

Session Report: Introduction to AI

Date : 03-10-2026

🔗 Summary

A 90-minute introductory session on Artificial Intelligence was held for students of Grades 8 and 9.

What was covered

Interaction with students. The session opened by asking students what they already believe about AI and where they use it. Their answers set the direction for the rest of the discussion, and students were encouraged to question and disagree at every stage.

What AI is. Students were introduced to AI as systems that learn patterns from examples, and to the difference between this and ordinary automation. Common beliefs were examined, such as "AI is always right" and "AI knows everything".

Safe and responsible use. Students discussed verifying what AI tells them, protecting personal information, being honest about AI help in their work, not creating fake content about real people, and thinking for themselves before asking a tool. Online safety habits and where to report cyber crime (helpline 1930, [cybercrime.gov.in](https://www.cybercrime.gov.in)) were shared.

Why history and research matter. The story of AI was told through the people who built it, from Alan Turing onward, including the long periods when the field was out of favour. The point made was that today's tools come from decades of patient research by curious people, and that maths and science are the foundation for understanding and improving them.

Finding, writing and solving real problems. Students were shown how to notice a problem in their own surroundings, write it down clearly (who is affected, what goes wrong, where, and why it matters), and think about what information and tools would be needed to solve it, and how to test whether a solution really works.

Observations

- Students were attentive and took part actively throughout the 90 minutes.
- They were receptive to the ideas on safe and responsible use, and related them readily to their own experience online.
- The stories of researchers and the history of the field held their interest, and several students showed curiosity about how they could pursue such work themselves.

Next steps

- Hands-on lab sessions to follow, building on the problems students identified.