



CREST News Bulletin

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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

Screening of Recasting Selves

Recasting Selves, a 80 minutes documentary film set on CREST, made by Lalit Vachani and team was premiered at the Urban Lens Film Festival with a screening in the Goethe-Institute in Max



Mueller Bhavan, Bangalore on 28th September 2019. It is an academic reading on CREST and it captures the social intervention of CREST. Filmed in 2016, Recasting Selves was made by A Wide Eye Film with support from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and the Centre for Modern Indian

Studies (CeMIS), University of Göttingen, Germany.

Lalit Vachani is a documentary filmmaker, who is the director of the New Delhi based Wide Eye Film. His documentaries include The Starmaker (about the business of 'starmaking' in the Hindi film industry); The Boy in the Branch and The Men in the Tree (on the Hindu nationalist organization, the RSS); The Play Goes On (about a socialist street theatre group, Jana Natya Manch); The Salt Stories (following the trail of Mahatma Gandhi's salt march in India after seventy years);

Tales from Napa (about a village that resisted religious fanatics during the 2002 riots in India) and An Ordinary Election (an in-depth study of an Indian election campaign). Lalit Vachani now lives in Göttingen, Germany where he teaches courses on media and politics, the political documentary film and documentary theory and production at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) at the University of Göttingen.

The film "Recasting Selves" was screened on 17 November 2019 at Crown Cinema Kozhikode and India International Centre on 23rd December 2019.

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 19 & 20 September 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.

Workshop on “Good Language”

Prof.MN Karassery, renowned Malayalam literary critic conducted a workshop on communication skills for the students on 23 September 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.

Dr. M.N.Karassery was a Professor of Malayalam at the University of Calicut. He is a prolific writer and well known orator, who has many books to his credit. He is a frequent presence in Malayalam TV channels and print media as an advocate of the poor and the unorganized. Karassery's activism targets caste prejudice, social justice and religious equality in India. His writings and lectures support secular democracy and gender justice.

Special Lecture on General Awareness and Quizzing

A special lecture on General Awareness and Quizzing was held for the students of the 32nd batch PGCCPD on September 25th 2019 by Dr. Nagesh from St. Joseph's College Devagiri. The lecture



helped the students in understanding the methods of preparation for quizzing as well as the areas of preparation.

The discussions that followed ensured that all the doubts that the students had were being clarified and a reading list was also provided to students to concentrate on. Dr. Nagesh was Professor of English, St. Joseph's College Devagiri. He has been the winner of "Quiz Time" a nationally known inter-collegiate quiz show by

Sidhartha Basu that was hosted in Doordarshan in 1985.

Workshop on technology-related Entrepreneurship

On 11th and 12th of November 2019 a two day workshop was held for the students of PGCCPD at the Technology Incubation Centre at National Institute of Technology, Kozhikode. Technology Business Incubator (TBI) at National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NITC) is a venture set up jointly by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and National Institute of Technology, Calicut



in the year 2003-2004 to support the startup industries in IT and electronics field. The Technology Business Incubator works on building sustainable regional platforms for incubating technology-related businesses. Along with Information technology (IT) and electronics industries, TBI also supports technology startups in various other sectors like

software, rubber technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, agriculture and renewable energy.

Special Lecture on Mahatma Gandhi

Prof. K.Gopalan Kutty , historian gave a special lecture on Mahatma Gandhi on 02 October 2019 in connection with the observance of Gandhi Jayanti celebration held in CREST. Dr. K. Gopalan Kutty, was Head of the Department of History, University of Calicut. He has been teaching modern history



at Malabar Christian College, Calicut and Calicut University. He has written extensively on Civil Disobedience movement and agrarian movements in Malabar.

Gender Sensitization Workshop

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



professionals and students was invited by CREST to conduct a one day workshop on gender sensitization for PGCCPD students on 14 October 2019. 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.

Special Lecture on Opportunities in Indian Defence

A special lecture on Indian army, job opportunities in the army and details of various examinations



that have to be cleared to get admission into army was held for the students of PGCCPD by Colonel Jaideep Sharma on 22nd October 2019. The lecture helped the students in clarifying their doubts about the life in army and the preparation procedure for SSB. An overview of examination format was also analyzed

as illustrations of the methodology were given through live examples. The discussion also proved as an opportunity to understand the life and struggle that the soldiers take for protecting the nation. Colonel Jaideep Sharma is the commanding officer of 30 Kerala Battalion NCC in Kozhikode.

Special Lecture on industry demands and skill sets

A special lecture on skill sets required for IT industry was give by Mr.T.S Ravikumar Chief



Operating Officer at UL Cyber Park, Kozhikode on 23rd October 2019 . It gave an opportunity to the students to understand the requirements that the industry demands and the preparations to be done by the students to be part of it. The interactive session brought forward many queries from the students as to

the available opportunities and the future prospects for them. Suggestions were given as to how the

students could equip themselves to face the competition and also an idea about the right attitude that the corporate sector looks forward for. Life story of T.S Ravikumar turned out to be an inspiration to the students as he suggested exploring new opportunities by not just concentrating on one industry. UL CyberPark is part of the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS), formed in 1925, the largest workers' cooperative society in Asia.

Special Lecture on Politics of Water

P.S.Vijay Shankar ,Director of Research ,Samaj Pragati Sahayog(SPS) on 24th of October 2019 gave a special lecture on politics of water. Lecture also gave an opportunity for the



students to know about the activities Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) , a NGO that is headquartered in drought-prone tribal area in the Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh. Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) is one of India's largest grass-roots initiatives for water and livelihood security, working with its partners on a million acres of land across 72 of India's most backward districts, mainly in the central Indian Adivasi belt. SPS's location-specific watershed development, low cost, low risk agriculture, other nature based livelihoods and women led microfinance, has significantly raised income of Adivast families in drought-prone tribal areas in central India.

The mandate of Samaj Pragati Sahayog is the empowerment of India's most disadvantaged segment of people - women, Adivasis and Dalits - and strengthening of democracy at grass-roots level. The intervention of Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) has contributed significantly in arresting distress migration towards the metros and helped the rural poor from the clutches of moneylender-traders.

Workshop on Media and Entertainment Industry

On 1st of November 2019 , a workshop was held for the students on Media and Entertainment industry by G.Sajan , Deputy Director , Doordarshan Kendra, New Delhi. After Graduating in



Agriculture from Kerala Agricultural University worked with the Public Service Broadcaster Doordarshan for 33 years in the field of Development Communication and designed nationally recognized models on innovative communication. Sajan has worked as Head of Programme of Doordarshan Kendra in Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands. He had produced 'Green Kerala Express' the first ever Social Reality Show in the history of Indian Television to select the best



Grama Panchayath (Local Self Government) in Kerala which got the Prime Minister's award in the category of Urban Water and Media section.

A special lecture, "Presenting self before Social media" was held for the students by Nirmal Joy, former

Course Coordinator of CREST, now pursuing his doctoral program at Western Sydney University, Australia. He is working on issues related to social exclusion in employment sector in India.

Interaction of Master of Social Work students

Faculty members and Students of Master of Social Work (MSW) program, Osmania University, Hyderabad visited CREST on 28 September 2019, as a part of their fieldwork in Kerala. On 20



November 2019, students doing the MSW program of Calicut University at WMO College, Muttill , Wayanad also visited CREST and interacted with the students and the faculty. A special lecture on Social Exclusion was held for the students at CREST.

Public Lecture on Artificial Intelligence

A special lecture on Artificial Intelligence , “Artificial Intelligence: Reality & Thoughts” by Prof. PJ Narayanan was jointly organized by CREST, ULCCS Ltd & Calicut Management Association on



November 26, 2019 at UL Cyberpark, Kozhikode. Prof. P J Narayanan is the Director of IIIT, Hyderabad and a researcher in the areas of Computer Vision, computational cameras, and parallel computing. He built the Virtualized Reality system in mid 1990s at the Carnegie Mellon University to capture 3D geometry and appearance of dynamic events. He also was an early adopter of GPUs for several Computer Vision and general computing tasks. He got his bachelors from IIT Kharagpur, masters and PhD from the University of Maryland, all in Computer Science. He was a research faculty member at the Robotics Institute of CMU from 1992

to 1996 and headed the Vision and Virtual Reality groups of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and

Robotics, Bangalore from 1996 to 2000. He has been with IIIT Hyderabad from 2000 and has been its PG Coordinator, Dean of Research, and, from 2013, its Director. The Kohli Centre on Intelligent Systems at IIIT Hyderabad -- endowed significantly by the TCS -- is the largest academic group in AI and related areas in India. He was the President of ACM India from 2009 to 2014 and involved with several academic institutions in the country.

Giving the lecture, Prof. P J Narayanan expressed his views on where AI technology may take us in the next few decades and on what we can do to be prepared for an entirely beneficial future with AI and technologies derived from it.

Special lecture on Entrepreneurship

A special lecture on entrepreneurship was held by Mr. Haris CEO of M2H Infotech and President of Calicut Forum for IT (CAFIT) on 3 December 2019. The session opened up doors to the students to face challenges in setting up the business venture. Opportunities and modern trends of employment



were also discussed during the interactive session.

CAFIT is active shaping up Calicut as an IT destination. It has a mandate to promote Malabar as an ideal destination for Technology entrepreneurship. CAFIT helps to structure programs that increase the chances of success among young entrepreneurs by providing training, mentoring, funding and setting up start-ups to succeed in their business ventures.

Industrial Visit

An Industrial visit was organized for the students of CREST to Government Cyber park and UI cyber park on 4th Dec 2019. A detailed presentation the Cyberpark was held for the students by Mr.Nireesh, General Manager. The visit to the Cyberpark also included interaction with Ontash, a start up firm based in the Cyberpark.

The students also visited “Start up Dreams”, a project of Kerala Start Up Mission (KSUM), based in



UL Cyberpark . A presentation was held for the on the startup possibilities for the students, by Mr.Krishan Kumar and Mr.Prajith of KSUM. The students were also given opportunity to present their business ideas before the panel . Out of the eight concepts which were presented, four concepts were approved by KSUM for pre incubation phase. The concepts being selected included: MEU - a concept on E waste management, White paper –a theme based on reducing the use of paper, Nool- A concept on creating a pool of tailors and

providing employment opportunities to large number of women folk . And another concept which had its idea rooted on solving the mosquito problem by introduction of an eco friendly mosquito repellent was also presented

Special Lecture on rights of differently abled

A special lecture on the rights of differently abled was held for the students by Prajith Jayapal on 05 December 2019. Prajith has been paralyzed below neck since a car accident almost a decade ago. He has set up Divyang Foundation, an organization to aid differently abled people. He is about to set out on a round-the-world trip in 365 days starting from 15th December 2019. Prajith Jayapal , a



quadriplegic man from Kozhikode had created history in 2018 by driving a car from Kozhikode to Delhi where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Encouraged by the response to his national tour Prajith has set a larger goal of bringing to focus the discrimination faced by differently

abled persons across the world.

Workshop on “Cyber Security and Protection”



Mr.Arun Shah Director and principal Consultant, Cyber Security And Risk Governance did a workshop on Cyber Security and protection on 6th Dec 2019.The session enabled the students to secure themselves from the online threats of viruses and Ransomwares. The session did also point towards the multiple ways of personal data getting hijacked and the precautionary measures to be taken. The session proved fruitful as the students were able to clarify their doubts on methods to be adopted to secure their personal data and security measures to be initiated by one faced with a threat. The vulnerability being exhibited by all on the cyber space by leaving foot

prints for the hackers to attack was analyzed and explained in detail during the session.

Workshops on Resume Preparation and Interview Skills

On 8th December 2019, peer level workshop on interview skills was held for the students of CREST by the PGP students of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode on CV preparation and



interview. . On 12th & 13th of December 2019 Mr.Anil Menon conducted mock interview sessions for the students . Anil Menon is a HR consultant in the training department of SB Global, a HR training agency based in Cochin. Exhaustive interviews were conducted personally with each student to be followed by a feedback session for all the students.

Special Lecture on Higher studies abroad

A special lecture on higher education abroad was given by Sreeparna V on 18 December 2019. She also shared her personal experience of “Being an Indian student in Canada” . Sreeparna is doing her doctoral program at the Centre for Blood Research, University of British Columbia, Canada. She is



involved in a research project to develop new drugs to prevent blood clotting without the side effect of bleeding . She did her Masters in Science from the Indian Institute of Science Education

and Research (IISER) Kolkata . She has been a volunteer for the orientation program for BTech entry students conducted by CREST in Kozhikode from June 19 to July 4, 2010

Special lecture opportunities in management sector

A special lecture by Dr. Saji Kuriakose ,Director of Farook Institute of Management Studies (FIMS) and President of Calicut Management Association (CMA) was organized for students of 32nd Batch



PGCCPD students on 18th December 2019. The special lecture gave exposure to the students on job opportunities in the management sector and skill sets the sector demands.

Theatre Workshop

From 23rd to 29th December 2019 a theatre workshop was conducted for the students by Pallavi



Chandar. The workshop focused on communication skills. Ms.Pallavi Chander is a theatre person based in Bangalore. She is attached to Masrah , a Bangalore based theatre group that has been evolving by using theatre as an effective tool to express and communicate. Masrah uses the language of theatre by staging productions, conducting workshops and engaging with the medium by working with other theatre and art

groups.

Pallavi holds a Bachelor's in Visual Arts from College of Fine Arts in Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad,



Bangalore University. She has done special training in Sesame approach of Drama and Movement Therapy from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London. Her approach incorporates the philosophies and theories of Carl Jung, Rudolph Laban, Peter Slade and Billy Lindkvist. This approach uses allegory, symbols, imagery, dramatic distance and play to creatively explore and

express ones needs, fears and hopes, in their own way. On 29th December , the participants of the workshop performed a play before an invited audience at CREST

Valedictory function

Valedictory function for the 32nd Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development was held on 31 December 2019 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode



Presidential Address was given by Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri Executive Director, CREST. Mr. Raveendran Kasthuri , Group CEO, UL Cyber Park, Calicut. Prof.Radhakrishna Pillai , faculty, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode and Mr.C. P. Kunhimohammed, Chairman. JDT Islam Orphanage Committee were the Guests of Honor. Mr. A. R. Vinod Faculty, CREST and Ms. Sheril Sudheesh T. P. Alumni , gave the felicitations. Mr. Thensih K. A and Ms. Priya S.N , students of PGCCPD shared their experience at CREST. Mr. Vinod

Krishnan T.Y. Associate Program Coordinator gave the vote of thanks.

Intern at CREST

Ms.Hannah Mohammed , a 2020 UG student of Mathematics at Cambridge University, UK interned



at CREST from October to December 2019. She has been working on communication and mathematical skills. Her specialization in Mathematics opened up new and easy ways of approaching and solving mathematical problems.

Farewell to Prof.V.Kesavan

An event was organized by the students and staff on 21st December 2019 to bid farewell to



Prof.V.Kesavan, who has been teaching Analytical and Quantitative Skills module . Prof.Kesavan has been handling this module for the past fifteen years for the Post Graduate Certificate Course for

Professional Development. Dr.Kesavan , since his retirement as Professor of Economics from Malabar Christian College, Calicut has been associated with CREST and was instrumental in redesigning Analytical and Quantitative Skills module of PGCCPD program. Prof.DD Nampoothiri , Executive Director , Prof. Ashley Paul , Associate Program Coordinator, Vinod Krishnan , Associate Program Coordinator, KP Sasikumar , Administrative Officer, Premanathan K , faculty , Ms. Jinesha , Accountant , Anoop Jayaprakash , Course Coordinator , Priya SN , and Aiswarya NP students spoke at the function. In his reply speech Prof..V.Kesavan shared his experience of teaching statistics and mathematics to students and how he enjoyed working with numbers , his passion though his academic background was Economics .

Constitution Day Observed

Constitution Day was observed on 26th of November 2019 at CREST. Constitution Day also known



as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.

National Energy Conservation Day & Human Rights Day Observed



National Human Rights Day & National Energy Conservation Day were observed in CREST on 9th and 14th of December 2019 respectively. Human Rights Day is celebrated to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948

as the shared standard yard stick to protect human rights across the globe. The Energy Conservation Act in India was implemented by the Bureau of Energy on December 14th, 2001. National Energy Conservation Day is observed on December 14th every year to showcase India's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation.

Christmas Celebration at CREST

Christmas was celebrated by the students with full delight and enthusiasm on 24th December 2019.



The event was celebrated as a part of exploring the festivals of other religions and for inculcating respect for all religions. The celebrations included a flash mob performed by the students.

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Forthcoming Events

Admission for PGCCPD

Interview for admission to 33rd Batch of PGCCPD will be held on 9th, 10th and 13th of January 2020. Admission will be held on 23rd of January 2020. The course will begin on 29th of January 2020. Orientation program will be held for the students on 30th of January 2020.

KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

Annual KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture conducted by CREST will be held on 4th of February 2020. The Lecture, “ Secular tradition and Indian minorities” will be delivered by Sayeed Naqvi , veteran journalist and author.