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## Village craft exhibition draws visitors

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The expo in progress at Mohanam Cultural Centre in Sanjeevi Nagar.— Photo: T. Singaravelou

At first glance, it looks like a beautiful pair of earrings. Look closely and it is evident that the blue conical triangles are actually handcrafted from paper. This and other handcrafted items vied for visitors' attention at the village craft exhibition held at the Mohanam Cultural Centre, Sanjeevi Nagar, near Auroville.

Ten handicraft units from the Sanjeevi Nagar and Alankuppam villages participated in the exhibition. The exhibits included terracotta, ceramic, recycled paper, crochet and leather product units. Apart from home decor items, there were also paper crafts and soaps on sale.

The exhibition is part of the Lively One Village project, which links artisans from the Sanjeevi Nagar and Alankuppam villages with the Mohanam Cultural Centre. The sustainable model helps artisans use the centre's expertise and platform to sell their products. Likewise, the centre also benefits from the artisans' support to the ecotourism project, according to its director, P. Balasundaram. A map with details of the handicraft units in villages was also launched for the use of visitors and tourists.

"The Lively One Village project is supported by the Puducherry tourism department as a means to support local artisans and promote spiritual tourism," said Mr. Balasundaram.

Visitors to the exhibition also got the opportunity to participate in the [TAMIL](#)