



DA meet to chalk out action plan for PanIIT 2008 scheduled for March 14

The PanIIT movement was started four years ago by visionaries such as N.R. Narayana Murthy of Infosys and Rajat Gupta, former Managing Director of McKinsey & Co, to create a common action platform for all IITians. The aim was to use the collective skills of all IITians as an enabling tool for a better India. Towards this end, a think tank of Distinguished Alumni (DA) chosen by individual IITs was created to brainstorm and channel the thought processes for the group. Today, there are about 600 DA and DSAs (Distinguished Service Awardees) chosen by the seven IITs through their internal processes.

The DA meet once or twice a year, just ahead of the PanIIT meet -- held alternately in India and the US -- to decide a course of action. Thus, the DA came together to draw a road map for these events just before the PanIIT Mumbai event in 2006 and the US event in 2007.

The next PanIIT meet is to be held in December 2008 in Chennai, but, as the PanIIT board Chairman Ashank Desai pointed out in a board meeting, the gap between the DA meets would be too big. After some deliberations, the board decided to schedule an intervening meet on Friday, March 14, 2008. Though the DA meet is customarily held at the same location as the main event, the board wanted to hold it away from the four metros this time. Hyderabad was chosen as the venue because of its overall suitability, especially its excellent connectivity.

The DA event is being administered by two PanIIT India board members PS Ramnathan and Sanjiv Kerkar, who can be reached at ananjoti@gmail.com

Between 125 and 150 DA from India and a few foreign countries are expected to attend the mid-term meet. Four major areas of concern will be taken up for discussion, apart from a progress report on the projects that are being created and supervised by PanIIT. The meet will resonate with the PanIIT-2008 theme of 'Inspire-Innovate-Transform'.

Going by the six PanIIT 2008 tracks (see box), three sub-topics have been framed:

- Tackling the Urban Infrastructure Challenge (based on track 4)
- Gearing up for 15 new IITs by 2012 (based on track 5)
- Shaping India's Innovation Eco-system (based on track 6)

Three work groups of eight to ten DAs who have expertise on these subjects, and knowledge partners for each sub-topic will be formed. The work groups will collaborate on inputs, ideas and possible contributions and also come out with a solution framework that will be developed in due course.

During the DA meet, there will be brainstorming on the ideas, and the output integrated with the task at hand. Action groups will be formed to carry forward the proposals. The status of the proposals can be presented by the action groups during the PanIIT 2008 event.

The DA meet therefore will act as a precursor to PanIIT events, serving as a guiding light for all the paths that the movement seeks to move on.



Topics of the PanIIT-2008 Tracks:

1. **Research and Technology** Initiatives in Nation-building
2. Excellence in **Government**
3. Vision and Leadership in **Social Entrepreneurship**
4. Challenges and Opportunities in India's **Infrastructure**
5. Enhancing Quality and Accessibility in **Education**
6. **Innovate** or Stagnate: India's Road Ahead

Suggested Agenda for the DA Event:

- Event Opening / Introduction
- Presentation by the Three Work Groups (45 m each): 2 h 15 m
- Break-out Group Brainstorming on the Three Topics: 1 h 30 m
- Presentation by Break-out Groups (30 m each): 1 h 30 m
- Tête-à-tête with the Chief Guest (CM?): 45 m
- Press Conference: 45 m
- Event Closing: 15 m

Total: 7 h