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How has the role of office furniture evolved with the rise of hybrid and flexible workspaces?

Hybrid work has redefined furniture from being functional to enabling collaboration, focus, and adaptability. Today's furniture caters to diverse work modes—quiet zones for deep work, hubs for brainstorming, and lounges for informal interactions. It's no longer just desks and chairs; it's about shaping experiences.

"Our clients want more than furniture—they want tools to express culture and support evolving work," adds Mr. Manohar Gopal, Managing Director, Featherlite Group.

"Whether it's a focus pod or collaborative system, everything must serve a purpose beyond its form."

What design features do you prioritise to ensure your office furniture is both ergonomic and aligned with modern aesthetics?

At Featherlite, ergonomics is non-negotiable. We prioritize

lumbar support, adjustability, and movement-friendly designs to promote well-being. Visually, we lean toward clean lines, minimal forms, biophilic elements, and neutral palettes aligned with contemporary interiors. Integrated cable management, modularity, and space-efficient solutions support aesthetic and functional harmony.

How do factors like sustainability and material selection influence your product development?

Sustainability is embedded in our design and manufacturing ethos. We use responsibly sourced materials, low-emission finishes, and solar-powered factories, including 3 MW rooftop solar, to reduce our carbon footprint. Beyond manufacturing, Featherlite embraces a circular economy: we repurpose old furniture—donating usable pieces to schools and NGOs. Fabrics recovered from ranges are upcycled into bags, giving new life to materials.

We proudly employ visually impaired workers, promoting inclusion and

meaningful employment. Our goal is long-lasting, recyclable products that meet global benchmarks without compromising quality or comfort.

"As a company rooted in India, our sustainability practices must benefit local communities," says Mr. Dhiren Gopal.

"Repurposing furniture and upcycling fabric ensures nothing goes to waste—everything finds a second life."

What emerging trends will define the future of office furniture in India?

India's office furniture future will be shaped by tech-enabled workstations, customisation, wellness-focused designs, and modularity. As hybrid models evolve, there's emphasis on purpose-driven zones—from hubs for teamwork to focus areas for deep work. There's a shift toward minimalist aesthetics, flexible layouts, and acoustic innovation to enhance productivity and workplace experience. ■