

artisans from the two villages in sharing expertise and providing them a platform to sell their products through ecotourism measures.

Mr. Balasundaram and his team will also be assisting Ille-et-Vilaine in the Alankuppam rural tourism circuit. "We are hoping to establish a village community rural heritage museum which imparts craft training and takes tourists on visits to herbal gardens and other activities. The museum will be a living, breathing space which will play an important educational role and promote local handicrafts, and it will be run by self-help groups. This will bring revenue to the local community here," said Mr. Balasundaram.

"The government has been quite supportive in their interest and guidance for this project," he added. A steering committee with stakeholders will monitor the two-year Alankuppam project.

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