



CREST News Bulletin

9

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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

Certificate Awarding Ceremony of 16th Batch of PGCCPD

The Certificate awarding Ceremony of the 16th Batch was held on January 14, 2012 at CIGI, Calicut. Dr. Saji Gopinath, Professor, Indian Institute of Management was the Chief Guest for the function.



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. The students were felicitated by Ms. Sucharita Hota, Ms.Jyothi, Sri.T.Sivadas, Vinod Krishnan, Ms, Anita Ramesh, Prof.Radha Nair, Prof.V.Kesavan, Ms. Usha, Ms. Emelie Rohne and Ms. Lizzie Sagrelus and Sri.CVC Varrier, Administrative Officer. Abhilash and Kavitha representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speech. Nirmal Joy, Course Coordinator gave the vote of thanks.

Panel Discussion on Globalization and Challenges to India's Cultural Identity

A panel discussion on 'Globalization and Challenges to India's Cultural Identity: Films, Media and New Media' was organized by CREST at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode on February 1,



2012. The Panelists were Fr. Gaston Roberge a Calcutta based media scholar and Sunandan Roy Chaudhury, Lecturer of Asian Studies at Satakunta University, Finland. On February 2, Sunandan Roy Chaudhury held a special lecture "Rethinking Indian Higher Education, 1947-2012: Policy, Politics, Philosophy at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium Kozhikode. The panel discussion and the talk were held in connection with the general studies programme held for the students of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (PGCCPD) at CREST.

Open forum with Iffat Fatima

The students of CREST had an 'open forum' with Iffat Fatima, an independent documentary



filmmaker based in Delhi. Iffat Fatima, who was in Calicut in connection with screening her documentary "Where Have You Hidden My New Crescent Moon" at the international film festival held at Sree Theatre on 9 March 2012.

Member of the Sub- Committee on SC/ST Development of Kerala Assembly Visits CREST



Sri. Purushan Kadalundi, MLA and the Member of the Sub- Committee on SC/ST Development of Kerala Assembly visited CREST on 30 January 2012. Addressing students, Sri. Purushan Kadalundi emphasized the importance of broadening the horizon of each individual. Each student at CREST, he said, should seek better opportunities that would have positive

impact on each as well as for the community. Unlike the past, opportunities are infinite and the students should effectively make use of it, he said.

Special Lecture by Meena Kandasamy



A special lecture, 'Decolonizing English: Dalits, Hierarchy and Language' was conducted by Meena Kandasamy, noted poet and activist at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode on March 17, 2012.



Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was conducted for the students from 7 to 12 April 2012. The workshop was conducted by noted theatre person Jayaprakash Kuloor. The workshop was conducted as a part of



communication skills module of the PGCCPD module. On the final day of the workshop, the students performed a short play by Anton Chekhov before an invited audience at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Kozhikode.

Valediction 17th Batch

The valedictory function for the 17th batch of PGCCPD was held on April 12 2012 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium, Calicut. On successful completion of the course 35 students were awarded



their course certificates. Dr. M.N. Bandyopadhyay, Director, National Institute of Technology, Calicut was the chief guest for the function. Dr. Anandakuttan B Unnithan, Professor,

Marketing Management, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode was the Guest of Honor. The students were felicitated by faculty members Prof. Radha S Nair, Mr.T.Sivadas, Ms.Jyothi and Ms. Usha, Vinod Kaliath, and Interns Ms. Alexandra Tsiolas and Ms. Heidi Mogstad Kannan R and alumni Ramyasree. Prasoon Kumar and Preetha PK representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speeches.

Peer-level mentoring workshop at IIMK

A peer level mentoring workshop was held for PGCCPD students at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, on January 25, 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

Special Lectures/ Workshops

Eight special lectures/ workshops were held during January – April 2012. The resource persons



included Balachandran Gopinath, P S Vasudevan , Abhilash Nair, Asst. Professor, IIMK , Prof. Thomas Abraham , Geetha Chandran, Consultant Trainer & Financial Advisor , Prof A Ramanathan, IIT Bombay Prof. Thomas Oommen, Al Mergeb University, Libya and Anil Menon. 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

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee Meeting of CREST was held on 18 January 2012.

CREST in media



Leading news papers like the Mathrubhumi, Malayala Manorama, New Indian Express , The Hindu, Deccan chronicle and news magazine The Week and vernacular visual media like ASIANET , Indiavision, MMTV etc have given coverage to various programmes conducted by CREST during September – December 2011.

Interns at CREST



students was in connection with the developing of cooperation between CREST and Oslo University College to carry out joint programmes

Ms. Alexandra Tsiolas (Cyprus) and Ms. Heidi Mogstad (Norway) , Graduate students of Oslo University, Norway interned with CREST during March-April 2012. They have been providing soft skills, particularly communication skills to the students of PGCCPD program on one-on-one basis. Eight Graduate students from Oslo University College, Norway had interaction with students of CREST during February 2011- to March 2012. The students of both institutions shared their academic experiences. The visit of these

Academic Collaborations

A MoU will be signed between CREST and Oslo University College Norway in May 2012 that sets forth a framework of cooperation between these two institutions for Exchange of Faculty and Staff, Exchange of Students and Scholars, Exchange of scientific materials, publications and information, Joint conferences and seminars., Joint study programmes Joint Research activities and seminars. Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad has shown interest to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with CREST for conducting various joint training/research programmes and Faculty/Student Exchange. South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) Lund University Sweden has invited CREST to be an Associate Partner of Erasmus Mundus international scholarships programme that allows CREST to select SC/ST candidates from Kerala region for higher education in European Union Universities.

Invitation by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi

CREST has been invited by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi, one of the most reputed medical science institutions of the country, to conduct a self enrichment programme for SC/ST and OBC students who undergo MBBS courses there. A three member CREST team visited AIIMS on 27th and 28th of March 2012 and held a series of discussions with the Director, Deputy Director, Registrar, Heads of Departments, Deans of students, faculty members, students and interns in connection with a need assessment study.

Faculty Activities

Faculty Retreat organised at Hotel Hyson.A retreat for CREST faculty was organized at Hotel Hyson, Calicut on February 26, 2012. Prof. A.R.Vasavi, independent researcher, Bangalore gave the keynote address on 'Pedagogies and Curricula for training Dalit/Adivasi students: Importance of Social Transformative Learning (STL)'. Executive Director chaired the meeting and CREST faculty members participated in the discussions.

Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director presented a paper ,”Rethinking Educational Policies : Addressal of Social Exclusion in Kerala’s Engineering Colleges” at a seminar ‘ Recent Changes in Higher Education Policies’ organized by the Centre for Socio-Economic and Environmental studies , Cochin on February 22, 2012.

Forthcoming Events

Governing Council Meeting

5th Governing Council meeting of CREST will be held on 14 May 2012 at the Chamber of Sri.A.P.Anilkumar Honorable Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward communities, Government secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram

Admission for 18th Batch of PGCCPD course

Interview for admission to the 18th Batch of PGCCPD will be held on ... Of the 40 seats available, 28 will be given to Scheduled Casters, 8 will be for Scheduled Tribes and 4 for Other Backward Classes. The classes the batch begins on 7 June 2012.

Workshop on Assertive Communication

A two-day workshop on Assertive Communication will be held for students of XVII Batch of PGCCPD programme on 10 & 11 June 2012 at Sultan Bathery Wayanad. The workshop will be conducted by Mr. Anil Menon, HR specialist based in Cochin. It will be held at Sreyas Training Centre Sultan Bathery

Orientation programme for students from Scheduled communities joining for BTech degree at IIT Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has invited CREST to conduct a ten days orientation programme for students from Scheduled and OBC communities who obtain admission for BTech degree course at the Institute. This will be held in July 2012.

Self Enrichment Programme for students from Scheduled and Backward communities MBBS Degree Course at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

All India Institute of Medical Science – New Delhi has invited CREST to conduct a ten days orientation programme for students from Scheduled and OBC communities who obtain admission for MBBS degree course at the Institute. This will be held in August 2012.

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 2012. One hundred candidates from Scheduled communities who obtain admission for BTech Degree courses in Kerala through Common Entrance Examination 2011 will be given intensive in-house training in Mathematics, English, Mechanics, Engineering Graphics and Personality Development.

