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A coir product is sitting pretty

- [Ignatius Pereira](#)

Kerala State Institute of Design makes an Eames lounges chair out of coir



When it comes to coir, the Kerala State Institute of Design (KSID) here is trying to get people break the traditional mindset and think beyond ropes and mats. To start with, designers at the institute have transformed coir into an Eames lounge chair. Project coordinator T. Manu said the KSID hoped to trigger a new line of thinking about coir through the chair.

Why Eames

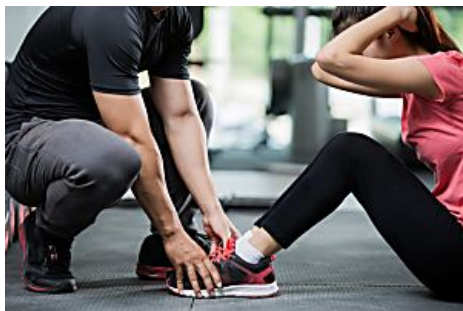
Selecting the Eames lounge chair has a purpose. Charles and Ray Eames, who designed the chair in 1956 in the US, were instrumental in initiating the design industry in India at the behest of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. So this project is a tribute to them, Mr. Manu said. The original Eames lounge chair was in plywood. The project comes under a collaborative research agreement the KSID entered into in March this year with the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram.

Presenting the strength of coir to the furniture sector through the Eames lounge chair is the main agenda of the KSID-NIIST tie-up. The KSID is an educational institution under the Department of Labour and supported by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

Mr. Manu said the KSID has a line of coir furniture products in the pipeline. The lounge chair is only a technology demonstration for the purpose and is expected to provide a ray of hope to the sector which is facing difficult times.

“Though lots of studies have been done on developing new products by various research institutes, lack of commercialisation led to poor commercial and technical feasibility of such new products. The KSID overcame this objective by developing the lounge chair, which would be highly suitable for the Indian market, using a technique which could be adopted by untrained manufacturers as well.”

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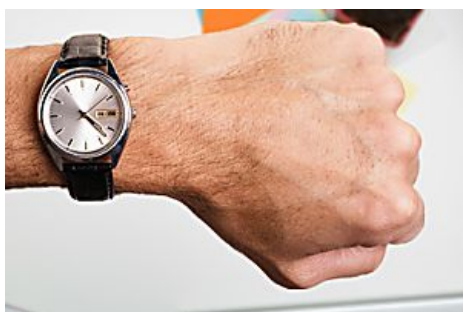
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