



CREST News Bulletin 37

(May – August 2022)

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

Facing challenges of life - Workshop

A one day workshop was conducted by Balachandran Gopinath on 12 May 2022 on facing challenges of life. Balachandran Gopinath is an international trainer of JCI. He was the



Certification Commissioner for JCI University, U.S.A. in 2008. He has experience of over 15 years

as the Divisional, Regional and National Head of the Marketing Departments of reputed Companies. He is a highly acclaimed corporate trainer, HRD Consultant and a motivational speaker . He has over 100 clients in India and abroad. He is a Visiting Faculty to many Universities and Institutes for their MBA programs in India.

Workshop on Obstacles to Learning

A whole day workshop covering Obstacles to Learning, art of giving / receiving feedback, Growth Mindset and Deliberate Practice was conducted by Mr.Amit Kumar on 14th of May 2022. Amit Kumar has over 24 years of cumulative experience as a communication coach, journalist,



learning specialist, and manager in organizations across India, the US, Nepal, and Mauritius. His training experience spans across institutions such as the World Bank, Deloitte, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Jindal Stainless among others. Amit received an MSc in computer and information science from Cleveland State University, USA. He volunteered for CREST as a faculty from April – June 2022.

A follow - up workshop was conducted by Amit Kumar on “presence” was held on 3rd May 2022. It covered tips to make one’s presence felt, making people notice you or pay attention in a positive manner. It also covered the power of “presence” as a leader, manager, friend, co-worker or peer.

Special Lecture on Start Ups

On 18th May 2022, an interactive session on start-ups was conducted by Ms. Preethi.M., CEO of Technology Business Incubator (TBI) National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC). 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. The students were

given orientation on developing business ideas and teams were formed and mock presentation of business ideas were held at the workshop. Peer level feedbacks also were taken and discussed.

Workshop on dining etiquettes in business situations

A special workshop on dining etiquettes in business situations and lunch/dinner interviews were held for students on 30 May 2022. This was conducted by Ms. Sucharita Hota with an



objective to stand out as a polished professional in such situations. The session covered business meal etiquette tips, dress code, art of making light conversations, being formal, among others. The entire workshop was sponsored by a former intern of CREST, now living in the UK.

Exploring the world – Special Lecture



A special lecture was given by Ms. Nasmina Nasir on “Exploring the world”. She also introduced the students “Jagrithi Yatra” – a confluence of change-makers, leaders, problem-solvers and innovators. Jagrithi Yatra focuses on the themes of Agriculture, Health, Technology, Women Empowerment and Urbanization and interlinking entrepreneurship with nation-building. . Nasmina Nasir is an Assistant Professor at Sharaf Arts & Science College, Cheruvathur, and Kasaragod. She is a Doctoral

Research Fellow – PhD in Malayalam literature at Calicut University. She is also the founder of i.LAB, an educational initiative in Kozhikode, working among the children of fisher people.

Understanding Media Workshop

On 6th of June 2022, workshop, “Understanding Visual Media” was held for the students doing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) at CREST, The



workshop was organized with the support of Mediaone Academy of Communication. An introductory session on journalism and visual media was held by Mr. Rajeev Sankaran,



Coordinating Editor and Nishad Rawther, Senior News Editor of MediaOne TV. The students got exposure to news flow and other technicalities of news broadcasting, practical sessions on visual news story making, news script writing, anchoring and videography. Behind-the-scenes activities of news-casting were a new experience for the students who are from different academic

disciplines.

Screening of the Documentary of CREST, “Recasting Selves”

A documentary on CREST, “Recasting Selves” was screened before the students on 26 June. The film, a critical reading of CREST in film format was introduced to the students by Vinod Krishnan, Associate Program Coordinator. The film was made by a team consisting of Lalit



Vachani, Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) at the University of Göttingen (Direction, Script and Editing) Sanjay Srivastava, Prof of Sociology, SOAS London (Research and Concept) Priya Sen, film maker (Production and 2nd shoot Direction) Syed Husain Akbar, photographer who was formerly with National Geographic and NDTV (Camera) Godly Timo Koshy alumnus of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (Location Sound) Srirupa Roy, professor and chair of political science and modern Indian studies at the University of Göttingen (Producer). An “open forum” discussion on the documentary was held after the screening.

Student body Election



Student body election was held on 1st of July 2022. It gave the students an opportunity to foster leadership skills, communication, teamwork, organization and public speaking. This exercise was organized by the students in the backdrop that educated youngsters of Kerala are not very keen of political participation and citizen engagement.

Why You Should Aspire for Study Abroad? – Special Lecture

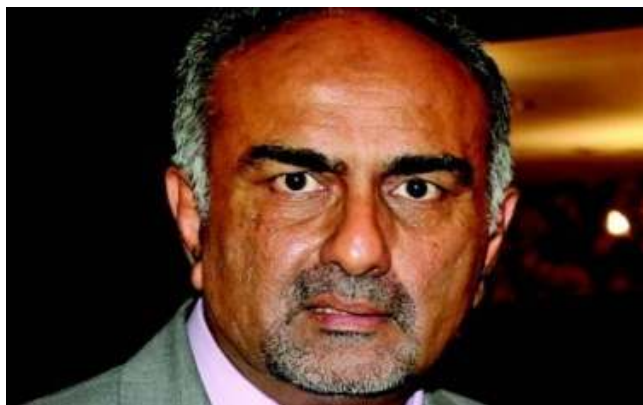
Dr. Bharat Rathod, (International Education, the University of Massachusetts. Amherst - USA) gave a special lecture online "Why You Should Aspire for Study Abroad?" for the students



undergoing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development at CREST on July 8th, 2022. Dr. Bharat Rathod, now living in the US, originally hails from Ahmadabad. He did PhD on caste based discrimination in Higher education in India. He is in the process of setting up global online mentoring platform for students from disadvantaged background from India aspiring for higher studies abroad.

Special Lecture on diminishing open spaces

Aasif Karim, former Kenyan ODI Cricket team Captain and Tennis Player (who represented



Kenya in Davis Cup) and Ajay Govind, who directed the film 'Madappally United' did a joint session on "diminishing open spaces" for the students on 12th of July 2022. Aasif Karim who has his roots in Gujarat was in Kerala in connection with the releasing of the film *Madappally United*. In their interaction with students they spoke about how children are deprived of playgrounds globally due to land grabbing by business, mining, industries and due to the real-estate boom.

'Madappally United' is film about the need to preserve safe spaces for children to play . The film directs our attention to this issue and makes viewers aware about the role that



communities can play in addressing this .

Ajay is a filmmaker who has written and directed over 50 commissioned documentaries, 2 independent feature films, 5 short films, and 6 music videos. Ajay founded his creative agency . Ajay is currently writing the screenplay of his third feature film Ajay also works as a corporate trainer and has engaged with over 15,000 students and working professionals. The Dehradun based film maker hails from Kozhikode.

Madappally United is essentially a children's film set in Madappally , Kerala with cricket as its central theme. The film has created a lot of appreciation at various film festivals internationally. Other than being selected as best fiction at the 51st Roshd International

Film Festival in Tehran, it also bagged the Golden Statuette at Iran's prestigious film festival. The film has also won the Jury Award for Best Family Film at the Indian Film Festival of Cincinnati as well as the award for the Best Film with a Social Message at the Kenya International Sports Film Festival, among others.

Special Lecture on employability and private sector jobs

On 13th of July 2022 a session on employability and private sector jobs was conducted for the students by Ms.Shilpa Saboo. Shilpa Saboo is the CEO of Larn Learning Solutions. She is a trainer



and recruitment professional with academic background in Computer Science and English literature. Her organization Larn Learning Solutions provide placement training for candidates for job fairs organized by various recruiters in Kozhikode. They also recruit talents for firms operating in Kozhikode.

“Tips to Crack UGC /NET and UPSC Exams” – Special lecture



UPSC Civil Service Examination with an all India Rank 72 and was allotted to Indian Police

On 15th July 2022 two special lectures were conducted by Mr.Arun P.T and Ms.Remya Roshni, former civil servants on “Tips to Crack UGC /NET and UPSC Exams”. Remya Roshni is from Wayanad. She had her education from Government High School Meenangadi, Farook College & University of Mysore. She has been into teaching Sociology from 2001 to 2006. In 2006, she cleared the

Service. She has authored books on clearing Civil Service Examinations. Reputed publishing houses of Kerala like DC Books, and Manorama Books have published her books. . Her column titled “ABC of civil service” in Manoramaonline deals with different aspects of civil service examination.

Arun P T is from Tamil Nadu and had his education from Jawahar School Neyveli, Loyola College, Chennai & American College, Madurai and is a Post graduate in Zoology. He cleared civil service in 2005 & was in Indian Postal Service for one year. From 2007, he is into civil service coaching & specializes in Psychology, Ethics & Interview. His Facebook page, Instagram account & Telegram channel called "*Thepsychologyteacher1*" has an enthusiastic following. As a keen quizzier, he is part of Kerala Quiz forum, a first of its kind programme for school students , teaching them the basics of civil service examination through quizzing.

Special Lecture on Creativity and Self Esteem

Ms.Shahina K Rafeeq gave a special lecture on Creativity and Self Esteem to the students of the



PGCCPD on 21 July 2022. Shahina K Rafeeq is an author whose stories and poems were selected in the International competition organized by British Council in 2012 and 2015. She is a film critic and columnist. Shahina is a PG Diploma holder in journalism and Masters Degree holder in English literature.. She received Kamala Surayya award in 2016 for the story Brantha. Her story and poem was selected in the International competition organized by British Council in the 2012 and 2015.

The session covered how creative expressions help to build self-esteem, improve mental health and overall wellbeing. She also spoke about how, as women from conservative upbringing, creativity personally worked well in improving her self esteem.

Special Lecture on Higher Studies Abroad

On 22 July 2022, Dr.Nikitha Hari did an online session on “Higher Studies Abroad “. Dr.Nikitha



Hari is an Engineering innovator and influencer in global higher education with +15 years’ career experience. She was featured in the ‘Top 50 Women in Engineering in the UK’ (2017) and listed as a ‘Clinton Global Changemaker’ (2018). She has strong research record with 26 publications in international, peer-reviewed journals, focused reimagining engineering education. Currently she is the Co-Chair of the Independent Higher Education

Research & Innovation Network - UK

Workshop on Non- Verbal Communication

On 29th of July 2022, Smriti Paruthikkad, media person and news anchor and Aparna Viswanathan, social entrepreneur and corporate trainer conducted a workshop on non-verbal communication for the students undergoing the Post Graduate Certificate Course for



Professional Development at CREST. The focus of the workshop was on object communication through clothing, a process of how messages that are not spoken are conveyed through attire.

Mock Group Discussion and Interviews

Mock Group Discussion and interviews were held for the students by Anil Menon, a HR trainer attached to SB Global, a firm based in Cochin on 1 August 2022. It covered practical sessions to argue, discuss, agree or disagree on statements made during the Group Discussions. It also



covered the art of listening at Group Discussions and the how views on a particular topic are expressed in a formal setting.

Admission process for the 36th Batch of the PGCCPD Program

Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)
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Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD)

This course has been designed to provide skills to enable candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds to compete for jobs in the open market and for higher studies. CREST will be giving a monthly stipend of Rs.6000 for the selected candidates to cover their living expenses. CREST will also be providing free hostel facilities. There is no course fee for the program. The admission is open only to SC/ST graduates from Kerala

Apply online. Last date 31 August 2022
www.crest.ac.in

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Admission process for the 36th Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development began on 1st August 2022. Admission notifications were announced in print and social media. Information on the program was also circulated through Local Self Governments and through the Scheduled Caste Development Department offices in Kerala. The last date for submitting the application has been scheduled for 31st of August 2022. Interviews for admission are expected to be held during the third week of September 2022 the course is expected to begin by mid October 2022. 40 students will be admitted for the five months in-house program based on their marks obtained at Undergraduate courses and Masters Degree and an interview. The PGCCPD course has been designed to provide soft skills to enable candidates to compete for jobs and for higher studies. The five months course comprises of training English Communication, Writing and Presentation Skills, Information Technology, Quantitative & Analytical skills, Employability,

Entrepreneurship Development and General studies.

Theatre Workshop

As a part of the Communication Skills module, a theatre workshop was conducted from 2nd to 6th of August 2022 for the students by Jayaprakash Kulur, renowned theatre person and writer



from Kerala. The workshop was using theatre techniques and story-based activities to improve the communication skills. A tax practitioner by profession, Jayaprakash Kulur is one of the skillful and talented writers of the Malayalam film industry. He showcased his talents first as a dramatist on the Malayalam drama stage. Along with being a writer, he has also been an actor and has acted in more than ten movies.

Special Lecture on Art Appreciation by Soorya Krishnamoorthy



On 4th of August 2022, a special lecture on Art Appreciation was held for the students by Soorya Krishnamoorthy, art promoter and author. Founder-Director of the Soorya Stage and Film Society, he is also the organizer for Soorya Festival, the longest and the most prestigious cultural event in India. He has served as the Director of the Kerala State Film Development Corporation. He was also the Chairman for Asianet Film Awards. A writer, director and art promoter, Mr. Krishnamoorthy has published five books, three screenplays and 15 dramas besides conceiving, designing and directing 105 stage shows, in his career, spanning over four decades. He has won several national and international awards including 'Kala Ratna' of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi

and 'Kalaimamani' from the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2006 for Stage and Craft Direction. He has worked as a Scientist in Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), before taking up art promotion.

Theatre Presentation & Cultural Evening



On the 6th of August 2022, The PGCCPD students of CREST presented a "*Haachi Kiyaachu*", a play in Gibberish with English Translation.

The play, a satire, emerged from the theatre workshop for the students conducted by Jayaprakash Kulur were performed before an invited audience at KIRTADS Auditorium.



The theatre presentation was followed by a cultural evening during which the students showcased their talents.



Valedictory ceremony

The valedictory ceremony of the 35th Batch of the PGCCPD Program was held on 8th of August 2022 at KIRTADS auditorium, Kozhikode. Prof. Dr. MK Jayaraj, Honorable Vice Chancellor of



University of Calicut was the Chief Guest of the function. While congratulating the students on

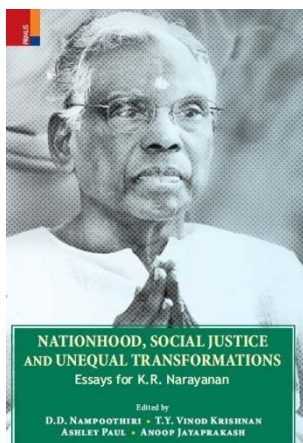


their completion of the program, Prof Jayaraj insisted on the importance of making scientific temper as a way of life in their journey ahead. The message of Mr. Prasanth N. IAS, Special

Secretary, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Government of Kerala was read out to the students. Vinod Krishnan, Executive Director in Charge, Muralidharan Paleri, Faculty, CREST , Vikas N, Alumni, CREST and students Aswin Das P, Karthika V R and Sharika K spoke at the function.

News

Nationhood, Social Justice and Unequal Transformations: Essays for K.R.Narayanan



Primus Books, one of the most reputed academic publishers of the India, is bringing out National Lectures conducted by CREST during the past fifteen years in memory of Sri.KR Narayanan, former President of India. . *Nationhood, Social Justice and Unequal Transformations: Essays for K.R.Narayanan* is a commemorative volume consisting of 10 lectures delivered at the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST) Kozhikode on varied themes that reflect the democratic and secular values cherished by K.R. Narayanan. The contributors to the 265 page edited work include reputed scholars like A.R. Vasavi , Narendra Jadhav , Gopal Guru , Uma Chakravarti , Gopalkrishna Gandhi , Satish Deshpande , Madhavan K. Palat , Janaki Nair , Nivedita Menon & T.M. Krishna.

Joint Program with the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR), Calicut University

A meeting was held at the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR) , Calicut University, Chithalayam, Wayanad on 11th of August 2022 in connection with designing joint programs for improving the student outcome of undergraduate and Master's students of Sociology at ITSR. Dr. T. Vasumathi, Director, P.V. Valsaraj , Assistant Director representing ITSR and , Sasikumar KP , Administrative Officer , and Vinod Krishnan.T.Y , Executive Director in Charge ,



representing CREST took part in the meeting. The representatives of CREST also had brief interaction with faculty members. CREST has a Memorandum of Understanding with ITSR, University of Calicut for academic collaboration in various areas of education, particularly training and capacity building of students doing undergraduate program in Sociology there. CREST has been conducting programs for the students of ITSR to improve the academic performance level of students, which included as a finishing school program for the students who completed the BA Degree program. CREST conducted the academic intervention in ITSR as a part of its outreach programme. The meeting discussed the possibility of conducting an orientation program of short duration that would primarily address improving the motivation/confidence levels of entry students. It also discussed the prospect of conducting a Finishing School program for students who have just completed BA Degree and Masters Degree in Sociology from ITSR were discussed.

Need assessment at MTM Arts & Science College Veliyancode, Malappuram



On 22 August 2022 , CREST , following an invitation from MTM Arts And Science College Veliyancode , Malappuram District conducted a need assessment in connection with suggesting programs that would improve the educational outcome of the students from disadvantaged background . MTM Arts & Science College, established in 2015 is affiliated to Calicut University. The institution requested CREST to conduct the need assessment

following the observation that the educational outcome of a significant section of the students is not at a desired level. The need assessment was conducted by Vinod Krishnan and Aparna Viswanathan, faculty members of CREST .



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