



# CREST News Bulletin

(January – April 2013)

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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.

## Activities

### Oslo University College Students Visit CREST

Following the MoU between CREST and Oslo and Akershus University College Norway for academic collaboration between two institutions, sixteen undergraduate students of



Development studies of Oslo University College, Norway visited CREST on 28 January 2013. Sessions were held by the students and faculty members of CREST on Kerala development model, caste issues, forest rights etc. A special lecture also was held on the same day by Dr. Berit Helene Vandsemb Faculty of education and international, Oslo University College on Norway and educational system in Norway.

## **Prof. Anna Lindberg, Director Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) visits CREST**

Prof. Anna Lindberg, Director Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) visited CREST 7



February 2013. She held a special lecture on her observations on caste related social issues in India for the students of PGCCPD course. Anna Lindberg specializes in contemporary Indian history. Her focus is on South Indian history in a global perspective and her approach is interdisciplinary, embracing gender, development, and anthropology. She seeks to integrate social history and interdisciplinary analysis with postmodern and postcolonial theories.

## **Workshop on Essentials of Academic Writing**



Teddy Primack, Director Academics Documents Associates, USA did a workshop on essentials of academic writing for students of CREST on 8 February 2013 . Teddy Primack is the director of Academic Documents Associates based in the USA and a long-time editor of journal articles and dissertations submitted for publications.



## English Writing Skills Workshop by Meena Kandasamy



On January 3, 2013, noted Indian writer in English Dr. Meena Kandasamy conducted one day workshop on English writing skills. Meena Kandasamy is a poet, writer, activist and translator. Her works maintain a focus on caste annihilation, linguistic identity and feminism. She has published two collections of poetry, Touch

(2006) and Ms Militancy (2010). She was a Charles Wallace India Trust Fellow at the School of English, University of Kent, Canterbury (UK) and a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Creative Writing, Newcastle University (UK) in 2010.

## Workshop on Gender

Ms. Jinu Abraham, Faculty, Department of Social Work, Little Flower Institute of Social Sciences (Lissah College) held a workshop on gender on January 8, 2013

## Workshop on Group Discussion & Interview

During 1-10, January 2013 a two day workshop was conducted by Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA and faculty Ahmadabad Management Association.

## Workshop on Self Realization

Devdas Menon, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras conducted a one day workshop on Self Realization on 11 January 2013

## Workshop on Translation



Dr. Sunandan Roy Chaudhury, faculty, Asian Studies Satakunta University, Finland and Publisher of Sampark journal of global understanding conducted a two day workshop on translation on 20 & 21 March 2013. The workshop was conducted as a part of communication skills module of the PGCCPD course. Students collectively translated the work "In the Shadows of Mahatma", written by Sita Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi

## **Workshop on Trauma Care**

Angels International conducted a special session on trauma care on 13 January 2013

## **Andrey Kurkov, Russian author interacts with students of CREST**

Andrey Kurkov, well known Russian writer from Ukraine visited CREST on March 23, 2013 and interacted with the students of CREST. Kurkov, one of the most well know contemporary Russian



writers shared his experience as a writer in soviet and post soviet era. Andrey Yuryevich Kurkov is the author of 13 novels and 5 books for children. His work is currently translated into 25 languages, including English, Japanese, French, Chinese, Swedish and Hebrew. He has also written assorted articles for various publications worldwide. His books are full of black humor, post-Soviet reality and elements of surrealism.

## **Workshop on Leadership**

On 26 February 2013 Prof. Sumit Mitra, Associate Professor, IIMK conducted a special session on leadership and decision making for the students of PGCCPD

## **Session on Higher Education and Social Development**

Dr. Leena Abraham, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai conducted an half day session on Higher Education and Social Development on April 4, 2013

## **Special session on Career Placement and Business Communication**

Latha Prabhu, Associate Professor, Farook Institute of Management held a half day session on trends in career placement on April 10, 2013. On the same day Dr. Anupam Das, Assoc Professor, IIMK did a special session on Business Communication

## Interaction with Prof.NR Madhava Menon



Prof.N.R.Madhava Menon who was instrumental in setting up the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bangalore, and West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) in Calcutta and who pioneered legal education reforms through the five-year integrated LL.B. course and clinical legal pedagogy , interacted with the students of CREST on 16 March 2013. Speaking to the students, he emphasized the importance of aspiring high and fulfilling the aspirations by facing the challenges.

## Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was held from 7 to 12 April 2012. The workshop was conducted by C Martin



John and Ms. Valeria Martin a Chilean theatre person. The objective of the workshop was to improve the communication skills, interpersonal skills and confidence. On November 6, the students performed an English play before an invited audience at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium , Kozhikode



## Valediction of 19<sup>th</sup> Batch of PGCCPD



The valedictory function for the 19<sup>th</sup> batch of PGCCPD was held on April 26, 2013 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Calicut. On successful completion of the course 40 students were awarded their course certificates. Noted historian Prof. MGS Narayanan was the chief guest for the function. Dr. Radhakrishna Pillai, Professor, IIMK was the Guest of Honor. The students were felicitated by faculty member, Dr. Anita Ramesh and intern from Oslo University Ms. Dawn Heskettad. Ms. Srividhya Balachandran and Mr. Thahir Zaman T representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speeches.



Prof. Ashley Paul, Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST welcomed the dignitaries, guests and the students. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Executive Director of CREST. Nirmal Joy, Course coordinator gave the vote of thanks. The valedictory function ended with the candle light ceremony.

## Governing Council Meeting

Sixth meeting of the Governing Council of CREST was held on March 18, 2013 in the Chamber of Shri. A.P. Anil Kumar, Chairman, CREST Governing Council (Hon'ble Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Tourism), in the Kerala Legislative Assembly building, Thiruvananthapuram. Present were Shri. A.P. Anilkumar, Hon'ble Minister for the Welfare of

Scheduled Castes & Backward Communities and Tourism, Kerala Smt.Sumana N Menon , IAS Secretary , SC/ST Development Department . Government of Kerala, Prof.N.R.Madhava Menon Former Director of National Law School of India University S. Harikishore IAS Director, SC Development Department, Thiruvananthapuram , Vinodkumar Jayanandan, President , Alumni Association CREST .Vinod Krishnan, T.Y. Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST.Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Member Executive Director, CREST and Sri Bimal Lal T.S, Undersecretary , Finance Department . The meeting, among other issues discussed the expansion plan of CREST , independent campus at Cyberpark Kozhikode .

## Executive Committee Meeting

The 20th Executive Committee meeting of CREST was held on Wednesday , January 15, 2013 at the office of CREST .The meeting was attended by Dr.K.V.Kunhikrishnan, Chairman Executive Committee, 3. Sri.M.N.Diwakaran Deputy Director , North Zone , Scheduled Castes Development Department ( Representing Director, SC Development Department ) , Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri , Executive Director, CREST and Vinod Krishnan.T.Y , Associate Programme Coordinator CREST

## Interns



Ms.Dawn Heskestad, Masters Degree student in Comparative and International Education (University of Oslo , Norway ) interned with CREST during Jan – April 2012. During the internship she assisted students particularly girls in communication skills and group activities. Ms. Maja Lindström, student of Department of geography and economic history Umeå University SWEDEN interned with CREST in April 2013.

## Faculty Activities

On February 25, 2013 D.D.Nampoothiri delivered a talk on ‘ Recent developments in Social Sciences’ in the AQUIRE programme for undergraduate students of social sciences from M.G.University organized by the School of Social Sciences, M.G.University, Kottayam. Chapter written by D.D.Nampoothiri titled ‘Confronting Social Exclusion: A Critical Review of the CREST Experience’ was published in the book *“Beyond Inclusion: The Practice of Equal Access in India’s Higher Education”* edited by Dr.Satish Deshpande and Dr.Usha Zacharias and published by Routledge ( 2013) .An Interview of late Sri. V.T.Bhattathiripad, renowned Malayalam writer and social reformer by D.D.Nampoothiri, K.Gopalankutty and Kesavan Veluthat was published by Oxford (2013) in the book *‘My Tears My Dreams’* originally written by V.T.Bhattathiripad and translated by Sindhu V. Nair and edited by Mini Krishnan.



Vinod Krishnan TY associate program coordinator held a session on tribal studies in Kerala at a conference organized by Kerala Anthropological Association at Hotel Nalanda Auditorium Kozhikode on 7 February 2013. On 18 February 2013, held a special lecture on tribal situation in Kerala for undergraduate and Master's students of Sociology at Zamorins Guruvayurappan College Kozhikode.

## CREST in Media



Print as well as the visual media of Kerala have given coverage to various programmes of CREST held during January – April 2013. Leading

Malayalam news channel “ Mathrubhumi News” did special coverage on students and interns of CREST

## Forthcoming Events

### Admission to 20<sup>th</sup> Batch of PGCCPD

Interview for admission to the 20<sup>th</sup> Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 8, 9 & 10 of May 2013. The admission will be on May 30, 2013 and classes will commence on 11 June 2013

### Orientation on PGCCPD

A two-day orientation workshop will be held for students of XX Batch of PGCCPD programme on 14&15 June 2013 at Sultan Bathery Wayanad. The workshop will be conducted by Mr. Anil Menon , HR specialist based in Cochin. It will be held at Prateeksha Training Centre Sultan Bathery

### Orientation Programme for engineering students

An orientation programme, designed to improve the performance level of students from Scheduled communities enrolling for BTech Degree courses will be held during July- August 2013. One hundred candidates from Scheduled communities who obtain admission for BTech Degree courses in Kerala through Common Entrance Examination 2013 will be given intensive in-house training in Mathematics, English, Mechanics, Engineering Graphics and Personality Development.

### Five Days Self-Enrichment Programme for First Year BTech students at IIT Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi has invited CREST to conduct a ten days training programme for first year BTech students from Scheduled communities. The objective of the programme is to improve the performance level of SC/ST Students who join for BTech Degree courses at the Indian Institute of Technology,

Delhi . The programme will be held from July 13 -17 , 2013 at IIT Delhi. The five days programme is intended to equip them to develop study strategies in order to improve their performance as well as aspiration level.

### **Finishing School at National Institute of Technology – Karnataka, Surathkal (NIT-K Surathkal)**

CREST with the support of SC/ST Cell, NIT –K Surathkal will be conducting a three week finishing school programme for SC/ST students undergoing BTech Degree course at NIT-K from, July 1 – 20 , 2013 Fifty final year BTech students will be taking part in the programme which will be held at NITK.

### **Self Enrichment Program for MBBS students at AIIMS**

A ten days orientation programme entitled” “Self-Enrichment Programme for the MBBS Entry Students” will be held from 18 July to 27 July 2013 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. . The program is held with the objective to enhance the self-confidence level of students, particularly hailing from Scheduled and backward communities . Following the workshop a two day workshop on mentoring also will be conducted by CREST for the faculty members of AIIMS on 29 & 30 July 2013.

### **Workshop on Self Development**

A one day workshop on self development will be conducted by Prof.L.S.Ganesh , Prof & Head , Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Technology , Chennai in July 2013

### **Workshop by Balachandran Gopinath**

Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA will conduct a two day workshop “You-the miracle “ on 1&2 July 2013 with an objective to improve the confidence level of students.

