

## THE FIREFLIES DIALOGUES 2016

### SUSTAINABLE JOURNEYS

---

#### TENTATIVE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

---

##### THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2016

04:00 pm - 04:30 pm	Evening Tea/Coffee
04:30 pm - 05:00 pm	Registration
05:00 pm - 05:30 pm	Welcome and Introduction to the 2016 Fireflies Dialogues <i>Siddhartha and Genevieve Ancel</i>
05:30 pm - 06:00 pm	Interplay and Self-Introductions <i>Prashanth Olalekar and Hazel Lobo</i>
06:00 pm - 08:00 pm	Sharing by participants on the theme 'Sustainable Journeys' <i>Facilitated and moderated by Sathya Prakash Varanashi</i>
08:00 pm - 09:00 pm	Dinner

##### FRIDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2016

06:45 am - 07:00 am	Morning Tea/Coffee
07:00 am - 08:00 am	Movement meditation at the Meditation hall <i>Facilitated by Prashanth Olalekar</i>
08:00 am - 09:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Interplay
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Keynote Address: Sustainable development challenges in India <i>Ashish Kothari</i> Chairperson: Veena Pai
11:15 am - 11:45 am	Panel on Sustainable Practices <i>Facilitated and Moderated by Ashwani Vasishth</i> 1) Lifelong learning in the context of sustainable futures. <i>Dominic D'Souza</i>
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	Tea break
12:15 pm - 01:15 pm	Continuation of the Panel on Sustainable Practices <i>Facilitated and Moderated by Ashwani Vasishth</i> 2) The practice and challenges of climate-neutral villages. <i>T. Pradeep</i> 3) Just Change: Taking back control of our economy. <i>Stan Thekaekara</i>
01:15 pm - 01:45 pm	The Mandala ceremony and Interplay
01:45 pm - 02:45 pm	Lunch
02:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Interplay

---

03:15 pm - 04:15 pm Small group dialogues on  
1) Creative Education  
2) Alternative economy  
3) Climate-neutral villages  
4) Sustainable development challenges in India  
*Facilitated and moderated by the forenoon speakers*

04:15 pm - 04:30 pm Tea break

05:00 pm - 06:00 pm Fireflies Campus Tour

08:00 pm - 09:00 pm Dinner

09:00 pm - 10:00 pm Cultural programme  
*Facilitated by Oamjie John*

## **SATURDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2016**

06:45 am - 07:00 am Morning Tea/Coffee

07:00 am - 08:00 am Movement meditation at the Meditation hall  
*Facilitated by Prashanth Olalekar*

08:00 am - 09:30 am Breakfast

10:00 am - 10:30 am Interplay

10:30 am - 11:30 am Panel on Religion, Secularism and Pluralism  
*Facilitated and Moderated by Siddhartha*  
1) In the context of refugees in Europe - *Genevieve Ancel*  
2) From an overarching perspective - *Yudishthir Raj Isar*

11:30 am - 12:00 noon Tea break

12:00 noon - 01:00 pm Continuation of the Panel on Religion, Secularism and Pluralism  
*Facilitated and Moderated by Siddhartha*  
3) From a Christian Perspective - *David Selvaraj*  
4) From an Islamic Perspective - *Rahmath E. P.*

01:00 pm - 02:00 pm Lunch

02:00 pm - 02:30 pm Interplay

02:30 pm - 03:00 pm Continuation of the Panel on Religion, Secularism and Pluralism  
*Facilitated and Moderated by Siddhartha*  
5) Inter-Faith Engagement: Beyond Platitudes and Wishful Thinking - *Ashok Panikkar*

03:00 pm - 04:00 pm Open Dialogue Sessions  
*Facilitated by volunteers from among the participants*

04:00 pm - 04:30 pm Tea break

06:30 pm - 07:15 pm On women's issues  
*Performance by Rama Mani*

07:15 pm - 08:00 pm Drum Circle *Facilitated by Ashirwad S Acharekar*

---

08:00 pm - 09:00 pm Dinner

**SUNDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2016**

06:45 am - 07:00 am Morning Tea/Coffee

07:00 am - 08:00 am Movement meditation at the Meditation hall  
*Facilitated by Prashanth Olalekar*

08:00 am - 09:30 am Breakfast

10:00 am - 10:30 am Interplay

10:30 am - 11:00 am Walk with women  
*Maya Krishna Rao*  
Chairperson: Manvel Alur

11:00 am - 11:30 am Discussion on the performances by *Rama Mani* and *Maya Krishna Rao*

11:30 am - 12:00 noon Tea break

12:00 noon - 01:00 pm Beyond Religion: Spirituality for Sustainable Futures  
*Makarand Paranjape*  
Chairperson: Anjali Gera Roy

01:00 pm - 02:00 pm Lunch

02:00 pm - 02:30 pm Interplay

02:30 pm - 04:30 pm Concluding panel  
*Facilitated and moderated by John Clammer*  
1) Ashwani Vasishth  
2) Jyoti Sahi  
3) Harish Vasudevan  
4) M.P. Parameswaran  
5) M. Karthikeyan  
6) Marcus Bussey  
7) Ananta Kumar Giri

04:30 pm - 05:00 pm Tea and departure

---

## SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS

<b>ANANTHAKUMAR GIRI</b>	Author. Associate Professor of Sociology at Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India.
<b>ANJALI GERA ROY</b>	Professor of English, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
<b>ASHISH KOTHARI</b>	Founder-member of 'Kalpavriksh', an environmental research and action group. Served on the Indian Government's Environmental Appraisal Committee on River Valley Projects, and Expert Committees to formulate India's Biological Diversity Act and National Wildlife Action Plan.
<b>ASHIRWAD S ACHAREKAR</b>	A software engineer by profession and a percussionist at heart. Known for his 'Drum Circles' that revitalize the mind-body connection. He has also worked as a Life-Coach and Family Counsellor.
<b>ASHOK PANIKKAR</b>	Founder of 'Meta-Culture', an organisation dedicated to the practise of conflict resolution, relationship management and dialogue. He is also the founder of the 'Public Intelligence Project' that seeks to promote more proactive ways to manage diversity.
<b>ASHWANI VASISHTH</b>	Professor of sustainability planning at Ramapo College of New Jersey and Director of the Master of Arts programme in Sustainability Studies. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses related to Urban Ecology and Regional Sustainability, and regularly teaches a course titled Energy and Society,
<b>DAVID SELVARAJ</b>	Founder and Executive Director of 'Visthar', an Academy of Justice and Peace. He also runs a school named 'Bandhavi' for the social advancement and protection of girls at risk of being forced into the Devadasi system.
<b>DOMINIC D'SOUZA</b>	Associate Director of 'Laya', an organization working with tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh, India. He is also the founder member of National Youth Association (NYF), a coalition of 23 organizations working with youth in different parts of India.
<b>GENEVIEVE ANCEL</b>	Co-founder and Coordinator of 'Dialogues en Humanite'. Special adviser on change management in Lyon. Formerly, head of the Cabinet of the Minister of the Environment of France and Technical Advisor for sustainable development in the cabinet of Gerard Collomb, Senator Mayor of Lyon.
<b>HARISH VASUDEVAN</b>	High Court Lawyer and Environmental Activist from Kerala.
<b>HAZEL LOBO</b>	Interplay facilitator. A practicing counsellor and psychotherapist. She also works with marginalised groups like the indigenous people, abused women, women in sex work and differently abled.
<b>JOHN CLAMMER</b>	Professor in the Institute for Advance Studies in Sustainability at the United Nations University, Tokyo, and Director of the Earth Institute. Working particularly on issues of culture and development, including art, and involved in a project on 'Sustainable Cultures'.
<b>JYOTI SAHI</b>	Artist and writer. Founder of Inscape (an art ashram) on the northern outskirts of Bangalore. Founding member of Asian Christian Art Association (ACAA)
<b>KARTHIKEYAN M.</b>	Programme Leader of Development of Human Action (DHAN) Foundation, Tamilnadu.
<b>M.P. PARAMESWARAN</b>	Writer. People's Science Activist with the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP). Vice-Chair of the Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS). Chair of the Total Health and Sanitation Mission, Kerala
<b>MAKARAND PARANJAPE</b>	A poet and professor of English at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Founding Trustee of 'Samvad India Foundation', a non-profit, public charitable trust, and also the founding editor of 'Evam: Forum on Indian Representations' an

	international bi-annual multi-disciplinary journal on India.
<b>MANVEL ALUR</b>	Independent consultant on environmental issues associated with Pipal Tree.
<b>MARCUS BUSSEY</b>	Author. Socially-engaged futurist and research fellow. Teaches World History and Future Studies at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia.
<b>MAYA KRISHNA RAO</b>	Actor, director, writer, educator and activist. Founder-member of street theatre group 'Theatre Union'. Recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Indian theatre as an actor.
<b>OAMJIE JOHN</b>	Coordinator, Media Programme, Pipal Tree.
<b>PRADEEP T.</b>	Founder of 'iSquareD', which promotes the concept and practice of the Climate-Neutral Village. He has a background in Journalism. Founded 'Samuha', an organisation aims to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people within defined periods of time. He was also the Regional Director of ActionAid.
<b>PRASHANTH OLALEKAR</b>	Founder of Interplay India. A creative spiritual leader. He is also a faculty member at the department of Inter-religious Studies, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Former Director of Pasayadaan Holistic Spirituality Centre, Vasai-India.
<b>RAHMATH E.P.</b>	Programme Officer at Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion, Delhi. Working on issues related to minorities and Dalits.
<b>RAMA MANI</b>	Performer and theatre artist. Senior Research Associate at the Centre for International Studies, University of Oxford. Vice Chair of the Academic Council for the United Nations System.
<b>SATHYA PRAKASH VARANASHI</b>	Architect and writer; Former professor, Department of architecture, BIT, Bangalore. Founder trustee of CIVIC, Bangalore
<b>SIDDHARTHA</b>	Writer, social activist and campaigner for Earth Spirituality. Founder of Pipal Tree and Fireflies Ashram, which are concerned with inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogues, media, food sovereignty and environmental issues.
<b>STAN THEKAEKARA</b>	Founder of Just Change India, a community led initiative that seeks to regain power in markets by directly linking producers, consumers and investors in a network that is mutually beneficial. He has worked for indigenous people's rights, community development and social entrepreneurship. Co-founded 'ACCORD' to work for the rights of the indigenous people in South India
<b>VEENA PAI</b>	Coordinator at Pipal Tree. A software engineer turned into an organic farming enthusiast.
<b>YUDISHTHIR RAJ ISAR</b>	Professor of Global Communications and International and Comparative Politics at the American University of Paris. Trustee of cultural organisations in Europe, Asia and North America and consultant to number of international organisations such as UNESCO and the European Commission.

#### ORGANISING TEAM

<b>Siddhartha</b> 9620661111	<b>Shabin Paul</b> 9538226654	<b>Shalini S K.</b> 7259592495	<b>Veena Pai</b> 9945067836	<b>Sharon Paul</b> 7829745171	<b>Subhadra K.N.</b> 9480451163	<b>Savitha M.</b> 9742720388	<b>Rajesh</b> 9742326970	<b>Suresh Mathew</b> 9890542209
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------------

Email: [pipaltree.prog@gmail.com](mailto:pipaltree.prog@gmail.com)

Websites: [www.pipaltree.org.in](http://www.pipaltree.org.in) | [www.climatesouthasia.org](http://www.climatesouthasia.org) | [www.fireflies.org.in](http://www.fireflies.org.in)

Facebook pages: [www.facebook.com/pipaltreebangalore](http://www.facebook.com/pipaltreebangalore) | [www.facebook.com/childrenscollegekabini](http://www.facebook.com/childrenscollegekabini) | [www.facebook.com/firefliesashram.india](http://www.facebook.com/firefliesashram.india)