – Red Audi followed by field study</i> A hands-on workshop where participants monitor and analyse real-time air quality, contribute to a growing database, and gain GIS skills to map and interpret environmental data for sustainability.</p>