



CREST News Bulletin 33 & 34

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Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

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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

Admission of 33rd Batch of PGCCPD

Interview for admission to the 33rd Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development was held on 9th, 10th and 13th of January 2020. 40 students were selected for the



program based on the grades which the students had obtained in their graduate course and the interview. Of the forty students who joined for the program, 31 are girls. Ice breaking session was held on 30th of January 2020 by Vinod Iyer and Sucharita Hota., the faculty members.

Orientation for PGCCPD 33 Batch

On January 31st , 1st & 2nd of February 2020 an orientation program was held for the students at



SIGN Philosphere , Koolivayal , Wayanad, which was conducted by Anil Menon , visiting faculty and Anoop Jayaprakash, Course Coordinator, CREST .

Governing Council Meeting

Eleventh meeting of the Governing Council of CREST was held on January 22, 2020 , in the Chamber of Hon'ble Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Law, Culture and Parliamentary Affairs in Kerala Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram. Among other important agenda items, the Committee discussed the possibility to conduct a Two-year MSc - Management program with the support of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) that would benefit graduates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Kerala . It also decided to initiate a long term project that would help students from Model Residential Schools run by Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Government of Kerala in accessing tertiary education in renowned national institutions. The meeting attended by 14 members of the Governing Council was chaired by Shri. A.K.Balan (Honorable Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Law, Culture and Parliamentary Affairs), Chairman CREST.

Visit of students from Globala gymnasiet , Sweden

Twenty one Students doing social science and humanities program at Globala gymnasiet , Sweden visited CREST and interacted with the students of the Post Graduate Certificate Course



for Professional Development (PGCCPD) on 3 Feb 2020 . A special lecture was organized for the students of Globala gymnasiet on social exclusion . Globala gymnasiet 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 in group discussions with students of CREST in different groups, covering various themes like gender, agriculture

in Kerala, social security etc.

KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

This year's KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture organized by CREST was delivered on 4 February 2020 by veteran journalist and author Saeed Naqvi. The lecture, "If KR Narayanan Were With Us Today" was held at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode. Delivering the lecture he said, the ongoing protests in India against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act has led to the secularization of the Muslim ghetto. Also, the Muslim women up north, who were very timid in coming out of their homes, were now found talking in front of the camera. The CAA followed the Supreme Court verdict that allowed the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Mr. Naqvi noted. "The goose that laid the saffron eggs was dead with the court order," he said. "However, the CAA is not working the



way they (the National Democratic Alliance government) thought it would," he said. People across the country, irrespective of their religious or community background, were alarmed at the prospect of fishing out documents to prove their ancestry. "The documents from not a small number of people, around 1.2 billion," he said. The protests against it were led by the youth, who had bypassed the political Opposition. "It has spread everywhere... Wherever there are universities and campuses," Mr. Naqvi said. "Please don't believe what the TV channels are saying about the Shaheen Bagh protests, that it is led only by Muslim women... these protests have led to the secularization of the Muslim ghettos," he said. He added that the rulers created a muddle around words such as India-Pakistan, Hindu-Muslim, and New Delhi-Srinagar, so that it could not be solved once and for all. "If you touch one of these issues, it will directly get connected to others so that no solution will emerge," he said. Recalling his friendship with Narayanan, Mr. Naqvi said that he would not have become the President had he been alive today as the social condition in the country had changed now.

Saeed Naqvi, born in Lucknow in 1940, has been a quintessential reporter and foreign correspondent for over four decades. He has travelled the length and breadth of India and visited over a hundred countries in pursuit of stories. He has covered most wars since the 1971 war with Pakistan which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh. Other wars covered include the Sri Lanka Civil War, 1971, Sino-Vietnam war, 1979, US bombing of Libya, 1986, the first coup in Fiji, 1987, Nicaragua war, 1989, Operation Desert Storm, 1991, US occupation of Afghanistan, Iraq, 2003, Syrian civil war, 2011. Saeed has interviewed world statesmen, like Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Muammar Qaddafi, Henry Kissinger, Benazir Bhutto, President Hamid Karzai, Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin, J.R. Jayawardene, President Hashemi Rafsanjani and scores of others. His writings, lecture tours and short films on India's composite culture have been path breaking efforts, as have been his documentaries on Indian Peace Keeping Forces and the Indian diaspora in unexpected lands. His books are "Reflections of an Indian Muslim", "The Last Brahmin Prime Minister" and "Being The Other: The Muslim in India". Saeed Naqvi was a Parvin Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, US. He is an alumni of La Martiniere College, Lucknow and studied Journalism at the Thomson School of Journalism, Cardiff, UK.

Executive Director of CREST Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri and Associate Program Coordinator Prof. Ashley Paul also spoke at the function was present.

Workshop on Design Thinking

On 18th February 2020 a workshop was conducted by Narendra Raghunath on design and



aesthetics. The workshop covered stages of observation/interaction, empathy, problem

formulation, solution deduction, testing, alteration and reiteration and Critical Thinking. Narendra is an Artist and Art and Design Teacher at Srishti School of art design and Technology, Bangalore. Drawing inspiration from oriental philosophy and aesthetics, he locates his art practice in human centric enquiry of social construct and its vulnerabilities. He has been part of many critically



acclaimed artistic engagements and exhibitions in India and abroad. There are many published literary works and essays in mainstream news media and journals to his credit. Before joining Srishti, he was associated with National institute of Design, National School of Interior Design (Saurashtra University), Indira Gandhi Open University and corporate sector for 22 years. He did his Masters in art, design and

communication from CEPT University, Ahmedabad.

Visit of students from Oslo Metropolitan College

Following the MoU signed between Faculty of Education and International Studies , Oslo



Metropolitan University (formerly Oslo and Akershus University College (HiOA)) and CREST ,

fourteen students from the University visited CREST as a part of academic collaboration between the two institutions. On 25th of February 2020, students from both institutions jointly organized thematic workshops on a broad range of issues concerning India and Norway. They will be attached to CREST for 45 days and as interns the students will be exposed to themes of gender, health, livelihood and return migration from the Gulf countries, under the supervision of the faculty of CREST. They will also undertake field interactions facilitated by CREST in Wayanad Kozhikode and Kollam. CREST will also be facilitating peer level interaction of these students with the



students undergoing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) at CREST .

Oslo Metropolitan University is a government run university in Oslo and Akershus in Norway. It has around 1,400 academic employees (of which over 150 are professors/research professors, the



top rank in Norway), around 20,000 students and around 800 administrative support staff. Oslo

Metropolitan University evolved from what was until 2018 Norway's largest university college, Oslo and Akershus University College, which was itself the result of many previous mergers of around 30 former colleges and community colleges in the Oslo area, Norway. The one day event ended with a brief cultural program in which students of CREST demonstrated classical dance performance, music and folk music with their counterparts from Oslo Metropolitan University performing Norwegian folk songs.

Workshop on Gender and Sexuality

Ms. Aparna Viswanathan, Founder of RACE, an experiential learning firm providing assistance to



professionals and students conducted a one day workshop on gender and sexuality for the



students undergoing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD)

sat CREST . The workshop was held on 27 February 2020. Ms. Aparna Viswanathan is a trainer attached Zocio, Bangalore. Modeled on experiential and reflective learning methodologies, she encourages the students to create an attitudinal shift in their perceptions and judgments .The one day workshop conducted by Aparna Viswanathan is expected to let the PGCCPD students to be empathetic into the views that students hold about their own and the other genders. It is expected to help them in examining their personal attitudes and beliefs with regard to gender.

Workshop on Amateur Radio & Disaster Mitigation

A workshop on “Ham Radio and Disaster Management” was organized for students of 33rd batch CREST on 28th February 2020 by Mr.Ashraf , Ham Radio exponent based in Kozhikode. Ham radio,



also known as Amateur radio, is the use of radio frequency spectrum for purposes of non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, private recreation, radiosport, contesting, and emergency communication. The amateur radio service (amateur service and amateur-satellite service) is established by the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) through the Radio Regulations. Radio amateurs use a variety of

voice, text, image, and data communications modes and have access to frequency allocations throughout the RF spectrum. Amateur radio is officially represented and coordinated by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). In

times of crisis and natural disasters, amateur radio is often used as a means of emergency communication when wire line, cell phones and other conventional means of communications fail. Mr.Ashraf is an entrepreneur who has been



promoting Radio Ham as a hobby and as an emergency communication measure during disasters for students for the past few years.

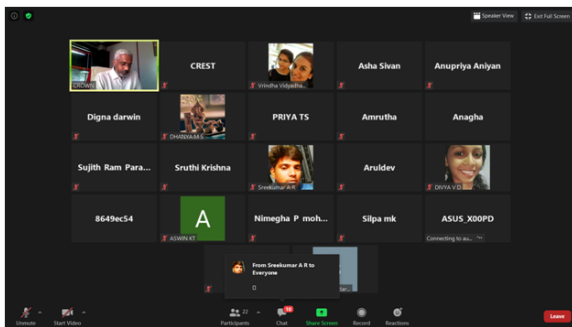
Workshop – “Redefine your horizons”

Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA conducted a two day workshop “Redefine your horizons “on 3rd & 4th of March 2020 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.

Suspension of PGCCPD due to COVID-1



As a part of preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 , following advisory of Government CREST had to suspend academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities from 11th of March 2020 onwards. From 28th March 20 onwards, the modules were delivered online.

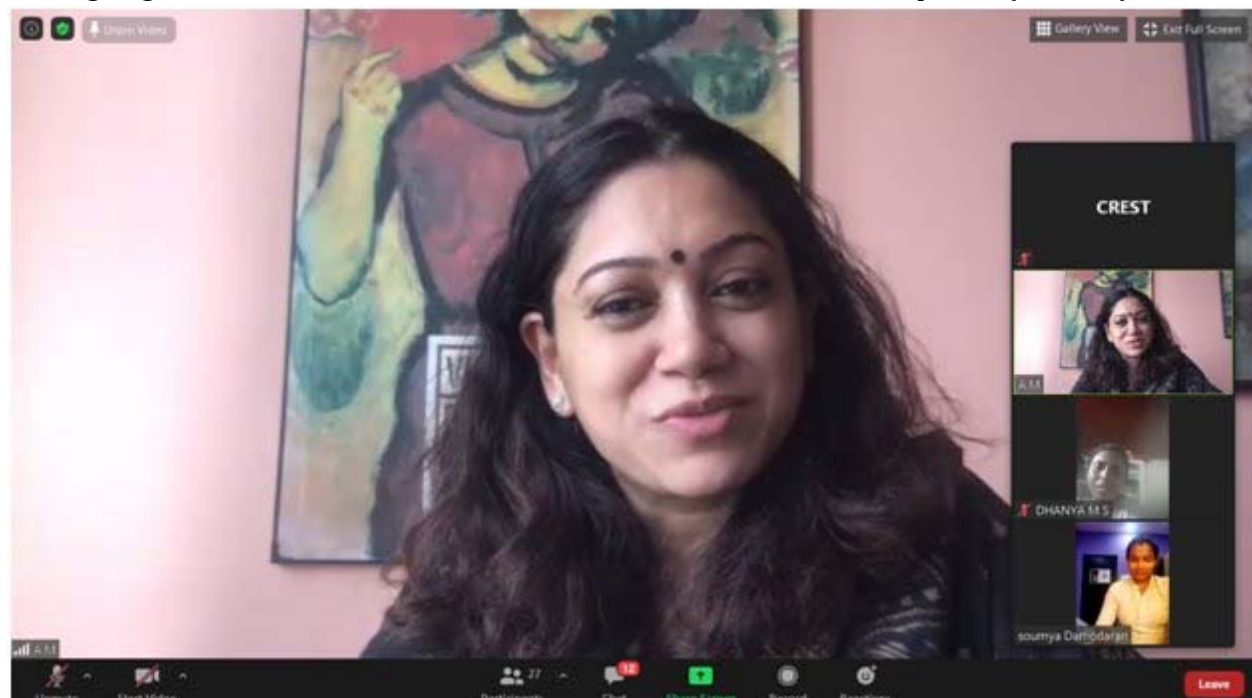
Workshop on Professional Excellence



A zoom workshop was held on 19 August 2020 for the students undergoing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) at CREST. It was conducted by Mr. Sainath ER. He is the Vice-President, Sales, of Kaleesuwari Refinery Pvt Ltd, one of the leading refined edible oil producers in India. The interactive session covered areas like attaining professional excellence and preparations which it demanded.

Special Lecture on 'creativity and success'

A special lecture on 'creativity and success' was organized on 24 August 2020 for the students undergoing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) at CREST.



The online session was given by Ms. Anjali Menon, noted film maker. Anjali Menon works as writer | director | producer of feature films which have been received well by the audience as well as the critics. Her films reflect themes of the migrant experience, family, gender equations and cross cultural interactions. After her Masters in Communication Studies , she worked in documentaries in Pune. She graduated in directing, producing and editing from London International Film school with distinction honours . Films she directed include Kerala Cafe (Happy Journey segment), Manjadikuru Bangalore Days and Koode . She was the screen writer of the popular Malayalam film 'Ustad Hotel'. Her graduation film Black nor White premiered at Palm Springs and won the BFI award for Best Short film. Anjali was one of the founders of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), an organization of women in Malayalam cinema.

Session on Higher Education Abroad

Dr. Syam Mohan gave a special lecture / workshop on 'Higher Education Abroad' over Zoom on 26 August 2020 for the students . The session covered higher education opportunities abroad and the



scholarships available for students and the preparations required. Dr. Syam Mohan was a former student of CREST. He holds PhD in Physics (Biophotonics) from Heriot Watt University, Scotland , UK. He is doing his Post Doctoral research at The University of Edinburgh, UK.

Forthcoming Events

Webinar on Google Scholar and Google Books

A webinar will be conducted on 14th September 2020 for the students of 33rd batch PGCCPD by Dr.Surendran Cherukodan, Assistant Librarian, School of Engineering, CUSAT on how to use Google Scholar and Google Books

Valedictory function for the 33rd Batch of PGCCPD

Valedictory function for the 33rd Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 12th October 2020. Dr.K.V.Kunhikrishnan , Chairman , Kerala State Library Council will be the Chief Guest. The students will be felicitated by Sri. Balachandran Gopinath (HRD Consultant and International Trainer of JCI) and Vinod Iyer , Faculty of CREST. The program will be conducted online through Zoom.

Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

Notification for admission to the 34th Batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development will be issued by the first week of October 2020. Classes are expected to begin by mid-December 2020 .