



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

PUNE BRANCH OF WICASA OF ICAI

NEWSLETTER



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JANUARY 2026

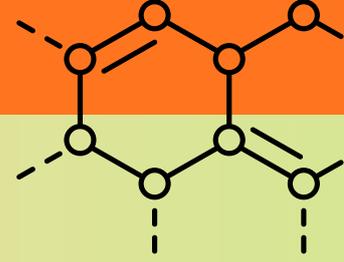


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CHAIRPERSON'S COMMUNIQUE

CA. Pradnya Bamb
Chairperson
Pune Branch of WICASA of ICAI



Dear Esteemed Members,

Warm greetings from WICASA!

As we enter the month of January and begin a new year, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all members for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead. January brings with it renewed energy, fresh goals, and the motivation to move forward with clarity and confidence in our professional journey.

Before stepping ahead, I would like to briefly reflect on the meaningful initiatives conducted during the month of December. WICASA successfully organized the “GST Ki Pathshala” session, which received an encouraging response from students and helped simplify practical aspects of GST through structured learning and expert insights. Additionally, the Industrial Visit to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) proved to be an enriching experience, offering participants valuable exposure to the functioning of capital markets and bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

Such initiatives reaffirm WICASA’s commitment to providing students with practical exposure, conceptual clarity, and industry-oriented learning, which are essential in shaping competent and confident Chartered Accountants.

As we move ahead in January, WICASA will continue to focus on technical sessions, professional skill development programs, and student-centric activities aimed at holistic growth. I encourage all members to actively participate, make the most of these opportunities, and remain consistent in their preparation and self-development efforts.

Let this new year be a phase of discipline, determination, and growth. Stay focused, stay positive, and remember that every effort you put in today contributes to your success tomorrow.

Wishing you a productive and inspiring January.

Warm regards,
CA Pradnya Bamb
Chairperson

JOINT SECRETARY'S COMMUNIQUE

Pranjal Deokar
Joint Secretary
Pune Branch of WICASA of ICAI



A Journey of Learning, Leadership, and Service with WICASA – Pune Branch
Dear Members,

Greetings from your student council!

My association with WICASA of the Pune Branch has been a deeply enriching journey of learning, leadership, and self-discovery. Serving as the Joint Secretary has given me the opportunity to engage closely with CA students and fellow managing committee members, allowing me to contribute meaningfully while growing both professionally and personally.

WICASA has provided a platform that extends learning beyond academics. Through various responsibilities and initiatives, I have been able to explore my leadership potential, strengthen my sense of accountability, and appreciate the true value of teamwork and service. This journey has helped shape me not only as a professional but also as an individual with greater confidence, empathy, and purpose.

A key academic highlight has been the online seminars on Goods and Services Tax (GST), which were designed to simplify complex concepts, address recent amendments, and provide practical compliance insights. The enthusiastic student participation reflected the sessions' success in enhancing conceptual clarity and exam preparedness.

WICASA Pune has also placed strong emphasis on experiential learning. The Industrial Visit to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) offered students first-hand exposure to the functioning of capital markets and trading systems, enabling them to connect classroom knowledge with real-world practices.

Equally impactful was the visit to an orphanage, which served as a powerful reminder of our social responsibilities. Interacting with the children and witnessing their resilience and positivity instilled values of compassion, humility, and gratitude—qualities essential for responsible and ethical professionals.

It has been my privilege to be part of these initiatives and to witness their positive impact on the student community. I am grateful to be associated with a committed and inspiring WICASA Pune team that has given me the opportunity to grow, introspect, and serve with purpose. I remain committed to contributing to the best of my abilities towards the holistic development of CA students.

Warm Regards,
Pranjal Deokar
Joint Secretary
WICASA – Pune Branch

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF MAKING AN EFFECTIVE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Introduction

PowerPoint presentations have become an essential tool in classrooms, offices, seminars, and even informal discussions. A well-made PPT doesn't just display information—it guides the audience, simplifies complex ideas, and strengthens the speaker's message. However, many presentations lose their impact due to cluttered slides, distracting designs, or unclear structure. Creating an effective PPT is not about adding more elements; it is about making intentional choices that help your audience focus and understand. The following are the do's and don'ts that have to be followed for a polished presentation which helps in clear communication.

Do's

➤ **Keep your slides clean and organised**

Use a layout that provides breathing space. White space is not wasted space—it makes your content easier to read and visually appealing.

➤ **Use visuals to support your message**

High-quality images, diagrams, charts, and icons help the audience grasp ideas faster. Visuals should simplify information, not complicate it.

➤ **Be consistent with design elements**

Stick to one template or theme throughout. Consistent colours, fonts, and alignment create a professional impression.

➤ **Choose readable fonts and appropriate sizes**

Clear fonts like Arial or Calibri work well. Headings should stand out, and body text should be large enough to be read from a distance.

➤ **Use bullet points wisely**

Break down information into short, crisp points. Bullet points help the audience follow along without overwhelming them.

➤ **Highlight key ideas**

Use bold text, subtle colour accents, or icons to draw attention to the most important points.

➤ **Practice your delivery**

A PPT is only as effective as the person presenting it. Rehearse your flow, check your timings, and be familiar with slide transitions.

➤ **Check technical compatibility**

Always test your presentation on the actual laptop, projector, or meeting platform you will be using. This helps avoid last-minute formatting issues.

Don'ts

➤ **Don't overcrowd slides with information**

Slides packed with long paragraphs or too many points force the audience to read instead of listen. Keep text minimal and supportive.

➤ **Don't use too many colours or fonts**

A combination of multiple styles can look messy. Limit yourself to two or three colours and one or two font styles.

➤ **Don't rely heavily on animations**

Excessive transitions, flying text, or spinning images can distract from your message. Use animations only when they add value.

➤ **Don't read directly from the slides**

Your slides are prompts, not a script. Maintain eye contact and speak naturally to keep your audience engaged.

➤ **Don't ignore alignment and spacing**

Uneven text, misaligned images and inconsistent spacing make a PPT look untidy. Neat structure reflects attention to detail.

➤ **Don't include low-quality images**

Blurry pictures reduce the professionalism of your presentation. Always use clear, high-resolution visuals.

Conclusion

An effective PowerPoint presentation combines clear content, simple design, and confident delivery. By keeping your slides organised, using visuals wisely, and focusing on key messages, you can create a presentation that is both engaging and informative. Ultimately, the goal of any PPT is to support your story, not replace it. When done thoughtfully, your presentation can leave a lasting and meaningful impact on your audience.



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CRITICAL THINKING AND OUT-OF-THE-BOX PRACTICES AT WORK

In the modern workplace, information is abundant, deadlines are constant, and decisions are expected faster than ever. In this environment, the role of employees is no longer limited to performing instructions; organizations now look for individuals who can analyse, question, and innovate. Two essential skills that support this expectation are critical thinking and out-of-the-box practices. These competencies are increasingly seen as core professional abilities, not optional soft skills.

Critical thinking is the ability to examine information objectively, identify assumptions, evaluate evidence, and draw logical conclusions. Out-of-the-box thinking involves viewing problems from unconventional perspectives and developing creative solutions. When combined, they drive better decision-making, eliminate inefficiency, and improve workplace results.

Understanding Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is not the same as being sceptical or argumentative. It is a structured and disciplined way of approaching problems. It includes:

- Asking relevant questions
- Recognizing patterns and anomalies
- Challenging assumptions
- Examining evidence before accepting claims
- Comparing alternatives before deciding

✓ Real-Life Example: Suspense Ledger in Audit

During a statutory audit, an article assistant noticed a growing suspense ledger despite a perfectly balanced bank reconciliation statement. Instead of accepting the reconciliation, the student asked, “If everything is reconciled, why is suspense increasing?”

Investigation revealed unposted entries that were repeatedly pushed to suspense to close monthly work faster. This issue, unnoticed for months, was detected simply because someone applied critical thinking. A routine task became an important control finding.

Barriers to Critical Thinking at Work

Even capable professionals fall into patterns that limit critical thinking. Common barriers include:

- * Thinking “this is how we always do it”
- * Acting on assumptions without looking at data
- * Relying too heavily on instructions from seniors
- * Working under time pressure without reflection

Overcoming these requires awareness and deliberate habits.

Practical Approaches to Improve Critical Thinking

1. Ask Better Questions

- Instead of asking “What is the process?”, ask “Why is this process necessary, and can we improve it?”

2. Separate Facts from Opinions

- Statements like “clients prefer early billing” should be examined with evidence, not belief.

3. Use Root-Cause Techniques

- Methods such as the Five Whys expose underlying issues instead of treating symptoms.

Example:

Invoice timing error → Why? → Miscommunication → Why? → No approval system → Solution: implement approval, not just correct the invoice.

4. Compare Multiple Solutions

- Critical thinkers explore more than one option before choosing a direction.
- Understanding Out-of-the-Box Thinking
- Out-of-the-box thinking goes beyond conventional logic. It focuses on fresh angles and untested ideas. It is not random creativity—rather, it is creative thinking with a purpose.

✓ Real-Life Example: Digital Audit Data Folder

- A CA firm faced difficulties collecting data on time from clients. One trainee suggested creating a Google Drive folder with standardized data requirements for GST, TDS, audit, and ROC filings. Clients were asked to upload documents before audit dates.
- The idea required no new software, but improved turnaround time drastically, showing how simple unconventional ideas can produce great results.

✓ Corporate Example: Domino’s Delivery Strategy

- Instead of competing on food quality alone, Domino’s asked a different question:

“How can we deliver pizza faster than anyone else?”

Their “30 minutes or free” approach was a creative shift that changed customer expectations and pushed the entire industry to innovate around delivery.

✓ Critical vs. Creative Thinking

- Critical thinking and out-of-the-box thinking often appear opposite, but they are complementary.
- Professionals need both. Creativity produces multiple ideas; critical thinking evaluates which one should be implemented.

✓ Techniques to Develop Out-of-the-Box Thinking

1. Mind Mapping

Visualizing ideas expands perspectives and encourages alternative paths.

2. Reverse Thinking

Instead of asking, “How do we get more customers?”, ask “Why do customers leave?”

✓ Real-World Case Studies

Case 1: Deadline Management in CA Firms

Instead of tracking every compliance date manually, a firm built a shared online deadline dashboard with automated reminders. This small idea eliminated missed deadlines and improved customer satisfaction without investing in expensive software.

How CA Students Can Apply These Skills

1. During Audit – Look beyond checklists; analyse unusual variations and ask questions.
2. In Office Filing – Digitize repetitive tasks like folder creation, standard emails.
3. In Reporting – Present problems along with solutions, not just observations.
4. In Presentations – Use storytelling, graphics, and examples to enhance communication.

✓ Instead of saying:

“Client is not sending bank statements.”

Say:

“Client is not sending bank statements. I suggest sending a standard reminder email and scheduling a fixed weekly call.”

That is critical thinking plus solution-oriented communication.

Conclusion

Critical thinking and out-of-the-box practices are not academic theories; they are practical career skills. A professional who develops the habit of analysing, experimenting, and innovating brings long-term value to any organization. These abilities help in solving problems at their root, eliminating inefficiencies, and recommending smarter ways of working.

In workplaces today, success belongs to those who do not limit themselves to past practices but proactively explore new possibilities with logic and creativity. Whether you are a student, an intern, or an experienced professional, these skills can transform simple tasks into opportunities for improvement and growth.



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DO'S AND DON'TS OF MAKING AN EFFECTIVE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

PowerPoint presentations have become an essential tool of communication in education, business, and professional life. From school seminars and college projects to corporate meetings and conferences, PPTs play a major role in delivering ideas effectively. However, many presentations fail to create an impact not because the content is weak, but because the presentation design and delivery are poor. An effective PowerPoint presentation helps the audience understand, remember, and engage with the topic clearly.

A good PPT is not about fancy animations or colourful slides. It is about clarity, simplicity, visual appeal, and proper delivery. This article discusses the important do's and don'ts of making an effective PowerPoint presentation along with examples and visual explanations.

WHAT MAKES A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION EFFECTIVE?

An effective PowerPoint presentation is one that supports the speaker and enhances the message. It should clearly communicate ideas, maintain a logical flow, and keep the audience engaged. It should be easy to read, visually balanced, and free from unnecessary distractions. The aim of a PPT is not to show everything the presenter knows, but to highlight only the most important points and guide the audience through the topic smoothly.

DO'S OF MAKING AN EFFECTIVE PPT

1. Keep Slides Simple and Clean

Simplicity is the key to a good presentation. Each slide should focus on only one main idea. Avoid overcrowding with too much text or too many images. White space should be used properly to make the slide look neat and readable.

2. Focus on Key Points Only

Slides should contain only keywords and short phrases. The detailed explanation must be given by the presenter verbally. This helps the audience to listen rather than only read.

Example: Instead of writing a long paragraph on "Cause of Pollution," use short points like:

- Vehicle emissions
- Industrial waste
- Deforestation

3. Use High-Quality Visuals

Images, icons, charts, and diagrams make presentations more interesting and easier to understand. Always use clear and relevant visuals that support your content.

4. Maintain Consistency in Design

Use the same font style, colour scheme, and layout throughout the presentation. This gives a professional appearance and improves readability.

5. Choose Readable Fonts

Simple fonts such as Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman should be used. Avoid decorative or stylish fonts. The font size should be large enough to read from the back of the room.

6. Use Proper Colour Contrast

There should be enough contrast between text and background. Dark text on a light background or light text on a dark background improves visibility and reduces eye strain.

7. Use Bullet Points and Short Phrases

Bullet points improve readability. Long sentences should be avoided. Each bullet should represent a single idea.

8. Present Data in Visual Form

Graphs and charts should be used instead of large tables of numbers. Visual data is easier to understand and remember.

9. Use Animations Sparingly

Animations should be simple and used only when needed to highlight important points. Too many animations distract the audience.

10. Practice the Presentation

Rehearsing improves confidence, helps manage time, and ensures smooth delivery. A well-prepared speaker always creates a better impact.

DON'TS OF MAKING AN EFFECTIVE PPT

1. Do Not Overload Slides With Text

Too much text makes slides boring and difficult to read. The audience may lose interest quickly.

2. Avoid Using Too Many Colours and Fonts

Using many colours and fonts makes the presentation look unprofessional and confusing.

3. Do Not Use Low-Quality or Irrelevant Images

Blurry and irrelevant images reduce the quality of the presentation and create a negative impression.

4. Do Not Read Directly From the Slides

Slides are only for reference. Reading directly makes the presentation dull and monotonous.

5. Avoid Distracting Backgrounds

Bright, patterned, or image-heavy backgrounds affect readability and should be avoided.

6. Do Not Overuse Animations and Sound Effects

Too many transitions and sounds look childish and distract the audience from the main message.

7. Do Not Put Too Much Information on One Slide

Each slide should contain a limited amount of content. It is better to use more slides than to overcrowd one.

8. Do Not Ignore Alignment and Spacing

Improper alignment makes slides look untidy and poorly designed.

9. Do Not Depend Entirely on the PPT

The presenter's understanding, confidence, and explanation are more important than the slides.

10. Avoid Last-Minute Preparation

Last-minute work often leads to spelling errors, wrong data, and poor slide design.

ROLE OF EXAMPLES, DIAGRAMS, AND SCREENSHOTS IN PPTs

Examples make concepts easy to understand and relatable. Diagrams simplify complex ideas. Screenshots help explain processes clearly, especially in technical presentations. Including these elements improves audience engagement and clarity. For instance, showing a screenshot of a software application is more effective than explaining it only through text.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR CREATING A STRONG PPT

- Follow the 6×6 rule (6 lines per slide, 6 words per line).
- Proofread all slides carefully.
- Use slide numbers.
- Use speaker notes instead of adding more text.
- Test the PPT before the final presentation.
- Use summary slides after major sections.
- Keep charts simple and clearly labelled.

CONCLUSION

An effective PowerPoint presentation is a combination of good design, clear content, and confident delivery. By following the essential do's such as simplicity, consistency, use of visuals, and regular practice, and by avoiding the common don'ts such as overcrowding slides, using too many colours, and reading directly from slides, anyone can create impactful presentations.

A well-made PPT not only improves communication but also builds confidence and leaves a lasting impression on the audience. With proper planning, practice, and attention to detail, the art of making effective PowerPoint presentations can be mastered by anyone.

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INTRODUCTION TO PRIVATE EQUITY & DUE DILIGENCE

Private equity is simply an investment in private companies or takeovers of public companies to take them private, with the goal of improving company value and profitability to sell for high return.

In finance private equity is an asset class consisting of equity securities in operating companies that are not publicly traded on stock exchanges. There are a wide array of types and styles of private equity has different connotations in different countries. Private equity is a part of the entire financial system of the country, and therefore it becomes essential to explain a little about financial system and the major sources of finance.

The phrase “private equity” only became widespread in the late 1980s following public interest in leveraged payout (“LBO”) fund activity, particularly in US. The private equity market dates back to the formation of groups in Europe such as Charhouses Development Capital in 1934 and in 3i (3i-original named the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation founded by UK clearing banks and the bank of England to meet the needs of smaller companies and address the shortage of long term capital available to them for development)in 1945 and, in the US, American Research and Development Corporation (“ARD”) IN 1946.

Development of Private Equity market in India

The private equity market is an important source of funds for start-up firms, private middle market firms, firms in financial distress, and public firms seeking buyout financing. According to ‘Indian Private Equity Report 2011’ by Bain & company supported by Indian private Equity and Venturer Capital Association (IVCA), PE & VC investment could potentially provide as much as between US \$ 40 billion and US \$50 billion in funding through 2014—four to five times their current levels by reaching 3 per cent of GDP, about the level that exists in US.

How does private equity perform as an asset class? This seemingly straightforward question proves difficult to answer, for four principal reasons.

- Private equity is an opaque asset class: Although a PE fund has duty to report its performance to its LPs, it has no obligation to disclose its performance to public. LPAs often explicitly bar LPs from sharing performance data they receive from PE fund
- Private equity largely invests in private assets: Not being traded in financial markets, private assets cannot be marked to market easily, and estimating their value before exit is difficult.
- Private equity invests in illiquid assets: Illiquidity exposes a PE fund to risk that there may be insufficient demand at an acceptable valuation when a portfolio company is ready to be exited
- Private equity has long investment horizons: As the j-curve illustrates, PE funds are usually cash flow negative for many years before they begin returning capital, and they typically generate capital gains only toward the end of their lives.

What is private equity due diligence?

Due diligence is a strategic and organized process PE firms utilize to identify risks, assess growth potential, and ensure cultural and strategic alignment prior to investing capital. The overall process includes a comprehensive review of financial, operational, legal & technological facts of the business, as well as the structure and performance of the management team and other key contributors. The due diligence process is carried out in stages, with an initial screening completed even before the letter of intent (LOI) is signed. Mid-and late-stage due diligence activities that include more in-depth analysis require direct access to sensitive business information, along with the requisite legal agreements to protect confidentiality and intellectual property (IP) rights.

Private equity firms are faced with a myriad of options as they build new partnerships and invest in future growth and success of portfolio organizations. Most private equity transactions involve acquiring a majority stake in a company with little or no public information available, so this discovery process provides the first and best opportunity to uncover risk factors and evaluate growth potential.

Unlike other investment types that only require an infusion of working capital, private equity transactions mark the beginning of long-term partnerships that allow organizations to leverage the expertise of PE firms as they chart their future course and identify opportunities for predictable growth. PE assets and resources must be deployed strategically to ensure the return on investment (ROI) is optimized.



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PLATFORM FOR CA STUDENTS TO SHOWCASE THEIR ARTWORK

CREATIVE COMMERCE
CORNER

SKETCHES. POETRY. PAINTINGS.

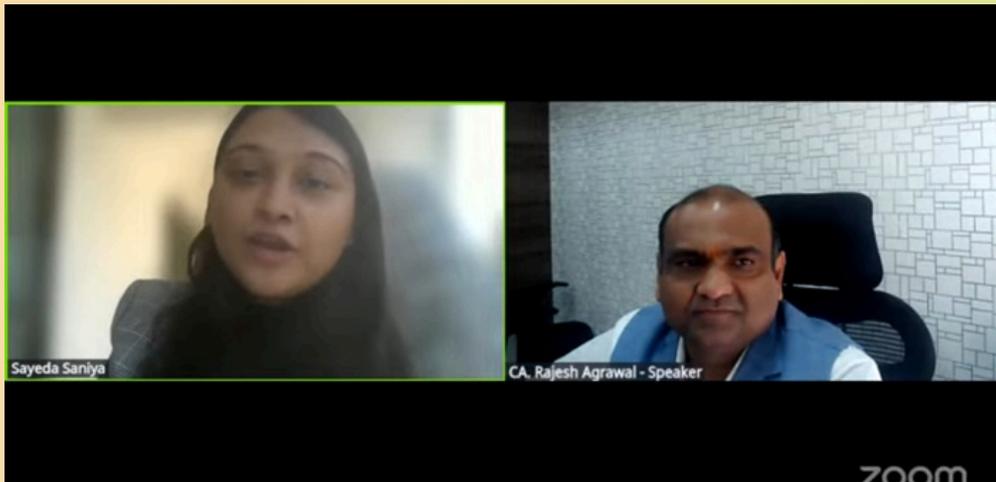
Drawings



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Glimpse of Past Events

GST KI PATHSHALA



An insightful session on Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) and GST Return Filing was conducted on 7th December to strengthen students' practical understanding of GST compliance. The session covered key provisions of RCM, applicability, common transactions, and their correct treatment in GST returns. Participants also gained clarity on return filing procedures, due dates, and practical challenges faced in real-life scenarios. The interactive discussion helped students enhance their conceptual clarity and compliance readiness.

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO NSE



An educational visit to the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) was successfully conducted on 29th December 2025.

The visit provided students with practical insights into the functioning of capital markets, trading mechanisms, and clearing & settlement processes.

Participants gained a deeper understanding of stock market operations through expert interactions and live demonstrations.

Overall, it was an enriching and informative experience that bridged the gap between theory and real-world application.

**"TALK TO YOURSELF ONCE IN A DAY,
OTHERWISE YOU MAY MISS MEETING
AN INTELLIGENT PERSON IN THIS
WORLD."**

- Swami Vivekananda

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