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our healthy and nutritional food that our forefathers in villages consumed.”

A native of Tindivanam, she was married off to a carpenter in Sanjeevi Nagar, a village close to Auroville.

For the first time in four years of the annual Auroville and Puducherry Village Heritage Festival celebrations, she has ventured out to set up a stall.

She saved money by joining a self-help group in her village and was introduced to the different activities carried out in Auroville.

### A remainder

“We are forgetting our culture and tradition. This is a way to showcase, remind and practice our rich rural cultural heritage,” she says.

Away from the hustle-bustle of urban life, a ride through the tree shaded road in Auroville that connects to the mud road leads you to Alankuppam village. In a small corner near *erikarai* in Alankuppam, weaved palm fronds welcomed the visitors to the celebration of rustic life.

While women from Alankuppam and Sanjeevi Nagar villages were preparing traditional snacks to the visitors, men and a few women exhibited the traditional crafts, including bamboo crafts.

Stone sculptors and children performed folk dance and played traditional games. Abdul Munaf, who had come from Villianur, was waiting for people to buy his dry grass mats.

This was the fourth year of their annual festival. “Every year, Mohanam Cultural and Heritage Centre in partnership with Department of Tourism organises two-day heritage festival to bring together village communities to celebrate the rural life,” says Balasundaram Ponnusamy, Director, Mohanam Cultural and Heritage Centre.