



## Session on Lateral Thinking

Topic :	Session on Lateral Thinking for the students of MCA IV Semester
Date of event :	February 14 ,2012
Aim of the Event :	<p>Lateral Thinking trains people to think creatively, turn problems into opportunities, find alternative solutions &amp; dramatically increase the number of new and practical ideas using unconventional thinking techniques, normally untapped by our usual ways of thinking. This technique helps us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Constructively challenge the status quo to enable new ideas to surface</li><li>• Find and build on the concept behind an idea to create more ideas</li><li>• Solve problems in ways that don't initially come to mind</li><li>• Use alternatives to liberate and harness the creative energy of the organization</li><li>• Turn problems into opportunities</li><li>• Select the best alternate ideas and implement them</li></ul>
Event Report in brief:	<p>The session began with some interesting puzzles and students were asked to answer these puzzles. Some of the interesting puzzles put forward were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What will you find in the centre of Paris, which can't be found in London or Milan?</li><li>• A man went into a café, sat down and ordered a black cup of coffee and a Danish pastry. "Ah," said the waitress, "You must be a policeman". How did she know?</li><li>• What is as big as a hippopotamus, the same shape as a hippopotamus, but weighs a lot less than a hippopotamus?</li></ul>

After the puzzle time, students were familiarized with the concept of six thinking hats by Edward DeBono. They were told what the white, red, yellow, black, green and blue hat signify and how can it help with the projects in hand by nurturing a balanced view of situations.

The students were made aware that the problem is that we think wearing only one or two hats while a whole perspective should be analyzed wearing all the hats. We need to answer all these questions to reach to a good solution:

- What information do we have? What information do we need?
- How do you feel about this idea?
- What' good about this idea?
- What are the possible risks?
- How can we do it differently? What alternatives do we have?
- What sequence are we using?

*In conventional thinking, we go forward in a predictable, direct fashion. Lateral thinking involves coming at the problem from new directions - literally, from the side!*