

## Founder's Day Celebration 2026 (Bay Area AANA)

It is that time of the year when in early spring the IISc central office is bathed in a rainbow of blossoms; time when as students, rushing between hostel, lecture halls and labs, glance perfunctorily at the imposing statue of the visionary that had enabled our education within the hallowed walls of the Indian Institute of Science - Jamsetji Nuesserwanji Tata. After graduating from IISc many of us stepped into the professional world of one of the most competitive professional arena - the Bay Area. Once again in the spirit of reviving and renewing our educational roots, some of the alumni created the IISc AANA chapter here. In the past years we have gathered to celebrate the Founder's Day with joy - meeting and recollecting our memory of IISc with our batch mates, juniors and seniors and sometimes, when we are fortunate, even with our professors.

This year on the 28th of March 2026, we gathered once again with family and friends in the pristine and well maintained property of Elliston Vineyard. True to tradition, included in the agenda were some technical talks, panel discussions along side the exploration of art and culture.

After having had a delicious breakfast, the technical talks began. The first Technical Talk was delivered by Dr Om Nalamasu; he used the parameter of energy consumption to highlight the pace of progression of the semiconductor industry over the years. Having accepted the fact that semiconductors have and will continue to pervade all aspects of human life, the talk highlighted the use of semiconductor technology in problem areas that were open for innovation. With a futuristic view the talk provided the challenges faced by next generation technologies such as quantum computing and optical glasses. Within the semiconductor space the challenges highlighted wherein the area of better battery technology, packaging and doping control.

The second Technical talk was by Mrs Anamika Mishra. Her talk centered around avenues where Indian Technology and innovation could leverage the expertise available within the Indian diaspora in the US. Possibilities of individual contribution opportunities as well as collaborative work in business and education were highlighted during the talk.

The third session was a Panel discussion on AI lead by Mr Prabhakar Sundarajan. Professor Ramchellapa started-off the panelists describing his work on Medical Data curating from disparate geographies and disparate medical scenarios so as to produce trusted data as input for the AI models. Mr Srivatsan highlighted the need for data bridging in existing vertical applications in-order to derive maximum benefit from horizontal AI models. Mr Harsh spoke about the constraints of delivering asymptotic AI capabilities with strapped energy and connectivity

capabilities. Mr Anuj Jain described the need for infusing Digital Marketing tools with AI capabilities and how this action has shrunk the turn around time in the progress of Digital Marketing use cases. Mr Parth Patil described the progression of coding capabilities of AI models from the time of code snippet generation to the coding of complete application.

The first post-lunch(very delicious at that!) session was delivered by a health and wellness company Ayurway. Their presentation presented their offerings that included Supplements, healthy life-style sessions as well as a Virtual Reality based Mind - Body healing.

The session that followed was delivered by Dr Jagjit Nanda . His talk centered around a methodology developed the Stanford School of Sustainability that uses a cyclic process to harness continuously, the power of scientific discovery , associated technical development and relevant market solutions. The talk used battery technology as a use case.

The last session was a Panel Discussion that centered around promoting partnerships between India and the US in the area of Education and Research . The session also included senior executives from Ericsson, San Disk and SiMa who described their on-going collaborative work and achievements in their individual sectors.

Running in parallel were art, yoga and origami sessions., These were much enjoyed by all who participated. Culminating the entire day was a very well choreographed presentation of Ramayana in the Bharat Natyam dance style. The day ended by celebrating Prof Mohan Sangenini's birthday with a traditional cake cutting alongside hot samosas and pakoras. Thanks to Usha and all those who helped in making the day a grand success.