



CREST News Bulletin

(September – December 2012)

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Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

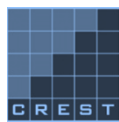
An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

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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

Peer-level mentoring workshop at IIMK

A peer level mentoring workshop was held for PGCCPD students at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, on September 15, 2012. The workshop served as an introduction to the



regular peer-level mentoring sessions conducted by IIM students for CREST students. Sessions covered included communication skills, inter-personal skills, CV writing and interview skills

Session on Business etiquettes

A special session on business etiquettes was held for the Post Graduate Certificate Course for



Professional Development at The Gateway Hotel Kozhikode on October 12, 2012. The session was held by Mr. Manoj Janardan, General Manager, The Gateway Hotel Kozhikode.

Session on Environment and Water



A one day workshop on Environment and Water was held for the students at the Regional Science Centre, Kozhikode on October 11, 2012. The workshop organized in connection with the General studies module of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development was conducted by Dr. Madhavan Komat, Scientist, CWRDM and Dr. Mohammed Rafik, Professor, Malabar Christian College.

Workshop for SC/ST undergraduate students in Calicut University

CREST conducted a one-day workshop on 28 September 2012 for SC/ST students undergoing graduate courses in the arts and science colleges under Calicut University. The workshop was coordinated by Sri.K.Sivaraman, Member, Calicut University Syndicate. Nearly 150 students participated the program. The sessions were held by Nirmal Joy, Vinod AR and Sucharita Hota and Vinod Krishnan of CREST. The workshop was inaugurated by Sri.A.P.Anilkumar, Hon'ble Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled communities on September 27, 2012. Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director also spoke at the function.

Five Days Self-Enrichment Programme for First Year BTech students at NIT Karnataka

The five day programme was inaugurated by Prof. G. Umesh (Dean, Research and Consultancy, NITK – Surathkal) on October 24, 2012. Dr. U. Sripathi (Nodal Officer (Academic), NITK-Surathkal) Mr. T. Y. Vinod Krishnan (Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST, Calicut) were present. The program jointly conducted by CREST and the SC/ST Cell NITK was coordinated by Dr. P. Sam



Johnson, Faculty NITK. The program supported by TEQIP was held with an objective to improve the performance and motivation level of the students from disadvantaged communities undergoing BTech course at NITK Surathkal. The Valediction of the course was held on 28th October 2012

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. On November 6, the students performed an



English play before an invited audience at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode.

Valediction 18th Batch

The valedictory function for the 18th batch of PGCCPD was held on November 6, 2012 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium , Calicut. On successful completion of the course 34 students were awarded



their course certificates. Dr.Narasimha Prasad , Executive Director , CWRDM Calicut was the chief guest for the function. Dr.Mahesh Bhawe, Professor, IIMK and Sri.Sivaraman , Syndicate Member



Calicut University were Guests of Honor. The students were felicitated by faculty member, Ms.Jyothi and visiting faculty C Martin John alumni Sarat E. Ms.Anu Madhavan and Jinu Unnikrishnan representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speeches.

Need Assessment Study at NIT Calicut

On October 15, 2012 CREST faculty team conducted a Need Assessment Study on invitation from the National Institute of Technology Calicut to design appropriate programs for improving the performance level of students hailing from marginalized communities.

Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

The classes for the XIX Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development commenced on November 28, 2012. Of the 40 candidates who joined the course, 17 are professional degree holders, 20 are Post Graduate Degree holders and 3 are graduates. 23 candidates are girls. On November 21, parents of the candidates were invited and were briefed



about the objectives of the programme, opportunities etc. The ice breaking session was conducted by Sucharita Hota, Nirmal Joy and Vinod AR on November 28, 2012, at CIGI, Chevayur, Calicut.

Self Enrichment Workshop



A three-day workshop on self development was held at Prateeksha Training Centre, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad during November 29 – December 1, 2012 for the candidates who joined for the PGCCPD programme (XIX Batch). The workshop covered the themes; Team Building, Corporate communication, and presentations. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Anil Menon. A sensitization programme was also arranged in connection with the workshop. The students were given opportunity to understand the emerging tourism scenario in Wayanad and its environmental impact. A session was held for the students by Sumesh Mangalassery of Kabani – The Other Direction, a community tourism initiative in Wayanad on December 1, 2012

Workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability

Remya Roshni, formerly with Indian Police Service (IPS) , Manipur & Arun P T, formerly with Indian Postal Service conducted a one-day workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability on December 5, 2012.

Workshop and assessment on Group Discussion and Interview Skills

On October 3, 2012 Balachandran Gopinath, International Training Fellow of the Junior Chamber Training Institute of USA conducted a workshop “You-the miracle “with an objective to improve the confidence level of students. A Three day workshop on Group Discussion and Interview Skills was held at CREST by Anil Menon, skill development trainer attached to SB Global Educational Resources Pvt. Ltd, Cochin from 28-30 October 2012.

Kuldip Nayyar Visits CREST

Noted journalist and author Kuldip Nayyar addressed the students of CREST at a function held at CREST on 12 December 2012. Speaking at the occasion Kuldip Nayyar, emphasized the importance



of fighting for a system where everybody has a space in India to live with dignity. Caste, class and religious inequalities hinder a dream based on which India fought for Independence. Time has come to think of a new nonviolent movement, which would pave the way for an egalitarian society, he added. Nayyar, after interacting with the students stated that the visit to CREST was a journey to a place which was taking part in the rebuilding of the nation and making the marginalized feel equal participants in the endeavor to rebuild the country. He was welcomed by Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director of CREST

Mahasweta Devi interacts with students of CREST

Writer, Social activist and Magsaysay award-winner Mahasweta Devi, visited CREST on 21 December 2012. Interacting with the students of CREST she shared her experience of her early student days in Santhiniketan and her meetings with Rabinranath Tagore. She also shared her



thoughts about her involvement with Adivasi issues, particularly with the de-notified tribal people of India, who were once officially classified as "criminal tribes" by the British. Further she spoke about her works, particularly Hajar Churashir Maa (No. 1084's Mother), written in the backdrop of Naxalbari movement which was later filmed. About

Kerala, she said that the state has great potential to develop if it does not go along the lines of other states in India. Giving a message to students, she said, "Write down everything you experience and do"

Committee on SC/ST Development of Kerala Assembly Visits CREST

Kerala State Legislative Assembly Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Communities visited CREST on 27 December. The Members of the legislative assembly Sri.Sajeendran VP, Sri.Purushan Kadalundi, Sri. Ummer Master and Sri. N.Shmasudhin had interaction with the faculty members, staff and students of CREST. The Committee under the chairmanship of Sajeendran VP appraised the activities of CREST. The committee observed that an independent campus for CREST need to be set up immediately in the land allotted to CREST in the Government CYBERPARK Kozhikode. The Committee will put the issue before the government to ensure that adequate fund is allotted to



CREST in the coming budget; It also discussed the possibilities of expansion of activities of CREST, including interventions at school level. Sajeendran, the Chairman of the Committee said that the issue of affirmative action and social justice component are not effectively addressed while new development projects like IT initiatives are promoted in Kerala. Institutions like CREST need to take up a detailed study to assess the presence of Scheduled communities in the emerging job market of Kerala, he suggested.

One Week Self-Enrichment Programme for First Year BTech (Civil Engineering) students at NIT Kozhikode

The one week programme was inaugurated on December 22, 2012 , The training programme



addressing the needs of students from the underprivileged communities, was aimed to enhance their learning skills, communication skills, inter-personal relationships and motivation with an objective to improve the performance level of SC/ST Students who join for BTech Degree (Civil Engineering) courses. The programme was conducted by CREST with the support of the Department of Civil Engineering , NIT Calicut.

Special Lectures/ Workshops



Jamila Adamou addressing students of CREST

People in Germany (ISD) and DR. P.Shakil Ahammed, IAS , Director, Prime Minister's Office , New Delhi . The special lectures covered a broad range of topics like employability, opportunities in corporate sector, Strategic management, social analysis, communication, interview skills, and career planning, human rights, environment , Rural entrepreneurship etc.

Eight special lectures/ workshops were held during January – April 2012. The resource persons included Prof. A H Kalro, former director, IIMK Mr. Hari Kishore IAS, Director Scheduled Castes Development Department, Anandakuttan B Unnithan, Faculty , Indian Institute of Management in the area of Marketing Management IIMK , Prof. Thomas Abraham , Sumit Mitra, Associate Professor, IIMK, Professor, Kerstin Dahmen (University of

Cologne) Sumesh Mangalassery Ms. Jamila Adamou of Initiative Black

Interns



Kerstin Dahmen (University of Cologne) interned with CREST in December 2012. During the internship she assisted students particularly girls in communication skills and group activities. Ms. Kerstin , a Masters degree holder in Anthropology also held sessions on cultural sensitivity .

She also helped students in preparing a group research project on tourism and development, with a focus on environmental issues in Kuruva island in Wayanad.

Faculty Activities

Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director gave a special lecture on “Human Rights and Ethnic Marginalization in India” to students of social sciences at LISSAH College Thamarassery on December 10, 2012.

CREST in Media

Print as well as the visual media of Kerala have given coverage to various programmes of CREST held during September – December 2012. Leading news papers like the Mathrubhumi, the New



Indian Express and visual media like the Malayala Manorama TV , Mathrubhumi News gave coverage on various programmes conducted by CREST . EDU Tech , a national journal on higher education also did coverage on the institute.

Christmas Celebration

Christmas was celebrated with much fervor in CREST on December 21, 2012. Ceremonial cake cutting and exchange of gifts among students and staff made the event organized by the students very special.



Forthcoming Events

Workshop by Meena Kandasamy

Dr.Meena Kandasamy, writer will conduct a one day workshop on creative writing for the students of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) on January 7, 2013

Special Lecture by Rajeevan Thachampoyil

Noted Malayalam poet and writer will give a special lecture on appreciating literature during the last week of January 2013.

Dr.Sashi Tharoor to deliver KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

Annual KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture organized by CREST will be held in February 2013. Dr.Sashi Tharoor, Hon'ble Minister for State, Human Resource Development has consented to deliver the lecture.

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 9th & 10th of January 2013 with an objective to improve the confidence level of students.

Special lecture by Shashikant Senthil, IAS

Bellari Assistant Commissioner Shashikant Senthil, IAS will give a special lecture on social empowerment in the first week of February 2013

Visit of SASNET Director

Prof.Anna Lindberg , Director , The Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) Lund University will conduct a few sessions on development studies to the students undergoing Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development at CREST, as a part of academic collaboration between SASNET and CREST in February 6 & 7 , 2013.

Interaction with Students of Oslo University College

15 Students from the Department of International studies and interpreting Oslo and Akershus University College, Oslo Norway will be interning with CREST during February 2013. Students / faculty will be conducting introductory program for the students.

Workshop for MRS students

A ten days residential workshop has been planned during April 2013 for the high school students of Model Residential School, Kozhikode with an objective to enhance the competencies, skills, and aspiration. The program will also address problems of alienation, lack of confidence, and disenfranchisement of children caused by forms of discrimination, exclusion and practices linked to societal stereotypes.