

Somaiya SUSTAINABILITY Dialogue 2026-27

Jan 12, 2026

Red Auditorium, K J Somaiya Institute of Management

Flagship event of the

Centre for Achieving Sustainable Climate Action, Development and Engagement (CASCADE)

Somaiya Institute for Research & Consultancy (SIRAC)

Spearheaded & Executed by

Interdisciplinary team of Faculties and Students

Time	Session / Activity	Anchors
08:30am – 09:30am	Registration & Sustainability Message Wall	Dr. Shilpa Nag Assistant Professor, Dept Botany, K J Somaiya College of Science & Commerce Dr Nilesh Wagh, Associate Professor & Head-Dept Environmental Science, School of Basic & Applied Sciences
09:30 – 10:50 am	Inaugural Ceremony & Leader's perspectives	
09:30 – 09:35	Audience Welcome	
09:35 – 09:45	Lamp Lighting & Campus Prayer/ Maharashtra Geet	
09:45 – 09:50	Welcome Address	Dr. Parvathi JR, Assistant Professor and Assistant Director, SIRAC; Co-Director, CASCADE
09:50 – 10:00	Introduction & Felicitation of Dignitaries	Dr. Deepti Gupta, Associate Professor, Dept.. Life Sciences, School of Basic & Applied Sciences; Co-Lead- Sustainability Dialogue
10:00 – 10:45	What is Sustainability? – Leaders' Perspectives	
	Shri Samir Somaiya Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai President, Somaiya Vidyavihar Chairman and Managing Director, Godavari Biorefineries Ltd Dr Ajay Kapoor Vice Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai Dr Arun Kumar Nayak Dean – Research and Director - SIRAC, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai Dr Larry Walker Former Professor, Cornell University; Professor of Eminence, Somaiya Vidyavihar University; Co-Director, CASCADE ; President, Somaiya Foundation; Visiting Scientist - K J Somaiya Applied Agricultural Research Dr Matthew Daum Associate Provost and Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University Dr Karim Maredia Professor; Assistant Dean and Director of International Programs, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University	Dr. Monalisa Behera, Assistant Professor, Civilization Studies; School of Humanities & Social Sciences; Co-Lead Sustainability Dialogue

Time	Session/Activity	Anchor
10:45 – 10:50	Thank You Note	Dr. Deepti Gupta
10:50am – 11:00am	Tea Break	
11:00am – 1:00pm	Session 1 “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>	
11:00 – 11:05	Introduction to the Session	Dr. Monalisa Behera
11.05 -11.20	Speaker Introduction & Felicitation	Dr. Monalisa Behera
11:20 – 12:50	“Chola Maati” Session – Presentations and Discussion. Ms.Padmaja Srivastava Architect and Promoter of India’s folk and tribal arts Ms.Komal Bedi Sohal Creative Designer Ms.Mayank Singh Shyam Gond Artist	Dr. Shivangi Pareek Yale InterAsia Initiative
11:30 onwards (Parallel)	Citizen Science – Nest Watchers Dr. Ninad Marathe, SOCLEEN	Dr. Rupal Thakkar Associate Professor, K J Somaiya School of Education Dr. Sagar Marathe Assistant Professor, Dept.Environmental Science, School of Basic & Applied Sciences
12:50 – 1:00	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Saranya Thaloor Associate Professor, Dept. Mass Communication, School of Humanities & Social Sciences
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Break	
2:00pm – 4:10pm	Session 2 “Beyond the Conflict”: Movie Screening <i>The movie and 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.</i>	
2:00 – 2:10	Introduction of the Session Speaker Introduction and Felicitation	Dr. Daly Davis Associate Professor, Dept Polymer Science, School of Basic & Applied Sciences
2:10 – 4:00	Movie Screening and Discussion	Atharva Raut Director Dr. Varad Giri Head Scientist, Reliance Foundation
4:00 – 4:10	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Deepti Gupta
4:10pm -4:30pm	Tea Sustainability Wall activity culminates	