



Department of Applied Sciences

GUEST TALK REPORT

Critical Thinking

09 September 2026 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Auditorium

Guest Talk

Critical thinking

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Dhiraj A Rao
Managing Director,
AANS Technologies Bangalore.

Faculty Coordinators

Dr. Poornima G S Dr. Bhavya p	Dr. Anusuya Devi V S HoD- Applied Sciences	Dr. R J Anandhi Vice Principal – Academics	Dr. Manjunatha Principal, NHCE
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Organised by
Department of Applied Sciences

Speaker: Dhiraj A Rao
AANS Technologies Bangalore

1. Introduction

The Department of Applied Sciences, New Horizon College of Engineering, organized a guest talk on “Critical Thinking” for the first-year engineering students on 9 September 2026. The session was conducted from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the college auditorium. The session was delivered by Mr. Dhiraj A Rao, Managing Director, AANS Technologies, Bengaluru.

The session aimed to introduce students to the importance of critical thinking, creative thinking and the ability to approach situations from different perspectives. Rather than being a conventional lecture, the session was conducted in an interactive and engaging manner using relatable examples from everyday life and popular media.

Speaker and Faculty Coordinators

Resource Person: Dhiraj A Rao, AANS Technologies Bangalore

Faculty Coordinators: Dr. Poornima G S and Dr. Bhavya P.

Academic / Institutional Coordination: Dr. Anusuya Devi V S, HoD – Applied Sciences; Dr. R J Anandhi, Vice Principal – Academics; Dr. Manjunatha, Principal – NHCE.

Session Overview

Mr. Dhiraj A Rao began the session by engaging the students with a series of thought-provoking and out-of-the-box questions. Instead of directly providing answers, he encouraged students to think independently and analyze the situations before arriving at a conclusion. The session was made particularly engaging through the use of reels, selected movie clips and advertisements. These examples demonstrated how a simple situation can have different interpretations depending on the way it is observed. They also showed how creativity, observation and a different perspective can lead to unexpected ideas and solutions. Through these examples, the speaker encouraged students to move beyond conventional patterns of thinking. The questions and visual examples made students realize that the most immediate or commonly accepted answer is not necessarily the only or the best answer. The speaker also emphasized the distinction between bookish knowledge and practical thinking. While academic knowledge provides an important foundation, students also need the ability to analyze situations, question existing ideas, connect information and apply their knowledge effectively. The interactive approach of the session kept the students actively involved throughout the talk. The combination of questions, visual content and real-life examples helped students understand that critical thinking is a skill that can be developed and applied in everyday situations, academics and future professional environments.

Learning Outcomes / Takeaways

The session provided students with several valuable insights:

- Question the obvious: The first answer that comes to mind may not always be the most appropriate one.

- Think from different perspectives: Looking at the same situation differently can lead to completely new possibilities.
- Challenge assumptions: Critical thinking requires us to examine what we already believe instead of accepting everything without questioning.
- Think beyond conventional methods: Creative solutions often emerge when we are willing to move away from traditional approaches.
- Apply knowledge practically: Learning becomes more meaningful when knowledge is used to analyze and solve real-world problems.
- Develop smarter approaches: Effective thinking can help save time, effort and resources by finding better ways of accomplishing tasks.
- Observe and analyze: Everyday content such as films, advertisements and social media can also provide examples of creativity, communication and alternative thinking.

Event Photographs



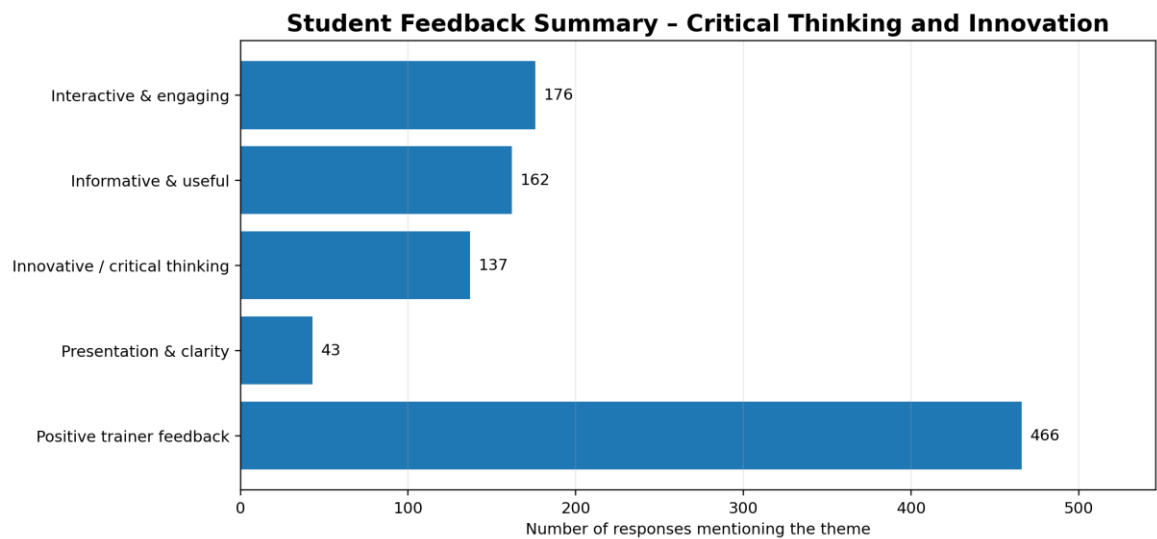
Conclusion

The guest talk on Critical Thinking was an informative and engaging learning experience for the first-year engineering students. Mr. Dhiraj A Rao effectively used interactive questions, reels, movie clips and advertisements to demonstrate the importance of looking beyond conventional ways of thinking. The session encouraged students to question, observe, analyze and think differently rather than simply accepting the most obvious solution. It provided an important perspective for students beginning their engineering journey and highlighted how critical thinking and creativity can contribute to better problem-solving and innovation. Overall, the session was successful in creating awareness among students about the importance of developing a flexible and independent approach to thinking, both in their academic journey and in their future professional lives.

Feedback Report

The feedback received from the students indicated that the session was informative, engaging, and relevant to their personal and academic development. Students appreciated the practical examples, interactive approach, and clarity of the resource person. The session helped them develop greater awareness of the importance of critical thinking, responsible decision-making, and practical problem-solving. Overall, the session was positively received and encouraged students to apply the concepts discussed in their academic, personal, and professional lives.

Based on 600 student feedback responses | 8-9 September 2026



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