



DAY'S DIARY

Dwarf planet discovery

Dwarf planet Eris was discovered by the team of Mike Brown, Chad Trujillo, and David Rabinowitz on January 5, 2005, from images taken on October 2003

ANALYSING DATA

Eris is one of the largest known dwarf planets. It's about the same size as Pluto, but three times farther from the Sun. Due to its distance, data analysis took years



A GREEK NAME

On September 14, 2006, the International Astronomical Union announced that the dwarf planet known as Xena will be called Eris, after the Greek goddess of discord



ERIS' MOON

Eris has a very small moon called Dysnomia with a nearly circular orbit lasting about 16 days. This moon is named after Eris' daughter, the demon goddess of lawlessness

Interview with Guru Somasundaram

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A TRIBUTE TO TRADITIONS

Loyola College brings in the new year with a dash of colours and dollops of culture, as popular folk arts of the state takes centre stage

EXPRESS FEATURES

Karakattam, nalyandi, poikkal kuthirai, oylattam, mayilattam, periya melam, gaana...Tamil Nadu is home to a rich legacy of over 1,024 distinct folk art forms. Over the years, with most of them extinct and only a handful in practice, it sure would be a treat to watch all these diverse artforms come to life under one roof. It was precisely so for a few fortunate students, staff and performance artists who were transported back in time at Veedhi Virudhu Vizha.

Loyola College, Chennai, in collaboration with Alternative Media Centre and Ilam Thedi Kalvi, Department of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, hosted the ninth edition of the two-day cultural festival on January 2 and 3 on the college premises. The objective was simple — to revive the traditional folk artforms, bring them under the limelight to the future generations, honour the veteran artists with cash awards and render a helping hand to the families of the artists, who lost their lives during the pandemic.

The festival witnessed participation from over 4,000 folk artists across the state. It was inaugurated by Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Member of Parliament, and SR Gandhi, director, Department of Art and Culture, Loyola College. The other leaders and luminaries who graced the occasion and facilitated the folk artists were Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi, Minister of Education; Nandagopal, Minister of Tamil Development and Archeology; K Elambavath commissioner, Department of



School Education and Christodas Gandhi, Special Officer, Ilam Thedi Kalvi. Celebrated filmmakers such as Mari Selvaraj, T.J Gnanavel and Leena Manimekalai were also a part of it.

Besides entertainment, as part of a larger cause, an ex-gratia of ₹10,000 was offered for each family of the 25 artists, who died due to the COVID-19 pandemic; ₹10,000 to 35 senior artists, and ₹10,000 to 40 district coordinators of Ilam Thedi Kalvi. Certificates and mementos for all 4,000 artists were also distributed.

Rev Fr Roach, director, Loyola Student Support Service and Kaleeswaran, coordinator, AMC, were the key organisers of the show. An extension of their work was a team effort by Departments of History, Tamil and Visual Communication, Loyola College and All Livelihood Associations of Artists. The event served its purpose while following the SoPs as mandated by the government owing to the pandemic.



PHOTO: R SATISH BABU



Support for artists

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