



CREST News Bulletin

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Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

KIRTADS Campus, Chevayur, Calicut – 673 017 Kerala India

Tel: + 91 495 2355342, 2351496 Fax : +91 495 2355342 www.crest.ac.in

Email: cex@dataone.in crest.calicut@gmail.com

About CREST



Centre for Research & Education for Social Transformation (CREST) is an autonomous institution under Government of Kerala. CREST has been conceived as a national institute of humanities, science and professional studies, addressing the needs of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalized communities of India while integrating with the informational society. The Centre was incubated by Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode. The governing council headed by the Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities as Chairman monitors the activities of the Centre. Dignitaries like the Governor of Kerala, Chief Minister of Kerala and the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly are the patrons of this autonomous institution. The Governing Council has representation from institutions like Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Thiruvananthapuram and Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram. CREST conducts a five months Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) as its flagship program.

Activities

Theatre Workshop

A seven day theatre workshop was held for the 27th Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) from 10th to 16th of May 2017. The workshop was conducted by Sukhmani Kohli, a theatre person based in Chandigarh and Vishal Singh Dhaybhai



from Udaipur. Sukhmani has been engaged with theatre for 14 years and working as a facilitator and trainer for 8 years. She is the founder of “Purple Mangoes” a theatre group based in Chandigarh. Currently, along with teaching theatre to young people, she performs as a clown and also teaches

the art of Red Nose Clowning. The workshop used theatre and clowning as tools to help the students of PGCCPD to express without inhibitions. The workshop was held at Maria Eugenie Centre, Malaparamba. On 16th May 2017, the participants of the workshop performed a play before an invited audience at Maria Eugenie Centre.

Valedictory function

Valedictory function for the 27thBatch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development was held on 18 May 2017 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium Kozhikode. Dr. P K Michael Tharakan, former Vice Chancellor of Kannur University and Governing Council member of CREST



was the chief guest. Prof. P. Rameshan, Professor, Strategic Management, Indian Institute of



Management Kozhikode was the Guest of Honor. Welcome address was given by Prof.Ashley Paul, Associate Program Coordinator and Presidential Address by Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri Executive

Director, CREST. The students were felicitated by Prof. Radha S.Nair, Faculty, CREST, Sukhmani Kohli, Founder, Purple Mangoes, Delhi, Harshita Singh & Yolen Bollo – Kamara, interns and Bimna Raveendran, Alumni, CREST. Sangeetha P and. Rakesh OR, Students of 27th Batch gave the reply speeches. Vinod Krishnan TY, Associate Program Coordinator delivered the vote of thanks.

Theatre Workshop at ITSR Chethalayam

From May 20th to 26th a theatre workshop was organized for the second year undergraduate



students doing Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR), Chethalayam, Wayanad. The workshop was conducted by Chandigarh based theatre artiste Sukhmani Kohli and the up-cycling activist Vishal Singh Dhaybhai from Udaipur. 25 students took part in the workshop which was organized to improve the inter-personal and English communication skills of the

students. ITSR, located at Chethalayam, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad, is a centre established by Calicut University devoted to Tribal Studies and to serve the educational aspirations of the tribal people of Kerala especially those from Wayanad district. CREST has signed a MoU with ITSR/University of Calicut that set forth a framework of cooperation between the two institutions. As per the MoU, CREST would involve in strengthening the curricular and co-curricular activities of students doing undergraduate programs in Sociology at ITSR.

28th Batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

Interviews for admission to the 28th Batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional



Development (PGCCPD) were held on 24th, 25th and 26th of May 2017 at CREST. 206 candidates were invited for the interview and 40 students were selected for the course based on the marks they obtained for their Bachelors / Masters Degree course and interview. Classes began for the new batch of students on 15th of June 2017. Of the 35 students who joined for the programme, 16 were

Engineering Degree holders, 9 were Masters Degree holders in various disciplines and 10 were graduates in different disciplines. Of the total number of students, 21 were girls.

Orientation Program for PGCCPD students

A three day orientation program was held for the students from 16th to 18th of June 2017 at Priyadarshini Tea Environs, Mananthavady Wayanad. The workshop covered themes on Team



Building, Presentations and communication. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Anil Menon. On 18th a sensitization session on tribal issues was also arranged at Priyadarshini Tea Environs for the students.

Workshop on Employability



A two - day workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability was held at CREST on 12th & 13th of July 2017. It was conducted by Ms. Remya Roshni and Mr. Arun PT, faculty, Civil Service Academy, Pala. Themes covered included Skills, Values and Competencies, Skill development and Employability and Innovations in Skills development. Remya Roshni was in the Indian Police Service (IPS). She has authored a self-help guide book on the Myths and Realities on IAS Exams which was published by DC Books. Mr. Arun P T was in the Indian Postal Service and founder of DOOR Centre for Civil Services in Chennai.

Kerala Diamond Jubilee Lecture - Challenges Ahead of Kerala by Pulapre Balakrishnan

In connection with the Kerala diamond jubilee celebrations, CREST organized a series of public lectures on issues that were instrumental in the democratization of Kerala during June-July 2017. The first lecture entitled *Challenges Ahead of Kerala* was delivered by Pulapre Balakrishnan on 22 June 2017 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode. The Public lecture series was inaugurated by Dr. TP Kunhikkannan, Professor, Malayalam University, Tirur. Dr. Pulapre Balakrishnan spoke on the comparative view of human development and productive capacity in Kerala and the rest of India and the challenges ahead of Kerala. Dr. Balakrishnan said that in this process of building competitiveness, public capital had a fundamental role, whether it was in the public sector or the private sector. Things such as roads, water supply, waste management and electricity were highly important in a manufacturing economy. "Kerala is at the bottom of the heap as far as public capital investment is concerned. The capital outlay in relation to the State budget is low due to the pressure to spend more on salaries and pension." Also, since the public spending was dependent on borrowing, the debt burden on future generations was growing too.

Pulapre Balakrishnan was born in Klari, in Malappuram District, Kerala. He was educated at



Moscow, Madras and New Delhi, and trained as an economist at Oxford and Cambridge. His published work spans the inflationary process, the measurement of productivity growth, the transition to the market in post-communist Europe, agricultural involution in Kerala and economic growth in India. He is best known, however, for his books 'Pricing and Inflation in India' (OUP, 1991) and 'Economic Growth in India: History and Prospect' (OUP, 2010). He has held

appointments at Worcester College of Oxford University, the Indian Statistical Institute at Delhi and the Indian Institute of Management at Kozhikode. He has served as Country Economist for Ukraine at the World Bank and as a consultant to the ILO, RBI and UNDP. During 2010-13 he was Director of the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. Currently Professor of Economics of Ashoka University and Senior Fellow of IIM Kozhikode, he has, over the last twenty five years, intervened in the public discussion on India's economy via his popular writings. Balakrishnan is a recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contribution to Development Studies.

Prof.DD Nampoothiri, Executive Director of CREST and Prof.Ashley Paul, Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST spoke at the function.

Kerala Diamond Jubilee Lecture Sree Narayana Guru: Making and Unmaking Selves – Special Lecture by Udaya Kumar

The second public lecture organized by CREST in connection with Kerala Diamond Jubilee was delivered by Prof. Udaya Kumar at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode on 27 June 2017. Delivering the lecture he said Sree Narayana Guru deconstructed all the myths that have been built up around him and he came to the level of ordinariness, while preaching the idea of a casteless society to the people. Udaya Kumar is Professor at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru



University, New Delhi. He has previously taught at the University of Delhi. He had his education at University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi and St.John's College, Oxford, UK. He has been a Senior Fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, Leverhulme Visiting Professor at University of Newcastle, UK, Professor of Cultural Studies at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata and Fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies,

Shimla. His areas of research interest include death and contemporary culture, forms of life writing, cultural histories of the body, and modes of publicness in modern India. He has written extensively on late twentieth century Malayalam fiction and social thought. His most recent publication is *Writing the First Person: Literature, History and Autobiography in Modern Kerala*.

Dr.Udaya Kumar was introduced to the audience by Prof.DD Nampoothiri. Executive Director, CREST. Prof.Ashley Paul, Associate Programme Coordinator CREST gave the vote of thanks.

Sixty Years' Existence Between Kerala and India: Reflections on Politics, Culture and Language – Public Lecture by Franson

The third public lecture titled *Sixty Years' Existence Between Kerala and India: Reflections on Politics, Culture and Language* was delivered by Franson Manjali on 9 July 2017 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium Calicut. He was introduced to the audience by Prof.DD Nampoothiri, Executive Director, CREST. Prof. Ashley Paul, Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST gave the vote of thanks. Prof.



Franson teaches in the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, at JNU. He has a long association with Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, first as an M.A. and doctoral student and then as a faculty. After a year's teaching at University of Delhi, he went on to do post-doctoral studies for two years at the Sorbonne and EHESS, Paris. He is author of several books and academic papers. His recent book is *Labyrinths of Language – Philosophical and Cultural Investigations*, 2014

Orientation Programme for Engineering Students



From 17th July to 31st of July 2017, an orientation programme was conducted for entry level BTech Students who obtained admission to BTech courses in various Engineering Colleges under APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University. The programme was held at Government Youth Hostel, Kozhikode. The objective of the programme was to enhance the overall learning skills of students from Scheduled communities doing BTech Degree programme in order to improve their performance and aspiration levels as



well as competitive skills. The orientation programme covered modules in Self-enhancement, English Communication skills, Engineering Graphics, Mechanics, and Mathematics. Sessions were also held on team work, study skills and presentations.

Self Enrichment Workshop for MBBS Students of AIIMS

On invitation from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi, CREST conducted a



week-long orientation programme from 13th to 19th July 2017. The program was held with the objective to enhance the self-confidence level of students, particularly hailing from disadvantaged background. The seven days' course covered modules in Communication Skills, Self Enhancement for Professional Excellence and Theatre. Sessions on interpersonal skills and self-empowerment were conducted by Associate Programme Coordinator Vinod Krishnan T Y, HR consultant Balachandran Gopinath and HR trainers Vinod A R & Vinod Kumar Jayanandan, Abhilash Pillai and Jilmil Hazarika.



Faculty Mentor Workshop

CREST was invited by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi to conduct a faculty mentor workshop on 20 July 2017. The objective of the workshop was to enable faculty members to be teacher-mentors who would have a better understanding of the learning needs of the students, particularly from disadvantaged background undergoing MBBS Degree Course at AIIMS. The workshop was organized in the backdrop that nearly a quarter of the students who join the MBBS



programme are from relatively lower economic strata often from a parental background of first generation literates. A significant section of the students from the Scheduled communities belongs to this category, who however qualify for admission after competing in an extremely rigorous examination. Barring a few, most of the students from this category are from groups with low social capital and from rural areas. Parental support is minimal to this section of candidates as most of their parents are not adequately informed about the content of the courses at AIIMS. These students do not get proper mentoring support from parents suited to the medical education being received. The workshop is expected to help the faculty members to be sensitive to the students' backgrounds and to be effective mentors to the MBBS students throughout their academic career.

Invitation from Sri Lankan Ministry of Skills Development



CREST was invited by Sri Lankan Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training Chandima Weerakkody in connection with designing employability enhancement program for the underprivileged in Sri Lanka. Dr.KV Kunhikrishnan, Chairman, Executive Committee CREST and Vinod Krishnan TY, Associate Programme Coordinator held discussions with Hon'ble Sri Lankan Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training Mr. Chandima Weerakkody and Mr. Chrys Gunatilaka, Chairman, Skill Development Fund, Sri Lanka in Colombo on 25 July 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Joemon Joseph Edathala, honorary consul of Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram.

Workshop on “Good Language”



Prof.MN Karassery, renowned Malayalam literary critic conducted a workshop on communication skills for the students on 16th August 2017. The workshop entitled “*Nalla Malayalam*” covered themes on local dialect, Malayalam in formal setting, and writing in Malayalam. He also insisted the importance of communicating effectively in Malayalam. Knowing the language forms the foundation, but effective communication requires skills one needs to develop through reading, writing and interacting with people. However simple, lucid and direct prose has its charm, provided it is used in specific contexts, Prof.Karassery told the students.

Workshop at ITSR



was conducted by CREST faculty consisting of AR Vinod, Shweta Viji and Vinod Krishnan.

CREST conducted a two day workshop on 14th& 15th of August 2017 for the entry level undergraduate students of the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR) , Chetalayam, Wayanad. ITSR, set up by Calicut University conducts a residential BA Program in sociology for the students from Scheduled Tribes of Kerala. 40 students who are undergoing 1st Semester BA Programme in Sociology at ITSR took part in the workshop which

Workshop – “Redefine your horizons”



Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA conducted a two day workshop “Redefine your horizons “on 29th&30th of August 2017with an objective to improve the confidence level of students. The workshop covered themes on preparing a career map, long-term professional goals and action steps for achieving them, work style and analyzing strengths and weaknesses and professional reputation development

Access Program

Preparatory programme for Entrance Examinations for Admissions to Undergraduate courses in institutions outside Kerala.

From 4 April 2017 to 05 June 2017 an in-house programme lasting for two months was held for thirty selected students (based on the marks they obtained at SSLC and Plus One examinations) from Model Residential Schools of Thrithala, Aluva, Alapuzha and Peermedu. The programme which



was held in Sultan Bathery Wayanad and in Government Youth Hostel, Kozhikode focused on entrance examinations to various undergraduate programmes at nationally known institutions (except Engineering/ Medicine Stream). Sessions were held in Mathematics, Physics Chemistry, and Biology, geared to problem-solving in quantitative skills, reasoning and general knowledge.

Of the thirty students who took part in the programme, 15 students have already obtained admission to various undergraduate programs at University of Delhi, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi University and Pondicherry Central University.

Mathematics workshop for students of MRS Vadakkanchery and Chelakkara

From 16.05.2017 to 31.05 2017, an in-house workshop on Mathematics learning was held for 10th



standard students MRS Vadakkanchery and Chelakkara. The workshop which was held at Government Youth Hostel, Kozhikode was conducted by Prof.A.G Rao from IIT Mumbai. The workshop entitled "Math hands and Science mind" focused on acquiring mathematical skills by making two dimensional and three dimensional figures and models.

Summer camp for plus two students of MRS Alapuzha



From 21.05 2017 to 31.05 2017 a summer camp was organized for Plus Two students of MRS Alapuzha at Sreyas Training Centre , Sultan Bathery , Wayanad. Sessions were held in motivation and goal setting. Also academic support was given in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and

Mathematics.

One Day Workshop for Higher Secondary students at MRS Thrithala

On 17th June 2017 a one day workshop on goal setting was held for Plus One & Plus Two students of MRS Thrithala. On 24 & 25 June 2017 a two day workshop for Plus Two students of MRS Thrithala was held in English Communication and Grammar. On 9th, 15th & 16th of July and on 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th & 20th of August 2017, academic support programmes were held for the students in various subjects.

Training programmes at MRS Aluva

On 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th of June 2017 and on 1st & 2nd of July 2017 support programmes in Chemistry and Mathematics were held for plus two students of MRS Aluva. A one day session on English communication was held on 16th July 2017. On 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th & 20th of August 2017 support programmes were held for the same students in various subjects.

Workshops for Plus Two students at MRS Alapuzha

On 20 June 2016 a one day workshop on goal setting was held for Plus Two students of MRS Alapuzha. On 1st & 2nd of July 2017 academic support sessions in Chemistry were held for the plus two students of the school. A two day workshop to improve motivation of Plus One students of the school was held on 15th and 16th of July 2017. On 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th & 20th of August 2017, academic support programme was held for Plus Two students of the school in various subjects

Academic support session for High School students of MRS Peermedu

On 5th, 6th, 19th & 20th of August 2017 academic support programmes in humanities/social sciences were held for the Plus Two students of MRS Peermedu.

Onam Celebration at CREST



Students of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) celebrated Onam festival on 31 August 2017 at CREST. A pookkalam (flower carpet) was set at CREST by the students

Admission of MRS students in Indira Gandhi National Tribal University

Thirty candidates from Model Residential Schools who have completed their higher secondary education appeared for the National Entrance Examination conducted by the Indira Gandhi



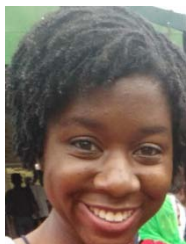
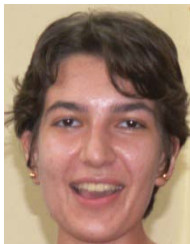
National Tribal University on 7 May 2017. Fifteen candidates cleared the national entrance examination for admission and five students took admission for undergraduate programmes at the



University. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh has been established by an Act of the Parliament of India in 2008. CREST facilitated the admission of the students. The controller of examinations and faculty members and of the university held an interaction with the students and their parents on 8 July 2017.

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Interns



Students of undergraduate programmes in Anthropology , Toronto University, Canada, Nina Alferiev, Amanda Louise Harvey-Sanchez, Taneeta Doma and Honor Lowe Kilbourne as well as Yolen Bollo-Kamara, Canada's Black Lives Matter movement interned with CREST during May - August 2017 . The students of Toronto University were at CREST as part of the academic collaboration between CREST and the Department of Anthropology of the University. During their stay at CREST, the interns assisted CREST staff in coaching and mentoring students individually, and organizing creative group activities to develop students' confidence and to help them overcome cultural barriers to communicate in the wider society. During their internship they also held weekly sessions on international affairs.

Faculty Activity

Dr. KV Kunhikrishnan , Chairman , Executive Committee CREST and **Vinod Krishnan TY**, Associate Programme Coordinator CREST held a meeting with Hon'ble Sri Lankan Minister of Skills Development & Vocational Training Mr.Chandima Weerakkody and Mr. Chrys Gunatilaka Chairman , Skill Development Fund , Sri Lanka in Colombo on 25 July 2017. They also made a presentation on CREST before the Hon'ble Minister. The meeting which was facilitated by Joemon Joseph Edathala , honorary consul of Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram was held in connection with designing employability enhancement programs for the underprivileged in Sri Lanka.

Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director held discussions with Dr. Tania Lee, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, Canada on August 28, 2017 in connection with designing collaborative programs by the Department and CREST.

Forthcoming Events

Academic Support Program for Higher Secondary Students of MRS Peermedu

A Ten day academic support program for Higher Secondary Students of MRS Peermedu will be held at Government Youth Hostel , Calicut from 1st to 10th September 2017.

Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

Applications for admission for the 29th batch of the PGCCPD Program will be invited from 7th September 2017 onwards. Last date for receiving the application is 16 October 2017. Interviews will be held on 20, 21 & 22 of November 2017.

