



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	
	<p>Shri Samir Somaiya Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai President, Somaiya Vidyavihar 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 ; President, Somaiya Foundation; Visiting Scientist - K J Somaiya Applied Agricultural Research</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>	<p>Dr. Monalisa Behera, Assistant Professor, Civilization Studies; School of Humanities & Social Sciences; Co-Lead Sustainability Dialogue</p>

Time	Session/Activity	Anchor
10:45 – 10:50	Thank You Note	Dr. Deepti Gupta
10:50am – 11:00am	Tea Break	
11:00am – 1:00pm	<p>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></p>	
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	<p>“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</p>	Dr. Shivangi Pareek Yale InterAsia Initiative
11:30 onwards (Parallel)	<p>Citizen Science – Nest Watchers Dr. Ninad Marathe, SOCLEEN</p>	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	<p>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></p>	
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	