WORLD TOURISM DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Department of History, Loyola College, in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India celebrated the World Tourism Day on 3rd October 2020. Though the event was held virtually, it was attended by nearly 250 members and was indeed a huge success. Various competitions held as part of the celebrations attracted nearly 100 participants from various colleges. Dr. D Anuradha, Head, Department of History started off the event with a brief welcome note after the opening prayer. Promotional videos, well-crafted by our students flared up curiosity and created amusement.

Rev. Dr. A Thomas SJ, Principal, Loyola college felicitated the guests of the day and the participants. Mr. Sanjay Shreevats, Regional Director, India Tourism, Chennai, addressed the students. His speech threw light on the present condition of tourism in India and about the potential of rural development and tourism (this year's theme). He ended his speech with an invitation tothe students to work with him.

The most informative part of the event was the special address delivered by the guest of honour, Dr. N Parasuraman, Principal Scientist, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and Planning Board Member, Pondicherry University. Students were in fact startled by the working knowledge of Dr. N Parasuraman, who had worked in various capacities, with various national and international organisations such as UN and ICAR. He started his speech with a brief introduction on tourism and its allied sectors. He then went on to speak about the social aspects of rural development and tourism. His extraordinary knowledge on various tribal communities of India resonated in his words. He acknowledged with pride, "In the entire world, rice can be grown at below sea level only in India and the Netherlands. Kuttanad, Kerala, where this miracle takes place has been designated as the World Agricultural Heritage Site. Students and scholars should study these kinds of models and develop them". Dr. Parasuraman ended his speech by tendering a request to Mr. Sanjay for nominating a good will ambassador for rural tourism from our college.

The event gained momentum with the announcement of results for various competitions, held as part of the celebrations. Entries received for Photography, Videography and Digital poster making competitions were shown and played, which served as a treat for the eyes for all the attendees of the event.

The event formally came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Ranganathan, Co-ordinator, Shift 2, Department of History, Loyola College.



