

Get eco-friendly

EVENT Choose from thoughtfully crafted bric-a-brac from Isha



BACK TO NATURE At Isha PHOTO: K. ANANTHAN

What do you normally do with *vaazhai naar*? String flowers? Or did you just throw it into the dustbin. The volunteer-designers at Isha Craft thought differently. They strung the banana fibre over a wrought iron frame to convert it into an ethnic lampshade. This is on display at *The Hindu Metroplus Lifestyle Show*, which concludes today at the Codissia Trade Fair Centre. It was then the turn of *sowrie* fibre. Usually used to decorate the entrance of wedding halls, the *sowrie* sheath was not seen much elsewhere. Till, Isha members man-

aged to coax the fibre into beautiful fruit baskets.

To embellish it further, the designers placed coconut flowers on them. A coat of varnish later, it is a great eco-friendly gift. Usha Rao, who manages the stall, says they used indigenous material and gave it a contemporary twist. "The women here have natural weaving skills and we used that," she explains. The stall also stocks lampshades with frames made of aloe vera fibre and twisted banana yarn. They sell baskets made of *sabai* grass from Orissa too.

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