

2017 Fireflies Dialogues

	Feb 2, Thursday	Feb 3, Friday	Feb 4, Saturday	Feb 5, Sunday
07:00 - 08:00		Movement Meditation (Optional)	Movement Meditation (Optional)	Movement Meditation (Optional)
09:00 - 09:30		Interbeing Utsav*	Interbeing Utsav	Interbeing Utsav
09:30 - 11:10		Cultural and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Futures Siddhartha and Ajeet N. Mathur Dialogue Moderator Joe Tharamangalam	Indian Identity and Sustainable Values Ashok Malhotra Dialogue Moderator Naveen Vasudevan	Buddhism and Social Liberation Siddhartha and Ajeet N. Mathur Dialogue Moderator [TBD]
11:15 - 11:45		Tea	Tea	Tea
11:45 - 01:25		Cultural and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Futures (contd.)	Contemporary Christian Responses to the Ecological Crisis Father Rayappa Kasi Dialogue Moderator Bharat Mansata	Spirituality, Communal Harmony and Sustainable Futures Alba Maria and others Dialogue Moderator Sanjeev Kulkarni
		Mandala ceremony		
01:30 - 02:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
02:30 - 03:00		Interbeing Utsav	Interbeing Utsav	Interbeing Utsav
03:00 - 04:00		Cultural roots of tribal - Nature sensitivity / symbiosis among the Warlis Pradip Prabhu Dialogue Moderator Meenal Tatpati	Peace and Compassion in the Sufi Tradition Ahsan Jafri Dialogue Moderator Nigar Ataulla	Spirituality, Communal Harmony and Sustainable Futures (contd.) Dialogue Moderator [TBD]
04:00 - 04:40	Registration Welcome and introductions			Summing Up/ Action Plan Recording Session Moderator George Kunnath & Veena Pai
04:45 - 05:15		Tea	Tea	Tea and departure
05:30 - 06:30	The Vision of Dialogues in Humanity Genevieve Ancel & Simone Kunegel Dialogue Moderator Srividya Srinivasan	Fireflies Guided Campus Tour (optional)		
07:00 - 08:30		Cultural Evening Facilitated by Oamjie John	Drum Circle Facilitated by Ashirwad Acharekar	
*The Movement Meditation and Interbeing Utsav will be facilitated by Prashant Olalekar				

2017 Fireflies Dialogues

Overview of Dialogue topics

Cultural and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Futures	The relationship between culture and modern human rights is crucial if we need to foster a society that is democratic, pluralistic and gender sensitive. Religious traditions need to be reinterpreted and evolved to be relevant to the challenges of the modern era. Otherwise they may be obstacles in the evolution of citizens who can be global and local simultaneously, nurtured in democratic and compassionate values.
Cultural roots of tribal - Nature sensitivity / symbiosis among the Warlis	The adivasi perspective of environmentality as a functional human rationality that continually defines and refines individual and collective environmental consciousness with an environmental sensitivity that advances in conviviality based on reason and logic as distinct from piety based 'religiosity' or 'spirituality'.
Indian Identity and Sustainable Values	Exploring the meaning and significance of religiosity in the Indian psyche, and examining the implication of these aspects for sustainable values
Contemporary Christian Responses to the Ecological Crisis	Laudato Si the new encyclical from Pope Francis provides an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet which includes <i>every person living on this planet</i> and specially engaging almost two billion Christians on the planet to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. So far, we have been trying to resolve the ecological crisis through politics, science and technology, but now we try it with spirituality or faith, which is expected to yield better results. This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking into our common future with candor and humility.
Peace and Compassion in the Sufi Tradition	Sufism is about co-existence, compassion and equality. Love and compassion are most essential to the spiritual path. Love, is the remedy of all ills and the alchemy of existence; love transforms poverty into riches, war into peace, ignorance into knowledge and hell into heaven.
Buddhism and Social Liberation	Buddhism is unique because its focus is not about God but rather about human liberation from anxiety and suffering. Present day interpretations of the Buddha's social teachings provide scope for solidarity with all those concerned with a sustainable society that is non-consumerist.
Spirituality, Communal Harmony and Sustainable Futures	The context that we live in asks for more than just taking care of ecology. In the current perspective, it is our duty to take care of all beings that inhabit this planet. How is peace possible if the connection with our inner nature (the life that pulsates in each being) and outer nature (the life that pulsates in each being of our pachamama) are in disharmony? Spirituality must be seen as everybody's right, free from all instituted religion. In this way we will have peace and will be able to see the environment that surrounds us as part of a beautiful sanctuary.

2017 Fireflies Dialogues

Presenters, Dialogue Moderators & Facilitators

Ahsan Jafri	Ahsan belongs to the Chistia/Qadria school of Sufism and has deep interest in Sufism and Inter-faith relations. He comes from the family of Sufis who settled in India 300 years back and traces its lineage to the founder of Islam Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He is a Senior Management Professional working with a Germany MNC Infineon in Bangalore.
Ajeet N. Mathur	Writer and author. Professor in Strategic Management and International Business in the Business Policy Area, IIM Ahmadabad.
Alba Maria	First visionary and founder of the Terra Mirim Community & Foundation, an eco-community in Brazil. She is a Shaman, Psychologist, a spiritual teacher, and an author who combines shamanism's teaching and practice with self-development and self-discovery processes.
Ashirwad S. Acharekar	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.
Ashok Malhotra	Writer and author. One of the Founders of Sumedhas Academy For Human Context, an institution dedicated to fostering of human processes.
Bharat Mansata	Founder-member of the Vanavadi Collective forest-farm in Maharashtra. Write-editor at Earth Care Books.
Fr. Rayappa Kasi	A Catholic priest, a cosmologist and a conservationist. Author of several books on ecology and environment. Fr. Rayappa belongs to the Vellore Diocese, where he trains the young as environmentalists and forms them into small groups called "Eco Protection Force."
Genevieve Ancel	Co-founder, Dialogue en Humanite, Lyon, France; active in the worldwide Dialogue in Humanity movement
George Kunnath	An independent organisational development facilitator based in Bangalore.
Joe Tharamangalam	Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Anthropology, St. Mary's University, Halifax, Canada
Meenal Tatpati	Member and Research Associate with Kalpavriksh, Pune.
Naveen Vasudevan	Co-founder of Ritambhara, a collective of seekers inspired by the path of yoga. Naveen is also associated with Sadhana Forest, a sustainable living community in Auroville, and is a part of the India Youth Jam team, which organizes week-long gatherings of young change makers from different parts of the country in an effort towards community building and strengthening youth activism.

2017 Fireflies Dialogues

Nigar Ataula	Associate editor of Islamic Voice, a publication from Bangalore dedicated to the cause of Islam and Muslims in the country.
Oamjie John	A community trainer, creative writer and researcher. Programme Coordinator of the Climate Change Education and Awareness Programme at Pipal Tree, Bangalore.
Pradip Prabhu	An advocate, founder-member of Kashtakari Sanghatana, an organisation of poor, landless and marginal adivasi (tribal) people from north Maharashtra. Pradip has been working with tribal community organisations for over 30 years now and has been a Specialist Member on tribal and land related issues in several official committees set up by the Planning Commission and other institutions. He is also National Convenor, Campaign for Survival and Dignity and Chairperson for the committee on convergence in MGNREGS.
Prashant Olalekar	Founder of Interplay India. A creative spiritual leader and faculty member at the department of Inter-religious Studies, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Former Director of Pasayadaan Holistic Spirituality Centre, Vasai-India.
Sanjeev Kulkarni	A farmer, medical practitioner and educator from Dharward, Karnataka. Co-founder of the Baala Balaga School, an equal opportunity school.
Siddhartha	A 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.
Simone Kunegel	Member of the Dialogues in Humanity international network.
Srividya Srinivasan	Writer and poet. CEO of Rasters Media Integrated, a communication firm based in Bangalore working with large multinationals, medium sized companies, startups and NGOs
Veena G. Pai	PME Coordinator at Pipal Tree, Bangalore. A software engineer turned into an organic farming enthusiast. Worked earlier with farming community members on conserving agro biodiversity, providing market linkage for farmer produce and promoting organic farming.

ORGANISING TEAM

Siddhartha 9620661111	Shabin Paul 9538226654	Oamjie John 9743053615	Veena G. Pai 9945067836	Anthony Raj 9740976744	Rajesh 9742326970	Mahanthesh 988053652	Savitha M. 9742720388	Devaraj V. 9886788639
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