



# CREST News Bulletin

(September – December 2016)

# 23

**Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)**

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

KIRTADS Campus, Chevayur, Calicut – 673 017 Kerala India

Tel: + 91 495 2355342, 2351496 Fax : +91 495 2355342 [www.crest.ac.in](http://www.crest.ac.in)

Email: [cex@dataone.in](mailto:cex@dataone.in) [crest.calicut@gmail.com](mailto:crest.calicut@gmail.com)

## About CREST

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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

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### Special Lecture by Shabnam Hashmi

A Special lecture on democracy was delivered on 20 September 2016 by Shabnam Hashmi, noted social activist attached to ANHAD (Act Now for Harmony and Democracy). She had an interaction with our students. She spoke on the politics of intolerance in India and state patronage it obtains. Shabnam Hashmi is a social activist and human rights campaigner. She



started her social activism campaigning about adult literacy in 1981. Since 1989 she has spent most of her time in combating communal and fundamentalist forces in India. After the Gujarat riots of 2002, Hashmi changed her focus to grass roots work and has spent a considerable

amount of time in Gujarat. In 2003 she was one of the founders of ANHAD (Act Now for Harmony and Democracy), which she administers. She has campaigned against communalism and violation of human rights in the name of fighting terrorism. She was involved in exposing the terror links of the Hindutva forces. Hashmi has focused on issues of women's political participation, adoption, gender justice, democracy and secularism. Hashmi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize as part of the 1000 women from across the world in 2005. She was awarded the Association for Communal Harmony in Asia (ACHA) Star Award for Communal Harmony in 2005, Aamil Smriti Samman in 2005 and the National Minority Rights Award 2008 by the National Minority Commission.

### **Steering Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Steering Committee, constituted monitor the project Self-Enrichment Programme for High School and Higher Secondary school students of Model Residential Schools' was held on Friday 07 October 2016 at the office of CREST. A review of the project was held during the meeting and action steps were drawn for implementing the second phase of the project.

### **Nalla Basha - Workshop on effective communication in Malayalam**

Prof.MN Karassery, renowned Malayalam literary and cultural critic, conducted a workshop on communication skills for the students on 15 October 2016. The workshop 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.

## Private Sector & Public Sector Employability: A Realistic Perception



A two - day workshop on Private Sector & Public Sector Employability was held at CREST on 31 August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016. It was conducted by Ms. Remya Roshni and Mr. Arun PT, faculty, Civil Service Academy, Pala. Themes covered included Skills, Values and Competencies, Skill development and Employability and Innovations in Skills development. Remya Roshni was in the Indian Police Service (IPS). She has authored a self help guide book on the Myths and Realities on IAS Exams which was published by DC Books. Mr. Arun P T was in the Indian Postal Service and founder of DOOR Centre for Civil Services in Chennai.

## Special Lecture on gender



Dr. Shoba PV, Joint Registrar, University of Calicut gave a special lecture on gender on 26 October 2016. Speaking on the topic, she said communities are made up of people with a wide range of ideas and orientations, even about issues as fundamental as gender. Anyone engaging in his/her community may be challenged by ideas and orientations that they have not considered. Among these ideas, differing ideas about gender can be very challenging, especially if a person hasn't thought about the issues of growing up male or female and how gender expectations affect day-to-day working relationships.

## Stepping out in the Corporate World



A two day workshop, "Stepping Out in the Corporate World" was held at CREST on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016, conducted by Mr. Ramesh Chandran formerly General Manager, AEGON Asset Management (AAM), based in The Hague in The Netherlands. This workshop focused on the aspect of professionalism, the traits of professionalism and the impact of showcasing a professional image. The students were also appraised about the workplace etiquette and the dos and don'ts of workplace behavior in corporate sector.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 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 reputation development

## Special Lecture on job prospects in Social industry

Rajagopal C Veetil, Program Manager, Azim Premji University did a special lecture on job prospects in social industry on 24 November 2016. He also introduced to the students the Masters program conducted by the university and possibilities in higher studies at the university and the support programs of the Azim Premji Foundation

## KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

On 6 November 2016 Dr. Janaki Nair, Professor of History, JNU, New Delhi delivered the KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture organized by CREST at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode. Delivering the lecture entitled “The Provocations of the Public University in Contemporary India” she said the Indian University is a radically modern creation, bearing no trace of any earlier forms of knowledge production nor teaching practice since it was the creation of a colonial power in the 19th century. For long serving the purposes of a colonial regime’s need for



modern bureaucratic elite, the Indian university in its national-modern phase continued to produce an intellectual aristocracy. Yet, from its historical arrival as a space of exclusion and elite formation, it has come a very long way in the past few decades to represent a vital institutional space for ensuring social mobility, especially for those for whom education is the only form of capital when access to other material resources such as property or other forms of social mobility are very limited. India today is faced with the often paralyzing problem of governmental control, a hyper-politicization of governance mechanisms which undermines the autonomy of Universities, Dr. Janaki Nair said.

Janaki Nair teaches Modern History at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. Her research interests include labor and legal history, urban history, feminism and women's history, as well as studies of visual culture. Her books include *Mysore Modern: Rethinking the Region under Princely Rule* (2011); *The Promise of the Metropolis: Bangalore's Twentieth Century* (2005); *Miners and Millhands: Work Culture and Politics in Princely Mysore* (1998). She regularly writes for publications such as *The Hindu* and *Economic & Political Weekly* on current events and issues.

Prof. Janaki Nair was introduced to the audience by Dr.AR Vasavi, member, Governing Council of CREST. Dr. P.K. Michael Tharakan former Vice Chancellor, Kannur university and Member, CREST Governing Council welcomed the audience and Prof.DD Nampoothri; Executive Director gave the vote of thanks.

## Faculty Retreat

On 7 November 2016 a one day faculty retreat was held at Hotel Alakapuri, Kozhikode. The faculty retreat reviewed the ongoing programs and proposed steps to be undertaken with regard to different modules of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional



Development in order to make them more effective. It also proposed new programs to be undertaken, which include joint programs with IIITM, Trivandrum. Apart from CREST faculty members, CREST Governing Council members Dr. P.K. Michael Tharakan, Dr.A.R.Vasavi, and Mr.J.Vinod Kumar took part in the deliberations and chaired various sessions.

## Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was held for the students from November 7 to 20, 2016. The was conducted by Jilmil Hajarika, Faculty, National School of Drama, New Delhi. The workshop which was held



at Maria Eugenie Centre, Malaparamba focused on communication skills. On 20 November 2016, the participants of the workshop performed a play before an invited audience at Maria Eugenie Centre

## Valedictory function for the 26th Batch of PGCCPD

Valedictory function for the 26th Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional



Development was held on 22 November 2016 at Hotel Hyson Heritage, Kozhikode. Dr. K.V.Kunhikrishnan, President, Kerala State Library Council & Chairman, Executive Committee, CREST was the chief guest. Sri. V.T. Sathyan, Councilor, Kozhikode Corporation Dr. R.



Radhakrishna Pillai, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode were the Guests of Honor. Presidential Address was given by Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri Executive Director, CREST. The students were felicitated by Ms.C.Jyothi, Faculty CREST, Ms. Jilmil Hajarika, Faculty, National School of Drama and Ms. Yamuna S, Alumni. Keerthana T.P & Suresh C representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speeches. Prof. Ashley Paul, Associate Program Coordinator, CREST gave the vote of thanks.

## Self Enrichment Program at National Institute of Technology Agartala (NITA)

CREST was invited by the SC-ST Cell, National Institute of Technology Agartala , Tripura to



conduct a five days self-enrichment workshop from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 for BTech students from Scheduled communities. The workshop which was organized by SC ST Cell , NIT Agartala, with an objective to improve the performance level of SC/ST Students who do BTech



Degree courses at NIT Agartala by enabling them to develop social skills, orientation, and abilities to adapt to the environment at NIT Agartala and to perform to their maximum abilities. 80 students from NITA took part in the workshop which covered modules in communication skills, goal setting and self enrichment for professional development. The sessions were conducted by Vinod Krishnan, Nirmal Joy, Vinodkumar Jayanandan, Sucharita Hota, AR Vinod and Jilmil Hajarika.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

Interview for the admission to the 27<sup>th</sup> Batch of Post Graduate Certificate Course for



Professional Development was held on 23, 24 & 25 November 2016 Classes began on 19th



December 2016. Forty students joined the program of which 24 are girls. A three day orientation program was held for the students from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Priyadarshini Tea Environs, Mananthavady Wayanad. The workshop covered themes on Team Building, Presentations and communication. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Anil Menon. On 24<sup>th</sup> a sensitization session on tribal issues was also arranged at Priyadarshini Tea Environs for the students.

### Visit of Principal Secretary

Dr.V.Venu, IAS , Principal Secretary, Scheduled Castes Development Department, Government of Kerala visited CREST on 9 September 2016 . He had interaction with faculty, staff and students of CREST.

## Access Program

### Academic support program in MRS Peermedu

A ten day academic support program was held for the 11th & 12th standard students of MRS Peermedu from 9th to 18th of September 2016. The in-house program was held at LEAD Training Centre, Palakkad. Academic support sessions were held in Geography, English, Economics, Political science. The program also included sessions on self development. A three day academic support program was held for the high school and higher secondary students



during 2-4 December 2016. A ten days workshop was held for secondary students of MRS Peermedu at Sreyas Training Centre, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017. Sessions in Humanities and social science were held for the students.

### Academic support program in MRS Kuzhalmannam

An eight day academic support program was held for the 10th standard students of MRS Kuzhalmannam from 09.09.2016 to 16.09.2016 at Priyadarshini Tea Environs, Mananthavady, Wayanad. Sessions were held in Physics, English and Self Development.

### Academic support program in MRS Alapuzha

Counseling and Academic support classes on Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry were held for the higher secondary school students of MRS Alapuzha on 23 & 24 September 2016. A three day academic support program was held for the high school and higher secondary students during 2-4 December 2016.

## Academic support program in MRS Aluva

Academic support sessions on Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry were held for Plus one and Plus two students of MRS Aluva on 23 & 24 September 2016.

On 22nd & 23rd of October 2016, classes were held in Physics and Mathematics for plus one and plus two students of the school. Academic support session on Mathematics was arranged for plus two students of the school on 12th & 13th of November 2016. On 19th & 20th of November support program was held for Mathematics and Physics for Plus two students of the school. A three day academic support program was held for the high school and higher secondary students during 2-4 December 2016.

A ten days workshop for higher secondary students of MRS Aluva was held at Priyadarshini Tea



Environs, Mananthavady, Wayanad from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017. Sessions were held in science subjects and in English.

## Academic support program in MRS Thrithala

An eight day academic support program was held for the 10th standard students of MRS Thrithala during the Onam holidays from 09.09.2016 to 16.09.2016. The program was held at Sreyas Training Centre, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad. Academic support sessions were conducted in Physics, Chemistry, English, Biology & Mathematics

Sessions in Chemistry was held for plus one and plus two standard students of MRS Thrithala on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2016. English classes were held for 9th standard students of the school during these days.

Academic support session in English was arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> standard students and Physics for Plus One students on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. A career guidance session was held for the plus two students on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016. On 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of November academic support

session in Chemistry was held for plus one students of the school. A three day academic support program was held for the high school and higher secondary students during 2-4 December 2016. Ten days workshop for high school and higher secondary students of MRS Thrithala was held at Socio-Religious Centre Calicut from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017.

### **Academic Support Program in MRS Kasaragod**

Academic support sessions on Mathematics and Social Science were held for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> standard students of MRS Kasaragod on 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.

### **Academic Support Program in MRS Chelakkara**

A two day Academic support program was held for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> standard students of MRS Chelakkara on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. Sessions were held in English, Social Science, History during the program.

### **Academic Support Program in MRS Vadakkanchery**

Academic support sessions in English, Social Science and history were held for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> standard students of MRS Vadakkanchery on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.

### **Academic Support Program in MRS Azhiyoor**

A one day academic support session in Physics was held for 9<sup>th</sup> standard students and Mathematics for 10<sup>th</sup> standard students of MRS Azhiyoor on 12 October 2016





## Interns



Ms. Mai Thi My Vi from Southern Institute of Social Science, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam interned with CREST from September – December 2016. Her role was to assist CREST staff by coaching and mentoring students individually, and organizing creative and fun group activities to develop students' confidence, and overcome cultural barriers to communication.

## Faculty Activity

**Mr. Vinod Krishnan TY** and **Ms. Susamma Isac** visited Azim Premji University, Bangalore on 14th & 15 November 2016 and held discussion with faculty members in connection with organizing collaborative programs with CREST. On 14th November they did a presentation on CREST for the faculty members of Azim Premji University.

**Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri**, Executive Director delivered a talk "Prospect of Sociology in Kerala" on December 10, 2016 during the colloquium organized by Kerala Sociological Society as part of its 46th Annual Conference held at Zamorin's Guruvayurappan College, Kozhikode. On December 20, 2016 he delivered the Plenary Lecture "The Social Content of Education" in the two day Educational Conclave organized by Dayapuram Arts & Science College for Women, Kozhikode.

## Forthcoming Events

### Executive Committee Meeting

35th Meeting of the Executive Committee of CREST will be held on 9 January, 2016 at the office of CREST.

### Workshop for Oslo and Akershus University College students

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 will intern with CREST for five weeks from 30 January 2017 onwards. On 30 January 2017 sessions will be held by the students and faculty members of CREST on various aspects of Social exclusion in India, higher education etc for the interns.

