

Event Report: Career Guidance and Counselling Program 2025

Date: 12th April 2025

Venue: Loreto College Concert Hall

The Career Counselling Session that took place on 12th April 2025 at the Loreto College Auditorium.

The event was a collaborative effort by the AICUF units of Loreto College and St. Xavier's College, and the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), aimed to provide valuable insights and inspiration to young individuals as they navigate their future career paths.

The initial program was envisioned as a series of addresses and interactive sessions featuring distinguished guests and professionals from diverse fields. The event commenced with a warm welcome by the hosts, Eliza and Hazel, followed by the gracious presence of the Chief Guest, His Grace, Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of the Calcutta Archdiocese, and the Guest of Honour, Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament. Dignitaries and representatives from religious and academic institutions were also present.

The program began with a prayer, followed by the symbolic Lighting of the Lamp ceremony, accompanied by the hymn "Light of the World." A Felicitation Ceremony then took place, where tokens of appreciation were presented to the esteemed guests and resource persons, including: Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, Mr. Derek O'Brien, Sr. Powlin, Superior of Loreto Sisters' Community, Fr. Arockia Swamy, State Advisor of AICUF, Fr. Sandeep Michael Biswas, Youth Director, ICYM Calcutta, Dr. Sr. A. Nirmala, Teacher-in-Charge, Loreto College.

The Inaugural Addresses by Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, who emphasized vocation, values, and faith, and Mr. Derek O'Brien, who shared personal anecdotes on decision-making, leadership, and perseverance, deeply resonated with the audience. Mr. Derek O'Brien further offered internship opportunities to the young attendees. He also announced a special career counselling session at his office, especially for the third-year student.

The program then transitioned into four informative and interactive sessions led by eminent professionals:

Mr. Edward Eccleston – A veteran in the Aviation Industry, with over two decades of experience. He shared insights into the expanding opportunities in aviation and hospitality, the skills required, and the global nature of the field.

Mrs. Christabel Royan – Director of the Nordic Centre in India, she discussed pathways to international education, especially in the Nordic countries, and provided guidance on scholarships, applications, and adapting to new cultures.

Group Captain Joseph Paul Nath (Retd.) – A distinguished veteran of the Indian Air Force, he spoke on careers in defence, the honour of serving the nation, and the qualities needed to succeed in military services.

Lt. Col. Anant Sinha – Currently serving as the Administrator of the Asiatic Society, he offered a unique perspective on bridging the defence and civil sectors, sharing his experiences of leadership and heritage preservation.

Law Enforcement and Public Leadership: IPS Officer Shri V. Solomon Nesakumar, Additional Commissioner of Kolkata Police, provided valuable perspectives on community policing and crime prevention.

Each speaker not only highlighted opportunities in their respective fields but also motivated students to pursue careers aligned with their passions and principles.

Break and Interaction:

Following the first half of the program, a short refreshment break was announced, allowing students and attendees to interact with the speakers, reflect on the sessions, and network with one another.

Due to time constraints, the format of the career guidance segment was adapted into a dynamic Panel Discussion, allowing all invited speakers to share their expertise within a consolidated timeframe. The panel discussion featured a diverse group of accomplished individuals who shared their experiences and guidance across various professional domains:

Entrepreneurship and Baking: Ms. Alisha Alexander from Saldanha Bakery shared her inspiring journey as a fourth-generation baker and entrepreneur.

Technology and Innovation: Mr. Craig Gomes, Founder & CEO of Pixelvise and Lit Hood, offered crucial insights into the rapidly evolving fields of IT, Artificial Intelligence, and digital transformation.

Healthcare and Community Well-being: Dr. Sipra Samanta Goswami (U.S. Diagnostic Center & IIMSAR, Haldia) and Dr. Vivek Peter Goswami (U.S. Diagnostic Center) addressed vital aspects of healthcare, women's upliftment, and the pursuit of medical excellence.

Finance and Social Responsibility: Ms. Joanne D'Souza, Branch Manager of SBI in Purba Medinipur, discussed the important integration of corporate excellence with meaningful community service.

Global Education and Mentorship: Ms. Arundhati Ghosh, a seasoned mentor in global education, provided invaluable guidance to students interested in pursuing international academic opportunities.

The Vote of Thanks acknowledged the collective efforts of the organizing institutions (AICUF Loreto College and St. Xavier's College Units, and ICYM), the invaluable contributions of all the speakers and dignitaries, and the dedicated support of faculty coordinators, enthusiastic volunteers, and generous sponsors.

Sponsors:

The success of the event was made possible through the generous support of:

Mr. Derek O'Brien

Bluesky Educational Services Pvt Ltd

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Despite the necessary adjustment to a panel discussion format, the Career Counselling Session 2025 proved to be a highly successful and impactful event. It provided a vital platform for students to gain clarity, gather information, and draw inspiration from accomplished professionals across a spectrum of fields. The collaborative spirit of the organizing bodies, the insightful contributions of the speakers, and the enthusiastic participation of the attendees collectively contributed to an enriching experience that will undoubtedly empower students as they embark on their future career journeys.

