

**REPORT OF THE CAREER COUNSELLING AND
GUIDANCE SESSION BY MR. JOJO MATHEW**

on

***How to Crack Competitive Exams
After Graduation***

07 March 2024



ORGANISED BY

**Counselling and Placement Cell, St. Edmund's College,
Shillong**

In collaboration with

**Alternative Learning Systems (ALS), New Delhi, and Moreau
Institute of Integral Training (MIIT), Shillong**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Counselling and Placement Cell of St. Edmund's College, Shillong, would like to thank **Mr. Jojo Mathew**, Founder and Executive Director of ALS and the CEO of ALS-IAS, for delivering an insightful talk on attempting the competitive exams. The Cell also thanks **Fr. Roy Paul Thalackan**, CSC, Graduated Administrator of the Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT), Shillong, for his effort to improve access to quality coaching for the students of Meghalaya.

Br. (Dr.) Simon Coelho, Principal I/C., Rector and Secretary, Governing Body and **Mr. Monotosh Chakravarty**, Vice Principal (Administration) showed their support through sharp observations on skilling local youth and preparing them for national and state competitive exams.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. **Category of the event:** Career Counselling and Guidance Session
- b. **Topic of the session:** How to Crack Competitive Exams after Graduation
- c. **Total Contact Hours:** 2 (1500 – 1700 hours)
- d. **Date of the event:** 07 March 2024
- e. **Name and designation of the speaker:** Mr. Jojo Mathew, Founder Executive Director of ALS and the CEO, ALS-IAS
- f. **Conclusion of the course:** 23 March 2023
- g. **Target audience:** Final-year students and graduates of St. Edmund’s College, Shillong
- h. **Total number of students registered:** 51
- i. **Registration Fees:** None
- j. **Registration link:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMMZ3fiq-FK_vOE0ee0MZJ9HXuFtKG178LA3mBFawhMouC0A/viewform?usp=sf_link
- k. **Session organisers:**
 - i. Counselling and Placement Cell, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong;
 - ii. Alternative Learning Systems (ALS), New Delhi; and,
 - iii. Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT), Shillong
- l. **Composition of visiting team:**
 - i. Mr. Jojo Mathew, Founder Executive Director of ALS and the CEO, ALS-IAS
 - ii. Fr. Roy Paul Thalackan, CSC, Graduated Administrator of the Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT)
 - iii. Prateek Bhattacharya, Business Head, ALS Delhi
 - iv. Ria Lamsal, Associate Faculty, ALS Shillong
 - v. Thom Vaiphe, Centre Manager, ALS Shillong

PROFILE OF THE SPEAKER



Jojo Mathew

Founder Executive Director of ALS and the CEO, ALS-IAS

Hailing from Kerala, Jojo Mathew embarked on his educational journey at Nirmala High School/College, Muvattupuzha, where he laid the foundation of his academic pursuits. His quest for knowledge led him to graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the esteemed NIT Durgapur (formerly REC Durgapur) in the year 1992.

His journey in preparing for the Civil Services Exam mirrors that of a dedicated student who, despite undergoing the Main Exam thrice and participating in the Interview twice, did not secure a spot on the final list. Fueled by this experience, he redirected his path towards mentoring civil services hopefuls since 1998.

Jojo Mathew's expertise spans a multitude of General Studies modules, encompassing Science and technology, Indian Politics and constitution, International and bilateral Relations, General Geography, Current Affairs, and more. His exceptional talent lies in comprehending, analyzing, and forging connections between diverse subjects, thus offering a holistic perspective that elevates candidates' performance.

Jojo Mathew's commitment extends to his innovative approach to crafting tailored preparation strategies for aspiring candidates.

He possesses an exceptional talent for coaching candidates in preparation for the interview test of the civil services examination.

For the past 25 years, Jojo Mathew has excelled as an educator, mentor, and coach. He is driven by a singular dream: to empower every student with the ambition to become a civil servant, regardless of their caste, creed, or religion.

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Serial No.	Name	E-mail Address	Department
1	Hari Priya Gogoi	haripriya121203@gmail.com	Economics
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4	Jethro Jarvis Roy Jyrwa	jethrojyrwaroy@gmail.com	Computer Applications
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41	Anisha Nongrum	anishanongrum2001@gmail.com	Physics
42	Daniel Marwein	denelwein@gmail.com	Physics
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49	Dikshita Das	dasdikshita4@gmail.com	Political science
50	Heimonlang	heimonlangbiam@gmail.com	Political science
51	Kitborlang Dkhar	tyrondkhar19@gmail.com	Social work (BSW)

Figure 1 (below) is a graphical representation of the list of registered participants:

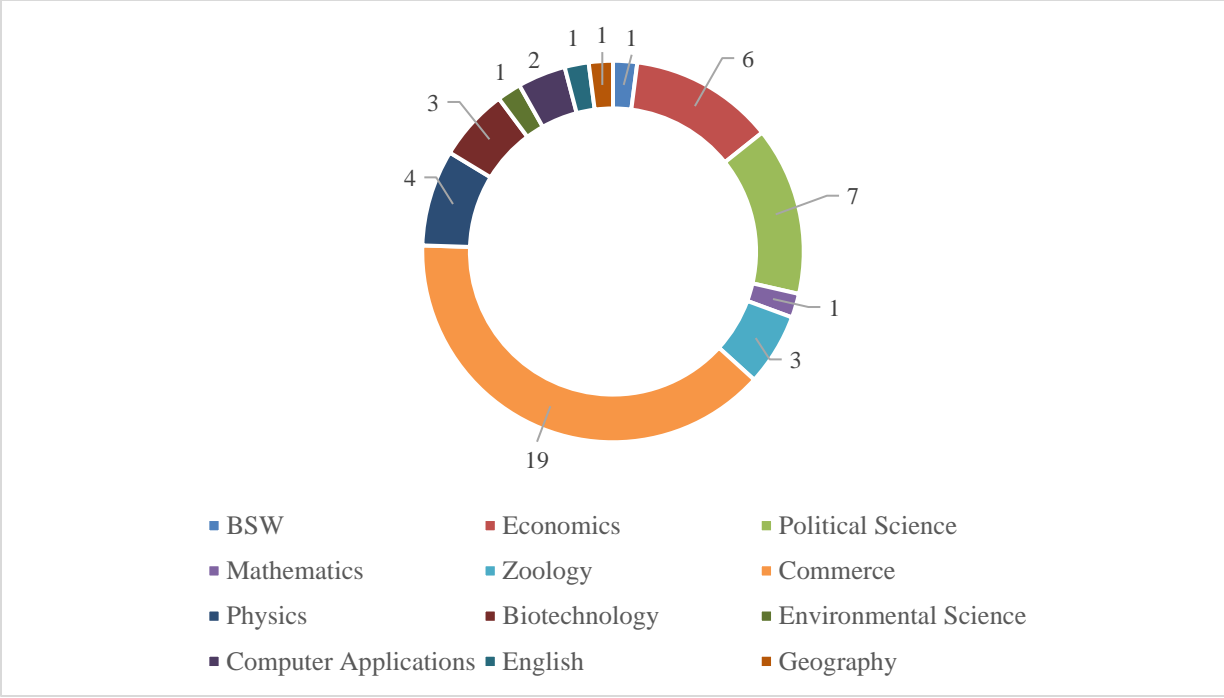


Figure 1: Subject-wise breakup of participants

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

Alternative Learning Systems Private Limited (ALS) is one of India's most recognized IAS coaching institutes from Delhi with over thirty years of legacy. It claims that it has guided the career graphs of over 50,000 IAS aspirants, with more than 3400 selections in the Union Public Service Commission's (UPSC) Civil Services Examination (CSE), including more than 100 selections from the northeast.

ALS has recently tied up with the Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT) in Shillong to bring the best IAS mentors from Delhi to Shillong for face-to-face coaching to ensure quality training for aspirants of Meghalaya who are unable to travel to Delhi with the vision to provide results in UPSC CSE from Meghalaya in the coming years. The speaker, Mr. Jojo Mathew was requested to share his experience with the candidates who have come to him for training from all parts of India over the last 25 years. Moreover, he was asked to provide insights into the key strategy to prepare for competitive exams after graduation.

The session began with a welcome address by the Principal (I/C) of St. Edmund's, Br. (Dr.) Simon Coelho. He enlightened the students on the proximity of the Moreau Institute (where the coaching would take place) to the college. Decreased travel time to the Moreau Institute would enable students to attend UPSC CSE coaching after their regular college classes concluded. He highlighted that this proximity made St. Edmund's an ideal ground for targeting interested students.

Br. Coelho's address was followed by one by Mr. Monotosh Chakravarty, Vice Principal (Administration). His address comprised a brief history of successful candidates from the college in various competitive exams. However, he noted that these candidates were a tiny fraction of the aspirants who appeared for these exams. The ALS-MIIT collaboration could expose aspirants to refining their learning strategies.

Fr. Roy Paul Thalackan, CSC, the Graduated Administrator of the Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT) reiterated Mr. Chakravarty's assessment and added that the newly introduced "face-to-face" (physical) segment would improve focus and attention, and thereby, the performance of the aspirants

5.1 Summary of Mr. Jojo Mathew's interaction with the students of St. Edmund's College

Mr. Mathew's one-and-a-half-hour talk to the students began with outlining the reason behind his visit to Shillong. The ALS-MIIT collaboration's newest feature is the introduction of regular "face-to-face" classes by experts from Delhi. This would encourage aspirants to perform better after consultations with the experts, who, in turn, would suggest tailor-made strategies for success. Mr. Mathew's suggestions to the students are outlined in the following sections.

5.1.1 Restrict knowledge resources:

Aspirants should refer to the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) textbooks (from Standards VI-XII) and subscribe to a national newspaper. The sheer volume of reference materials available in the market is mindboggling. Moreover, these may contain unverified and incorrect information which may confuse aspirants. A daily perusal of newspapers is essential for keeping track of current affairs. Gradually, aspirants will understand which articles are unessential to their objective and, thereby, reduce the aggregate time spent scanning the newspaper.

Furthermore, attempting mock tests and mock interviews would test the rigour of an aspirant's knowledge.

5.1.2 Coaching is only required for one year:

UPSC/IAS coaching is designed to rationalise aspirants' study strategies by guiding them on deducing and understanding various concepts and the significance and impact of events. Other academic and professional pursuits could follow a dedicated focus on exam preparations for one year. Learning outcomes from coaching are absorbed rather quickly by serious aspirants and could be accommodated into schedules that fit other pursuits.

5.1.3 Knowledge gained during UPSC CSE preparations is adaptable to other competitive exams:

As the majority of the central and state competitive exams follow the pattern set by the UPSC CSE, aspirants could also attempt the latter, if they do not find success with the former.

5.2 Concluding proceedings:

Mr Jojo Mathew concluded his talk by informing students that ALS is considering a partial fee reduction (for meritorious students) and hoped to see a more diverse mix of aspirants in the future.

In appreciation of Mr. Mathew's talk, Mr. Barry Rymbai, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, presented him with a memento.

Dr. Amplify Sawkmie, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Member of the Counselling and Placement Cell, delivered the Vote of Thanks and closed the proceedings.

The following section highlights the feedback gleaned from the students who attended the session.

FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENTS

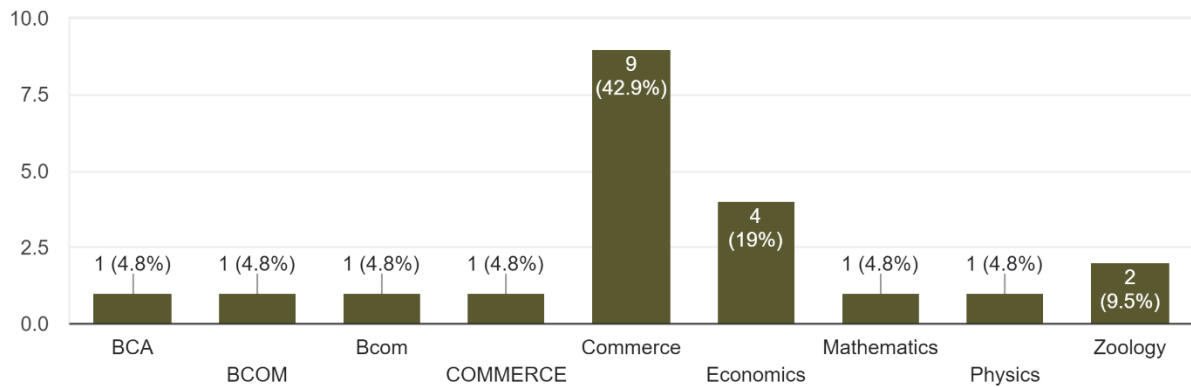
A Google Form was designed to assess feedback from the students. The link (URL) of this form is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKc_c74LWErv4efLU4T5LHjphUQgPxrg3_XB2s4iyaotLT9g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Out of the 51 students who registered for this session, only 21 responded to the Counselling and Placement Cell's request for feedback. The two figures below show the students' department- and semester-wise breakdown.

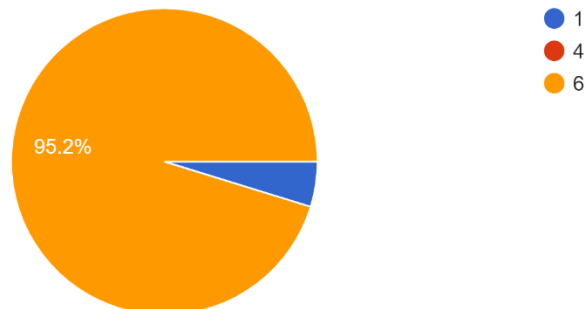
Department

21 responses



Semester

21 responses



The feedback is listed below.¹

What was the best feature of this event?

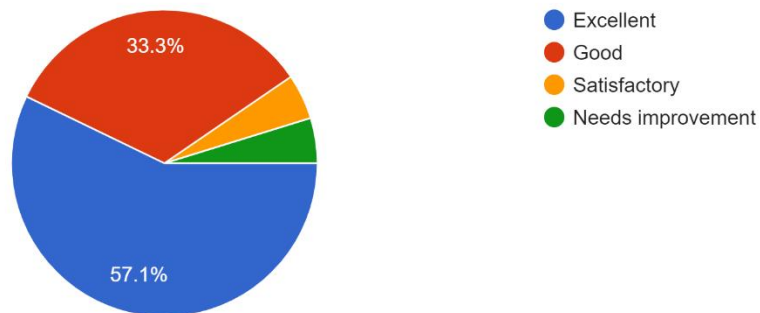
- The minute details of the program were really very helpful
- The everyday strategy that the aspirants can follow
- Knowing about these competitive exams that are held every year in our country and how to manage time while preparing for such exams while also focusing on the post-graduate entrance exams
- It was an interactive session

Do you have any suggestions to improve future events?

- The authorities can create a real-life situation where the students are interviewed and examined
- Earlier time maybe as after classes we are very exhausted
- We should try to include students from all semesters

How would you recommend this event to others?

21 responses



¹The most significant suggestions are included here.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There were no financial implications for the Placement and Counselling Cell.

APPENDICES

The following materials were used as supplementary material to enhance the merit of this course:

8.1 Appendix A (Flyer)


The flyer features a gradient background from light pink at the top to dark blue at the bottom. At the top left, there are logos for ALS (a red square with white text), IAS TRAINING (with 'REDEFINING' in a small red circle above 'IAS'), and 'in association with' next to a circular logo with a green and orange design. To the right is the crest of St Edmund's College, Shillong. Below the logos, text reads: 'India's premium IAS Coaching Institute | 3400+ selections in UPSC till date | 4 Times All India Rank 1 | 100+ UPSC Results from North East'. The main title 'CAREER COUNSELLING & GUIDANCE SESSION' is in large red letters, with 'INVITATION' above it and 'How to Crack Competitive Exams after Graduation' below it. The guest speaker is Mr Jojo Mathew, shown in a circular portrait. Below his name is a bio: 'India's Best IAS Mentor with more than 25+ years experience of training more than 50000+ IAS Aspirants from India'. A white rounded rectangle contains the text 'WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Final year students & Graduates' and a table with event details. At the bottom, the helpline number 9402102243 is displayed with a red phone icon. The footer includes social media icons and the website www.alsedunation.com.

ALS | **REDEFINING IAS TRAINING** | in association with

India's premium IAS Coaching Institute | 3400+ selections in UPSC till date |
4 Times All India Rank 1 | 100+ UPSC Results from North East

INVITATION
**CAREER COUNSELLING &
GUIDANCE SESSION**
How to Crack Competitive Exams after Graduation


GUEST SPEAKER





Mr Jojo Mathew
*India's Best IAS Mentor with more than 25+ years experience of
training more than 50000+ IAS Aspirants from India*

WHO SHOULD ATTEND :
Final year students & Graduates

DATE	TIME	VENUE
7 MARCH	03:00 PM	St Edmund's College Shillong

HELPLINE NUMBER  **9402102243**

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8.2 Appendix B (Geo-tagged photographs of the session taken during the session)



Image 1: Br. (Dr.) Simon Coelho, Principal (I/C) addressing the audience



Image 2: Mr. Monotosh Chakravarty, Vice Principal (Administration) delivers the welcome address as Mr. Goutam Deb, Head, Placement and Counselling Cell (in striped sweater), looks on.



Image 3: Mr. Barry Rymbai, Assistant Professor, Department of History, presents a memento to Mr. Jojo Mathew.



Image 4: Students and faculty attending Mr. Jojo Mathew's session.