

NITK inks MoU with NJB for geo-cell products

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: The National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Jute Board (NJB) under the Union ministry of textiles to develop technology to make geo-cell products from jute and standardise them for various engineering applications.

According to a release, the commercially available polymer-based geo-cells are costly and not readily available in rural areas and small towns. This navigates towards inventing an eco-friendly, cost-effective cellular confinement product that satisfies engineering strength requirements. Jute is a natural ma-

terial that is plentifully available in India. Almost 85% of the world's jute cultivation is concentrated in the Ganges Delta. The project by NITK proposes a very affordable and eco-friendly method of ground improvement using jute in the form of cells.

FROM JUTE

The NJB has been entrusted with the implementation of multiple activities and projects by the Ministry of Textiles to modernise, technologically upgrade, improve productivity, develop diversified jute products, and develop human resources for the jute sector. In this context, NJB is joining hands with one of the premier technical institutes of national importance, NITK,

Surathkal to develop the technology for a new product from Jute termed 'Jute Geo-Cells.' This work has been entrusted to NITK, Surathkal, in the form of a research project worth Rs 48 lakh with Sreevalsa Kolathayar as the principal investigator, Raviraj HM and Somasekhara Rao T as the co-principal investigators, and A U Ravishankar, STA PMGSY as advisor. KSCSTE-Centre for Water Resource Development and Management (CWRDM) and Kerala Highway Research Institute (KHRDI) are collaborating agencies for this project, and Birla Jute Mill (A unit of Birla Corporation Limited) is the industry partner.

Recently, Dr Mahadeb Datta, deputy director, NJB, had visited NITK campus for fast-tracking the project.