

CREST News Bulletin

(January – April 2019)

Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

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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_____

Kozhikode Literature Festival

Students of post graduate certificate for Professional development were taken for Kerala Literature



Festival, organized by DC Kizhakemuri Foundation held from 10th to 14th of January 2019. It gave an avenue for students to interact with writers, artists, public activists and iontellectuals which included Prof. Ramachandra Guha, Arundhati Roy, Prakash Raj, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, P Sainath, TM Krishna,

Anita Nair, Devdutt Patnaik and Manu S Pillai among others.

Republic Day Celebrations

As part of Republic Day celebrations, a special lecture on Indian history was held at CREST by Dr.K.Gopalankutty formerly Professor of History at the University of Calicut on 26 January 2019. Prof.K.Gopalankutty is an historian, who did his MA in History from Calicut University and M.Phil / PhD from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His



works scholarly have been published in reputed journals such as 'Studies in History' 'Economic and Social History Review' etc. He has also contributed chapters to books such as "Advances in History, Economy, Society and Politics in Modern India" (Vikas Publications, Delhi 1985) and "The Indian Left: Critical Appraisals" (Vikas Publications, Delhi, 1983)

Workshop - "Redefine your horizons"

USA conducted a two day workshop. Redefine your horizons on 28% 2 29% of january 2019 with

Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA conducted a two day workshop "Redefine your horizons "on 28th & 29th of January 2019 with

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 development. Follow up of the session was held on 30 April & 1 May, 2019.



Visit of students from Global College, Sweden

A group of 20 students from Global College, Sweden and a faculty team of three visited CREST on 31 January 2018 and interacted with the students of the PGCCPD program. Global College is an upper



secondary school that is located in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. They visited the Centre as a part of their academic program to understand India. The students from the college were involved with group discussions with students of CREST in different groups, covering various themes like gender, agriculture in Kerala, social security etc.

Special Lecture on Artificial Intelligence

A special lecture on Artificial intelligence was held on 5 February 2019. It was conducted by Sachin Unni. Sachin is an entrepreneur & a tech advisor with almost a decade of startup experience as a



СТО -Director / developer. His expertise mobile-web is in applications, information security & now leading with AI -Machine Learning in data science. He was also a part of the YC'12, IK'12, Plug and Play Tech Centre'14. He is actively involved in the startup ecosystem with angel investments & as a

mentor to multiple product companies. He is passionate about products & is also a Partner at Zeroth AI.

Special Lecture on Higher Education Abroad

Dr. Nikita Hari, gave a special lecture on Higher Education Abroad on 22 February 2018. The Lecture was jointly organized by Calicut Management Association and CREST. Dr.Nikita Hari, is a scientist, engineer, social tech Entrepreneur, consultant and science communicator. The Co-founder of two social tech start-ups 'wudi' and 'Favalley', her vision is to provide a platform through her initiatives for youngsters to become positive change makers for the society. Dr.Hari is currently a scientist and postdoctoral fellow at Oxford University, UK .Nikita completed her PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cambridge and was a gold medalist for both her M.Tech and



B.Tech in Engineering. Dr.Hari has around 25 international Research papers and 16 tech Keynotes to her credit. Listed in the 'Top 50 Women in Engineering in UK' in 2017, she is the recipient of many awards and recognition from across the globe. She is an invited Global Ambassador for the Queen Elizabeth prize for Engineering, TEDx speaker for Cambridge University and Clinton Global Initiative Changemaker class 2018. She works as a senior consultant for many universities and institutes in India and UK. Nikita is an experienced science communicator and keynote speaker. She is a regular invited speaker for STEM outreach events, Engineering and tech Conferences across the globe. Dr.Nikita Hari has been profiled in global media in recognition of her research and her initiatives to support and promote youngsters into Engineering, Technology, Research and Entrepreneurship.

Workshop on Interview Skills

A two - day workshop on Interview Skills was held at CREST on 18th & 19th of March 2019. It was conducted by Ms. Suma Aswini Kumar. Mock interviews were conducted for each student. Students were also given training in Group discussion. Suma Aswini Kumar is an external consultant in



training department with UST Global, a Multi National Company in Technopark, Trivandrum. An expert in taking assessments of fresher's joining the MNC to align them with the specified requirement to meet the standards demanded by the Corporate.

KIIFB Sanctions Fund for CREST

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) has sanctioned Rs.17 Crore towards building the first phase of CREST Campus in Government Cyberpark, Kozhikode. Government of Kerala has assigned INKEL Ltd to oversee the construction of CREST Campus in the IT Park. The Master plan was designed through a collaborative venture by PLURAL, an integrated multidisciplinary architecture and design firm based in Dubai, Toronto and Kochi and Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society Ltd, one of the leading cooperative societies in India.



Workshop on Self Enrichment

Dakxin Bajrange, a theatre person /film maker and social activist based in Ahmadabad conducted a workshop on self development for PGCCPD students on 21 March 2019.

Dakxin Bajrange is an award-winning filmmaker, playwright, director and social activist. He is the



recipient of the prestigious Ford Foundation International Fellowship. Dakxin who has been relentlessly championing the cause of the De-notified tribes in the western part of India, is a



filmmaker and has directed more than 50 TV programs and 20 documentaries most of which are based on developmental and political issues related to the De-notified tribes; his documentary Fight for Survival (2005), which was focused on the problems faced by snake charmers in India won the Jeevika Award. The director-cum-activist who works at the Budhan Theater, a community theater group of Chhara De-notified tribe of Gujarat, apart from directing documentaries. He has also written two books. He also is an author of many academic articles on theater and films.

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Workshop on Social Intelligence

Aparna Viswanathan , a Bangalore based trainer conducted a one day workshop on Social Intelligence - capability to effectively navigate and negotiate complex social relationships and environments - for PGCCPD students on 22 March 2019. Aparna is the founder of RACE, an organization that works to bring children out of their comfort zones. Aimed to bring significant



development to the participants' personal and social lives, the workshop involved curated social intelligence sessions engaging the students in various unique and authentic experiences. Modeled on experiential and reflective learning methodologies, the workshop encouraged participants to break their comfort zones and explore the unknown, to identify themselves internally and to create



an attitudinal shift in their perceptions and judgments. The workshop assisted the participants in developing their capacity to effectively negotiate complex environments, situations, and relationship

Tech Startup Summit

The students of PGCCPD attended the "Tech Startup Summit- Solve for India: A summit for Tech startups "organized by IAMAI Mobile 10x in association with IIMK-Live and Kerala Start Up Mission (KSUM) on 29th March 2019. The one day summit, held at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, had speakers like Apala Lahiri (President, Hfi middle East Asia, Africa, Australia and CEO, Institute of customer Experience) Paul Ravindranath G (Head of Google Accelerator, India),



Tina Singh (Chief Digital Officer, Mahindra Finance) among others. The key topics discussed in the summit included emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), the extension of Internet connectivity into physical devices and everyday objects and Blockchain, a decentralized, distributed and public digital ledger that is used to record transactions across many computers. The summit encouraged the participants in venturing out to the domains of start up and innovation.

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Hackathon at Cyberpark Kozhiokode



Students from CREST participated in the "Solve for India", a hackathon organized by Mobile10 on 30th March 2019 at Government Cyber Park, Kozhikode. The hackathon gave an opportunity for the students to have hands on experience on coding and problem solving. This platform also did give an opportunity for them to develop a high level of professional network with the other participants and invitees.

Special Lecture on Start Ups



Mr.Raveendran Kasthuri, CEO Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd (ULCCS Ltd) gave a special lecture on startups on 2nd April 2019. The interaction with Mr.Kasthuri gave an opportunity for the students to know about the latest trends in employment as well as the qualities required to initiate a Startup. Questions on future of Information technology and other related topics were raised by the students. The session helped the students in framing their mindset for the future and also did help them in understanding the level of preparation required to face the challenges in life. Raveendran Kasthuri has been working in the IBM for over 20 years in various roles, such as Director-Resource and Capacity Management, Vice President and head of Integrated Operations



and Managing Director for Global Account. The ULCCS was formed in 1925 by the eminent social reformer Guru Vagbhatananda in a remote hamlet called Uralungal in Kozhikode district, as a novel mass movement against the anarchies of the caste system prevalent in those days. The Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd (ULCCS) today is one of the biggest co-operative societies in the country, providing direct employment to more than 6000 workers from rural areas.

Special Lecture on "Politics and Constitution"

Mr.Vinod Nair a legal practitioner was invited by CREST to conduct a special lecture on "Politics and Constitution" on April 1, 2019. Mr. Vinod holds a degree in engineering and is also a graduate in



management. He did his legal studies from London and worked as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of India. The lecture was organized to give an insight to the students about the constitution and the rights of Citizens. The interactive session helped the students in clarifying their doubts about laws in India and in having a better perspective of the constitution.

Workshop on "Good Language"

Prof.MN Karassery, renowned Malayalam literary critic conducted a workshop on communication skills for the students on 6th April 2019. The workshop entitled "*Nalla Malayalam*" covered themes



on local dialect, Malayalam in formal setting, and writing in Malayalam. He also insisted on 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.

'Meet the Entrepreneurs' Event

CREST with the support of Calicut Management Association organized an event "Meet the Entrepreneurs" on 10th April 2019. Students interacted with women Entrepreneurs Nasmina



Nasir, Dr Sheeba Veluthoor and Anjali Cahndran. Nasmina is Founder/Director of iLab, an initiative which helps the underprivileged students in getting access to modern technology and modern



education. Dr. Sheeba Veluthoor is the Director of Core Valleys Herbal Technology Pvt Ltd a firm based in Kozhikode involved with developing nutritional food supplements. Anjali Chandran is a social entrepreneur who set up" "Impresa" a handloom boutique that markets products from traditional weavers. The event gave an opportunity to understand entrepreneurship as a career option.

Access Program

Academic support sessions at Model Residential School Punnapra, Alappuzha

On 2nd & 3rd of March 2019, academic support program in science subjects was held for the Plus Two students. Also an orientation was given on various undergraduate programs.

Academic support programme at Model Residential School Keezhmad, Aluva

On 9th and 10th of February 2019 and on 2nd &3rd of March 2019, academic support in English and



Chemistry was provided for the Plus Two students of MRS.

Academic support programme at MRS Peerumedu, Idukki

On 2nd, 3rd, 23rd & 24th of February 2019, academic support program was held for the Plus Two students of Model Residential School, Peermedu, Idukki. Sessions were held on political science and economics.

Academic support programme at MRS Kuzhalmannam



On 27th & 28th of February 2019 and on 2nd & 4th of March 2019, academic support program in Accountancy and Science was held for the Plus Two students of Model Residential School,

Kuzhalmannam, Palakkad

Preparatory Program for Higher Secondary Students

An in-house preparatory program focusing on entrance examination to obtain admission to undergraduate programs in nationally reputed institutions and overcome the achievement gap began on 2 April 2019. Classes on Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Quantitative



Aptitude, Reasoning, Mental ability and General knowledge were held for 70 students who were selected from Model Residential Schools of Aluva, Alapuzha, Peermedu , Kuzhalmannam and



Thrithala. The program was held at Sreyas and Dew Drops Farm stay in Kalpetta. The program will be concluded on 30 April 2019

KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

Ninth KR Narayanan Memorial lecture, organized by CREST in memory of KR Narayanan, former President of India was held on 20 April 2019 at Hotel Alakapuri, Kozhikode. The lecture, "Indian Culture and its Margins" was given by TM Krishna, Magsaysay award winner and well known Carnatic music vocalist, writer and activist. TM Krishna has championed a number of causes connected to the environment, the caste system, communalism, human rights, among others. As a public intellectual, Krishna speaks and writes about issues of social concern. Krishna has started



and is involved in many organizations whose work is spread across the whole spectrum of music and culture. He has co-authored '*Voices Within: Carnatic Music – Passing on an Inheritance*', a book dedicated to the greats of Karnatik music. His path-breaking book '*A Southern Music – The Karnatik Story*', published by Harper Collins in 2013 was a first-of-its-kind philosophical, aesthetic and sociopolitical exploration of Karnatik Music. For this he was awarded the 2014 Tata Literature Award for Best First Book in the non-fiction category. His book '*Reshaping Art*' in 2018, asks important questions about how art is made, performed and disseminated and addresses crucial issues of caste, class and gender within society while exploring the contours of democracy, culture and learning. In 2016, Krishna received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in recognition of 'his forceful commitment as artist and advocate to art's power to heal India's deep social divisions'. TM Krishna contributes regularly on issues of social/political concern in Scroll.in

Delivering the lecture, he said that upper class/upper caste notion of culture dominates the cultural sphere of India and it judges the cultural forms of the dominated as inferior. It is evident in music tradition which is called as "classical". The notion of "Classical" does not have anything to do with time, but judgment, he said. Even Hindustani music, which is supposedly liberal is not free from caste overtone, he added.

Workshop on Resume Preparation

A workshop on resume preparation was held for the students of PGCCPD on 26 April 2019. The workshop was conducted by Nishad Gopuram, Director, Edventure Training and Consultancy, Calicut. Nishad Gopuram is a HR trainer, involved with manpower planning, recruitment, selection, induction, orientation and development of employees for various organizations.

CREST in Media

Print as well as the visual media has given coverage to various programmes of CREST held during January – April 2019. Mathrubhumi Daily, Malayala Manorama, Deshabhimani daily, and The Hindu covered news on the activities of CREST during these months



കെ ആർ നാരായണൻ അനുസ്മരണത്തിൽ ' ഇന്ത്യൻ സംസ്കാരവും അതിന്റെ അതിരുകളും' എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ടി എം കൃഷ്ണ സംസാരിക്കുന്നു കോഴിക്കോട്

കലാരുപങ്ങൾ അരാഷ്ട്രീയമല്ലെ വതിയെന്നും മാരിയമ്മയെന്നും ന്നും കലകാരന്മാർക്ക് രാഷ്ട്രീയ നിലപാടുകൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നും പ്രശ സ്തസംഗീതജ്ഞനും സാമൂഹ്യ ഭരണഘടന നമുക്ക് മതേതര ആൻഡ് എഡ്യുക്കേഷൻ ഫോർ സോഷ്യൽ ട്രാൻസ്ഫോർമേ ഷൻ (ക്രസ്റ്റ്) കോഴിക്കോട്ട് സം ഘടിപ്പിച്ചുക് ആർനാരായണൻ കലയിലും സംസ്കാരത്തി അനുസ്മരണത്തിൽ 'ഇന്ത്യൻ ലുമെല്ലാം വരേണ്യജാതിയുടെ സംസ്കാരവും അതിന്റെ അതി രുകളും എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ സം സാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു കൃഷ്ണ. രാമനെയും കഷ്ണനെയും കു

റിച്ച് പാടുന്നതുപോലെ അള്ളാ ഹുവിനെയും ജീസസിനെയും കു

റിച്ച് പാടാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ല. പാർ മാറിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കും പറയുമ്പോൾ രണ്ടാതരം നിലപാ ടുകളാണ് ചിലർക്ക്. എന്നാൽ ന്നുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ സാംസ്കാരിക മന്ത്രാലയത്തിന് സർക്കാർ ഒരു പ്രാധാന്യവും നൽകുന്നില്ല.

മേൽക്കോയ്മയുണ്ട്. പ്രത്യേകി ചും കർണാടിക് സംഗീതത്തിൽ. സംസ്കാരത്തിന്റെ അതിരുകൾ നിശ്ചലരൂപത്തിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന തല്ല. അത് ദേശം, ഭാഷ, മതം എന്നിവയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ

ഒരിക്കൽ അമേരിക്കയിലെ ന്ധജെഴ്സിയിൽ സംഗീത പരി പാടി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ ശ്രീല ങക്കാർപൊതുവെധരിക്കാറുള്ള വിമർശകനുമായ ടി.എം ക്രഷ്ണ് വും ജനാധിപത്യപരവുമായി നി ലുങ്കിപോലുള്ള വസ്ത്രമായിരു പറഞ്ഞു, സെന്റർഫോർറിസർച്ച് വെധി അവകാശങ്ങൾ ഉറപ്പുതരു ന്ന ധരിച്ചത്. ഇത് പിന്നീട് ഒരുവി ഭാഗം വിവാദമാക്കി.

ഇവർ വർണാലംകൃതമായ ലു ങ്കിയെ ഇസ്ലാമിക് വസ്ത്രമായും ദോത്തിയെ ബ്രാഹ്മണ്യത്തിന്റെ പ്രതീകമായുമാണ് കാണുന്നത്. ഇവിടെയൊക്കെ സംസ്കാര ത്തിന്റെ അതിരുകൾ മാറുന്നത് കാണാം – അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു. ക്രെസ്റ്റ് എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ഡയറ കൂർ ഡി ഡി നമ്പുതിരി സ്വാഗതം പറഞ്ഞു



ഇന്ത്വയുടെ യഥാർഥ വൈവിധ്യം തിരിച്ചറിയപ്പെടുന്നില്ല: ടി.എം.ക്വഷ്ണ





Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna delivering the K.R. Narayana memorial lecture organised by CREST in Kozhikode. *K. RAGESH

STAFF REPORTER

KOZHIKODE vocalist T.M. Carnatic Krishna once wore a Sri Lankan 'sarong', a kind of a colourful lungi, at a concert held in New Jersey, United States

It led to a signature campaign, as some upset connoisseurs claimed that Mr. Krishna "had polluted the Carnatic stage"by wearing a lungi.

"How did one piece of cloth intimidate the whole notion of purity? Was the Kamboji I sang with a lungi impure compared to the Kamboji that I sang in a dhoti? The lungi was seen as Islamic as the dhoti becomes the margin [of culturel," he said while delivering the K.R. Narayanan memorial on 'Indian culture and its margins' here on Saturday evening.

Four elements

Mr. Krishna pointed out that there were four basic elements that created the margins of culture.

"One is the practice, how should it be practised. Or how we should perform a ritual. What attire should we wear for that and what is the appropriate way to perform," he said. HowevHow did one piec of cloth intimidat the whole notion of purity? Was the Kamboji I sang with a lungi impure compared to the Kamboii th I sang in a dhoti?

vert in some fashion to fir a little toehold to con back in," he said.

In the case of Carnat music, the devadasis wh performed on stage we earlier perceived as moral loose. Brahmin wome never used to perform of stage. When D.K. Pattar mal started singing stage, the margins we changed.

...Pattammal was tou ed as the first Brahmin w man who could sing 'raga thanam pallavi'. She was a an expert on musical arit metic...she also used to sin those esoteric compo tions of Muthuswami Diks ithar which many male si gers did not sing," M Krishna said. In that pr cess, however, the devad sis who used to sing 'raga thanam pallavi' were lo from the musical narrative "Because the control st

lies with the male Brahmi



Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director, held a consultation with International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad on February 18, 2019 in connection with designing cutting-edge training programs in IT for candidates from Scheduled Communities of Kerala.

Vinod Krishnan TY, Associate Program Coordinator gave a talk on Wayanad history to the students from Global College, Sweden on 19 January 2019 at Kalpetta. He did a presentation 'Social Exclusion and Higher Education in Kerala'' at Government Law College, Calicut at the national seminar held on March 18, 2019.

Forthcoming Events

Industrial Visit

An industrial visit of the students of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) to Government Cyberpark, Kozhikode has been scheduled on 7 May 2019. Students will be interacting with the workforce of various IT firms located in the Cyberpark.

Workshop on Self Enrichment

A two day workshop on self enrichment will be held for the students of PGCCPD on 16th & 17th of May 2019. It will be conducted by Anil Menon, a HR trainer based in Cochin.

Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop will be conducted by from 20th to 26th May 2019. The workshop will be conducted by Ms.Pallavi Chander, a theatre person based in Bangalore.

Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

Interview for the Admission to 32nd Batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development will be held in June 2019. Classes will begin by mid-July 2019.

Valedictory function for the 31st Batch of PGCCPD

Valedictory function for the 31st Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 28th May 2019 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode. Dr.Sivaji Chakravorti , Director, National Institute of Technology Calicut (NIT-C) will be the Chief Guest.

Orientation Programme for Entry Level Students at All India Institute of Medical Sciences

An orientation program for entry level students of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi will be conducted by CREST from 11-17 July 2019. On 18th July 2019, a workshop on mentoring will be held for the faculty members of AIIMS.



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