



### *Two-day Auroville and Puducherry Village Heritage Festival begins with fervour*

: The two-day Auroville and Puducherry Village Heritage Festival to celebrate the culture and folk history of Tamil Nadu kicked off with fervour on Saturday.

#### **Bullock cart ride**

Children from villages surrounding Auroville danced and played showcasing the traditional sports and art forms of their villages. From bullock cart ride to kho-kho, Sillampattam, Kotipul, Thayam and many games were played at the festival venue.

Mohanam Center for Culture and Heritage, under the Auroville Village Action Trust, with support from the Department of Tourism organised the festival to promote the rich cultural heritage and folk history of Tamil Nadu.

Traditional millets including foxtail, pearl, barnyard and little millets were displayed at the stalls.

The herbal plants grown around Auroville region was also on display. Women from the Sanjeevi Nagar, Annai Nagar and Alankuppam showcased the crafts made of recycled paper, ceramic, terracotta, bamboo and crochets. They treated the visitors with hot traditional food like bondas, *kelvaragu adai*.

These are many art and craft units in the neighbouring villages. The villagers had the opportunity to exhibit their works and sell them to the visitors.

"Being part of Mohanam Centre, we are putting up stalls for the second time here. This provides us the exposure to meet new people from different parts of the world who would be interested in our works," says Anjali, who has put up a stall at the festival.

Enjoying the not traditional food from the stalls, Max Miller, a visitor from England, with his child, said: "I enjoy the traditional food here.