



# DEGREE WITH IAS

**A Four Year Integrated Pathway to the Civil Services**

**Course Plan & Programme Handbook**





## Results & **12** Years of Trust

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☆ Best Results in Kerala

# A Letter to the Student & Parent

Dear Aspirant, Dear Parent,

The Civil Services Examination covers a wide syllabus and often aspirants struggle to complete it in a single year. Hence the number of aspirants cracking civil service in the first attempt is low. Civil service is won quietly, over years, through habit, depth, and clarity of thought.

Degree with IAS is built the core idea of starting preparation early. It treats your three or four undergraduate years not as a waiting room before “real” preparation, but as the most valuable preparation window you will ever have. While your peers will one day try to cram multiple subjects into twelve months, you will walk into the exam hall having lived with these subjects for years — calmly, confidently, and as an informed citizen rather than an anxious aspirant.

This handbook explains exactly how that journey unfolds. It outlines what you will study in each year, why it is sequenced the way it is, how it overlaps with your degree, and what you and your family can expect from us as your mentors.

We invite you to read it carefully. The path ahead is long, but it is also designed, paced, and supported. You will not walk it alone.

With warm regards,

**Fortune IAS Team**

<b>Programme</b>	Degree with IAS — Integrated Civil Services Foundation
<b>Duration</b>	4 Years (Aligned with Degree)
<b>Eligibility</b>	Students entering Year 1 or Year 2 of any Bachelor's Degree
<b>Mode</b>	Hybrid — Two 3-hour live classes weekly + recorded revision + reading plan + group discussion

# Mentored by the **Best in the Country**

## How do you really crack the IAS exam?

Who understands the Civil Services Examination better than the person who conducted it for six years?



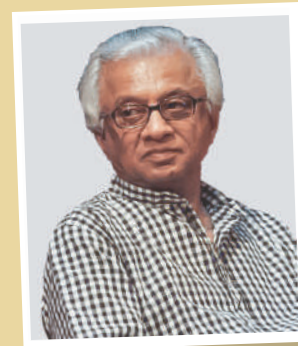
**Dr D.P. Agrawal**  
Former UPSC Chairman

His mentorship helps students:

- Understand how UPSC frames questions
- Avoid common beginner mistakes
- Align preparation with actual evaluation standards

## How do we build more civil servants from Kerala?

This vision is guided by one of India's most respected administrators.



**T.K.A Nair, IAS**  
Former Principal Secretary and Advisor  
to the Prime Minister of India

His experience brings:

- A real-world understanding of administration
- Perspective beyond coaching, towards service
- Motivation rooted in purpose and direction, not just ranks



Expert mentorship ensures that our students prepare for the exam the way UPSC expects, not by any guesswork.

**SYLESH FERNANDAS**  
Academic Director

**17 Years of UPSC Teaching Experience**

# Team Fortune

The core strength of Fortune is its team of young and dynamic faculty who are updated and attuned to the latest changes in the pattern of UPSC Civil Services Examination. The core team consists of alumni from premier institutes like IIM, NIT and CET who have taken it upon themselves to improve the quality of education in the country. We believe that the quality of our team enables us to reach greater heights every year.



**Saju Lal T R**  
Managing Director



**Sylesh Fernandas**  
Academic Director



**Munidarshan V G**  
Executive Director



**Anton Babu**  
Executive Director



**Nitin Menon**  
Director



**Sherin Khadar**  
Director



**Achuth Gangadharan**  
Director



**Nandagopan M J**  
Senior Faculty for  
Geography



**Anand Justin, IFoS**  
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Society  
**UPSC TOPPER**



**Imthyaz K Shams**  
Senior Faculty for Ethics  
& Current Affairs



**Arun Surendrababu**  
Senior Faculty for  
Economics



**Abhinand J S**  
Chief Technology Officer



**Reno Kurien**  
Senior Faculty for Indian Polity  
**UPSC TOPPER**



**Dr. Stanly Johny**  
Visiting Faculty for International Relations,  
**Foreign Affairs Editor, The Hindu**



**Shahad Moideen**  
Senior Faculty for Internal Security



**Pranav P Manangath**  
Senior Faculty for Science & Technology  
**UPSC TOPPER**



**Sivaprasad Menon**  
Senior Faculty for History



**Fairuz M**  
Senior Faculty for General Essay



**Frijo Mary**  
Senior Faculty for Indian Society



**Jeswin Jose**  
Senior Faculty for Disaster Management



**M Shiyas P C**  
CSAT(Mathematics and Aptitude)



**Aby Mathews**  
Environment & Ecology



▲ The dedicated and experienced faculty of Fortune IAS Academy, committed to guiding the next generation of aspiring civil servants.

# Why a Four-Year Path Outperforms a Crash Year

The reason aspirants spend twelve hours a day in a crash year is not the volume of the syllabus — it is interference and isolation. They study multiple subjects in parallel, with nothing connected to anything they already know, while the brain quietly drops older content to absorb new content. The result is exhaustion, not learning.

Our programme solves this structurally. By distributing the syllabus across the years of your degree, we transform the Civil Services preparation from a sprint into a thoughtful, steady walk. Three observations make this approach powerful:

## **Insight 1 · Cognitive Load Stays Manageable**

Instead of holding many subjects in active memory for twelve months, students hold one or two at a time and build on them. The forgetting curve is naturally countered by the academic year rhythm itself.

## **Insight 2 · Your Degree Becomes Free Preparation**

Engineering students already study science and technology. Arts students already study history and geography. Commerce students already study Indian economy. We exploit this overlap deliberately so that UPSC preparation feels like an extension of your degree, not a second life.

## **Insight 3 · Temperament & Skills are Built Over Years**

MCQ Solving skill, answer writing, essay craft, mental stamina, and interview personality cannot be manufactured in weeks. Distributed across years, students write better, think more confidently, and arrive at the exam without burnout.

# The Fortune IAS Strategic Framework

Our entire curriculum rests on three guiding principles. Every subject, every semester, every mentoring conversation has been designed around these. They are the reason students who join Degree with IAS arrive at the exam hall calmer, sharper, and more deeply prepared than their peers.

## Principle One - Foundation, Expansion, Integration

We do not teach in the order in which UPSC publishes its syllabus. We teach in the order in which the human mind best builds knowledge. Ancient History creates the scaffolding for Medieval, then Modern, then post-Independence Polity. Students who learn this way forget far less, because everything hangs on a single, coherent structure.

## Principle Two - Degree Subject Overlap as Free Preparation

Whatever degree you are pursuing, a meaningful share of the UPSC syllabus is already inside it. We help you see that overlap and exploit it deliberately. Your college discussions, your textbooks, and even your assignments become preparation rather than distractions.

## Principle Three - Temperament is Built Over Years, Not Months

Answer writing begins in Year 2, mocks begin in Year 3, and revision begins long before the exam year. By the time you sit for Prelims, the exam feels like a checkpoint rather than a cliff.



I joined Fortune IAS Academy immediately after my graduation and did my entire civil services preparation there. I am indebted to Nitin sir and Anand sir for all the guidance throughout my mains and interview preparation. My heartfelt thanks to Sherin sir, Anton sir, Muni sir, Sylesh sir and every one at Fortune for being my guiding light and instilling the confidence in me that I will clear the exam.

**SAFNA NAZARUDEEN, IAS**  
AIR 45, CSE 2019  
Youngest Malayalee IAS Officer

# Programme at a Glance

The table below provides a high-level view of the four-year journey. Detailed year-by-year plans follow in the next sections.

Year	Theme	What You Will Build	Weekly Engagement
Year 1	Foundations & Orientation	Mental models, static history, constitutional grammar, ethics habit	2 live classes · 2 revision videos · Light reading · Friday discussion
Year 2	Expansion & Depth	Modern history, economy fundamentals, full polity, answer writing begins	Same weekly cycle + 1 mentor-reviewed answer per week
Year 3	Dynamic Subjects & Integration	Environment, current affairs, GS4 ethics, full mock series	Same weekly cycle + monthly full-length mocks + 3 answers per week
Year 4	Exam Execution Mode	Revision, optional, intensive answer writing, prelims drilling, interview	Daily live revision + daily answer writing + weekly mocks

## How to Read This Plan

Each year is sequenced deliberately. Year 1 asks 'what happened?' Year 2 asks 'why does it matter?' Year 3 asks 'how does it connect to today?' Year 4 asks 'how do I show what I know?'



Right knowledge presented in the right style is the key to cracking the civil services and for that, right mentoring is a must. The mentors in the Fortune IAS academy, especially Anton sir, helped me develop that right approach. I thank the academy and my mentor for being with me through thick and thin of the exams.

**GOKUL S, IAS**  
AIR 357, CSE 2020

# Year 1 — Foundations & Orientation

**Weekly Commitment:** Two 3-hour hybrid live classes on Saturday and Sunday, two recorded revision videos on Monday and Tuesday, a light curated reading plan on Wednesday and Thursday, and a Friday group discussion with quiz and case study. Outside of this, students continue their regular degree coursework.

The objective of Year 1 is not to “study UPSC subjects” in the conventional sense. The objective is to build the mental models that will make every later year faster, deeper, and more enjoyable. You will learn to think chronologically, spatially, and constitutionally.

## What You Will Study

Subject	Why We Begin Here
History · Ancient & Medieval	Largely static, no current-affairs pressure, and the natural starting point for chronological thinking.
Art & Culture	Runs naturally alongside Ancient History; learning it in context here means almost no revision is needed later.
Geography · Physical	Pure concepts, no heavy memorisation. Builds spatial reasoning that powers environment, disasters, and economic geography later.
Polity · Constitutional Framework	Constituent Assembly, Fundamental Rights, DPSP, and constitutional philosophy. The grammar of everything that follows in Years 2 and 3.
Ethics Framing	A weekly reading and discussion habit on thinkers, moral philosophy, and dilemmas. It should feel like a philosophy elective, not an exam subject.

## What We Deliberately Avoid in Year 1

Economy, Environment, and Current Affairs are deliberately kept out of Year 1. These are high-decay subjects — they change rapidly, and what is studied today will be largely irrelevant in your exam year. Studying them too early is one of the most common reasons aspirants burn out.

### Year 1 Milestone

By the end of Year 1, students should be comfortable narrating any chapter of Ancient or Medieval Indian history without notes, locating physical features on a blank map of India, and explaining the philosophy behind the Constitution to a non-specialist.

# Year 2 — Expansion & Depth

**Weekly Commitment:** The same weekly cycle as Year 1 — two live classes, two revision videos, two days of curated reading, and the Friday discussion — with the curated reading plan deepening in volume. In addition, mentor-reviewed answer writing begins this year, with at least one answer submitted each week.

With foundations in place, Year 2 introduces the analytical and dynamic subjects that demand reasoning rather than recall. This is also the year your written voice begins to develop — a voice you will spend the next two years sharpening.

## What You Will Study

Subject	How It Builds on Year 1
Modern History & Post-Independence India	With ancient and medieval context already in place, modern history flows naturally. Post-Independence India connects directly to the Polity you have already learnt.
Indian Economy · Fundamentals	Structural understanding of planning, sectors, poverty, agriculture, and banking basics. This base will not expire and supports current affairs in Year 3.
Geography · Indian & Human	Indian geography overlaps heavily with the economy you are now learning. Human geography connects to the social issues that follow.
Polity · Complete	Parliament, Judiciary, Local Governance, and Constitutional Bodies. The Year 1 foundation makes this significantly faster than the conventional approach.
Science & Technology · Conceptual Base	Frameworks for space, biotech, energy, and defence technology. Without these, current affairs in Year 3 would be merely confusing.
Answer Writing · Begins	One mentor-reviewed answer per week, minimum. Students who begin in Year 2 score dramatically better than those who begin in their exam year.

### Year 2 Milestone

By the end of Year 2, students should be able to write a structured 250-word GS answer in fifteen minutes, sketch India's economic structure on a blank page, and recall any constitutional body's role and recent significance without prompts.

# Year 3 — Dynamic Subjects & Integration

**Weekly Commitment: The same hybrid weekly cycle continues — two 3-hour live classes, two revision videos, curated reading, and the Friday discussion — now scaled up. Three mentor-reviewed answers are expected each week, and a full-length mock test is added once a month.**

Year 3 is the highest-leverage year of the programme. With your static foundation complete, you now layer the living, changing, integration-heavy content on top. Each subject in this year is taught with one foot in the syllabus and one foot in the daily newspaper.

## What You Will Study

Subject	Why It Belongs Here
Environment & Ecology	Held back to Year 3 because of its heavy current-affairs component — COP summits, biodiversity conventions, climate policy. Studying it close to the exam minimises wasteful re-revision.
Indian Economy · Current & Advanced	With your Year 2 base solid, current economic policy, the Union Budget, government schemes, banking, and international trade now make immediate sense.
Current Affairs · Structured	Not random newspaper reading. Each week is organised by GS paper theme — International Relations, Economy, Social Issues, and so on. Every news story is mapped to a syllabus topic.
Internal Security & Disaster Management	Best understood with current events context, which you now have in abundance.
Ethics · Full GS4	By Year 3 you have read enough governance and history to give authentic, grounded ethics answers. Years 1 and 2 of philosophy reading pay off here.
Full Mock Test Series	At least one full-length mock per month, with timed conditions and reviewed answer copies. This is where exam temperament is forged.

### Year 3 Milestone

By the end of Year 3, students should be able to discuss any front-page news item with a syllabus lens, write three GS answers in an hour to time, and articulate a personal ethical framework grounded in real Indian governance examples.

# Year 4 / Final Semester — Exam Execution Mode

**Weekly Commitment: The weekly rhythm intensifies. Live revision sessions are held more frequently, the recorded videos shift to high-yield rapid-revision capsules, the reading plan becomes a calibrated revision schedule from the consolidated study material, and the Friday discussion evolves into a weekly mock-and-debrief. Answer writing becomes daily.**

By this point, every static subject has been studied at least twice. Your notes have been building since Year 1. Your answer writing has been refined for two full years. Year 4 is therefore not about acquiring new knowledge, but about converting accumulated knowledge into examination performance.

## Focus Areas for the Year

- Revision of all static subjects through consolidated notes that have been built progressively since Year 1.
- Completion of the Optional Subject paper, ideally chosen to overlap with your degree subject.
- Intensive answer writing — three to four answers daily, with mentor feedback within forty-eight hours.
- Prelims-specific MCQ drilling for the final three to four months before the examination.
- Personality and interview preparation initiated in parallel with results anticipation.

### Why the Exam Year Feels Calm

Students who reach this stage have already written hundreds of answers, attempted dozens of mocks, and revised their core subjects multiple times. The exam feels like a checkpoint, not a cliff.



I express my gratitude to Fortune IAS for helping me achieve this rank on my first attempt. The classes and test series gave me a solid grasp of the subjects. The interview guidance and one-on-one sessions were invaluable. Fortune's environment helped manage my stress and instilled confidence in me.

**Dr. MANJIMA P, IPS**  
AIR 235, CSE 2023  
Doctor turned Police Officer

# The Fortune IAS Weekly Rhythm

Our weekly cycle has been designed around a single principle: a topic must be encountered five different ways before it truly belongs to the student. Each week opens with two live classes, deepens through engaging revision videos, consolidates through curated reading, and closes with a peer discussion that includes a quiz and a real-world case study. By Saturday morning, the student has lived with the week's topic for a full seven days — not memorised it, but absorbed it.

## How the Week Builds a Topic

Live exposure → Engaging revision → Curated reading → Peer discussion with quiz & case study. Five touchpoints, one topic, deep retention.

## The Week at a Glance

Day	Stage	What Happens
Saturday	Live Class — Session 1	A three-hour live class in hybrid mode, conducted by a senior faculty member. Students may attend in person at the academy or join the live online stream. The session introduces the week's primary topic with conceptual depth, examples, and direct interaction.
Sunday	Live Class — Session 2	A second three-hour live class, also in hybrid mode, that builds on Saturday's foundation. Together the two sessions deliver six hours of direct mentor contact each week.
Monday	Revision Video — Part 1	A highly engaging, memory-friendly recorded revision video is released. It revisits Saturday's content using visual storytelling, mnemonics, and structured recall — designed so the brain genuinely retains, not merely re-reads.
Tuesday	Revision Video — Part 2	The second revision video releases, mirroring Sunday's class. Together the two videos help students gain a firm hold over the week's topic and ascertain the key sub-themes that will appear in examinations.

Wednesday	Curated Reading — Day 1	The academy issues a structured reading plan from the Fortune IAS study material — created and curated by our eminent faculty. The plan specifies pages, focus questions, and margin-note prompts, so reading is purposeful, not passive.
Thursday	Curated Reading — Day 2	Reading continues, deepening into linkages, contemporary relevance, and integration with the wider syllabus. Students prepare brief notes that will travel with them into Friday's discussion.
Friday	Group Discussion + Quiz + Case Study	A faculty-moderated group discussion on the week's topic. The session includes a structured quiz to test recall and a guided case study that converts the topic into examination-ready, real-world reasoning. This is where the week consolidates into mastery.

### Why This Rhythm Works

Spaced repetition over seven days is the most evidence-supported way to move information from short-term to long-term memory. The mix of live, recorded, written, and conversational engagement also ensures every learning style is served — visual, auditory, reading, and kinaesthetic.



A big thank you to Fortune IAS Academy for being my pillar of support throughout my prelims, mains and interview preparation. I was also a mentor at Fortune IAS and the interaction with students helped me fine tune my conceptual understanding of topics. The questions of test series at Fortune were close to the actual UPSC questions and helped me to assess my preparation levels. I would definitely recommend Fortune to any aspirant who has a civil service dream.

**SIDHARTH RAMKUMAR, IAS**  
 AIR 04, CSE 2023  
 From IPS to IAS

# Mentoring, Mocks & Milestones

Coaching alone does not produce officers. Mentoring does. Across all years, every student is paired with a senior mentor who tracks progress not only in marks but in temperament, writing voice, and conceptual depth.

## The Mentoring Cadence

- Six hours of direct faculty contact every weekend through the two live classes.
- A one-on-one mentor session once every fortnight in Years 1 and 2; weekly in Year 3.
- Daily mentor accessibility through the programme's communication channel.
- Quarterly progress reviews shared with both student and parent.

## Assessments at a Glance

Year	Assessment Pattern
Year 1	Monthly conceptual quizzes; one major terminal assessment per semester; a personal reading log.
Year 2	Weekly answer writing reviewed by mentors; topic tests every fortnight; one half-length mock per term.
Year 3	Monthly full-length mocks under timed conditions; structured current-affairs assessments; one essay test per fortnight.
Year 4	Daily answer-writing practice; weekly full-length mocks; prelims test series; mock interviews in the final phase.



Students succeed faster when they are part of a well-designed learning system. At Fortune IAS, we strive to create such a system—one that balances deep knowledge enrichment with continuous skill development.

**ANTON BABU**  
Executive Director

# What Sets This Programme Apart

Every coaching institute in the country runs a one-year or two-year crash programme. Degree with IAS is built on a different philosophy. Below are the four design choices that genuinely separate it from the rest.

## **One · Sequenced for the Brain, Not the Syllabus**

We teach in the order in which knowledge actually compounds. Foundations precede expansion; expansion precedes integration. Students forget far less because everything hangs on a structure.

## **Two · Built into Your Degree, Not Around It**

We treat your degree as an ally rather than an obstacle. Subjects that overlap with your university courses are taught in coordination with them, so preparation feels like an extension of college life.

## **Three · Temperament Built Across Years**

Answer writing begins in Year 2. Mocks begin in Year 3. Revision begins long before the exam year. By the time you sit for Prelims, the exam feels familiar, not frightening.

## **Four · Confidence and Identity**

Students who prepare for three years do not feel like aspirants cramming. They feel like informed citizens. Their college discussions, debates, and internships reinforce UPSC thinking without it ever feeling forced.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Will UPSC preparation hurt my college grades?**

No. The programme is deliberately calibrated to the academic year rhythm. The two live classes are held on Saturday and Sunday so they never clash with college timetables. The weekday touchpoints — revision videos, curated reading, and the Friday discussion — are short, structured, and substantially overlap with your degree subjects. Past students consistently report better academic performance because the discipline of structured study spills over into their college work.

## **What if I decide later that the Civil Services is not for me?**

The skills you build — reading deeply, writing clearly, thinking across disciplines, holding a moral framework — are valuable in every profession. Several alumni have moved into law, journalism, public policy, and management with notable success. Nothing in this programme is wasted effort.

## **How is this different from a regular PCM (Prelims cum Mains) Batch ?**

Our programme distributes the same PCM classes material across four years, sequenced so that each subject reinforces the next. Students complete the syllabus with greater depth, less stress, and significantly better retention.

## **Do parents have visibility into their child's progress?**

Yes. Quarterly progress reports are shared with both the student and the parent. Parents are also welcome to attend an annual mentoring review and may reach the programme office at any time during working hours.

## **What is the fee structure?**

The full fee schedule, scholarship details, and instalment options are shared during the admission process. Fortune IAS is committed to ensuring that no deserving student is denied admission for financial reasons alone.



**FORTUNE**  
IAS ACADEMY

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IAS തോറ്റാൻ

**Fortune**

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**1** Kerala  
Rank

First  
Attempt Topper

**SREEJA J S**  
AIR 57



**2** Kerala  
Rank  
**ADITYA**  
**NARAYAN H**  
AIR 68



**3** Kerala  
Rank  
**GOPIKA B**  
AIR 105

**560+**

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