

# AAI to use plastic waste to lay roads

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** The next time you visit the city airport, chances are you may be driving on a road made of plastic waste generated at the facility.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to use plastic waste to lay or repair roads on the city-side of airports including Chennai.

The move comes after AAI invited a Madurai-based expert who specialises in using plastic waste to lay road to speak at a programme organized for its engineers recently.

Following the programme, AAI chairman suggested that ro-

## IN THE PIPELINE

▶ **AAI plans to relay city-side roads**

▶ **Recycled plastic waste from airlines and airport will be mixed with bitumen to lay roads**

▶ **Such roads are durable and need less maintenance**

▶ **Later, AAI may use the technique for perimeter roads and taxiway**

▶ **The Chennai airport handles around 400 flights per day**

ads inside the airport could be laid using plastic waste generated at airports.

A senior AAI official said the initiative was most likely to be tried out in Madurai, Chennai or Thiruvananthapuram where a good amount of plastic waste was generated by the airport and also airlines.

"We may try it out in Madurai as the expert is from the town. If it is a success it will be tried out in other airports," he added.

City-side roads on the campus will be laid first. Then, it may be tried out for perimeter roads that run along the compound wall of airport campus in the operational area.

If the technique is perfected, it can be used for taxiways too.

Chennai qualifies for a trial be-

cause it generates highest quantity of plastic waste in the region.

The technique used by the expert is such that the roads made by him did not need maintenance for 15 years, the official said.

"The roads made of plastic waste will also be considered as a green initiative. The plan is to use the plastic in a better way instead of sending them to the dumpyard," said another official.

Christchurch International Airport in New Zealand has used recycled plastic and bitumen to pave the airport fire station premises.

This was done by shredding plastic waste and mixing it with bitumen.

# Plastic ban: Corpn targets meat shops

Of 1,969  
Raided, Only  
314 Found  
Violating

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**Chennai:** The city corporation has now turned the heat on meat shops in its drive against banned single-use plastic. Officials of the civic body's public health department on Monday raided 1,969 shops selling mutton and chicken across the 15 zones, found only 314 shops selling meats in plastic carry bags and seized 633.5 kg.

Overall, 4.62 tonnes of plastic was seized against the 410 kg seized on Sunday. Top Greater Chennai Corporation officials have di-

## SEIZURE SO FAR | Officials seized only 633.5 kg plastic material on Monday



**SQUAD IN ACTION:** Officials engaged in enforcing plastic ban during a raid at a meat shop at Manali New Town under zone II

**#PLASTICGOTTA GO**

rected zonal staff to raid different businesses each day, sources said. "The visits to shops selling plastic and traders should not be in a haphazard manner. To streamline the process, ward and zonal officials have been asked to target a category of shop each day," said a health department official.

Several meat shops have be-

gun using plantain leaves but several are still stocking black plastic bags, he added. "Instead of randomly visiting any shop, we are going to compartmentalize the raids. Today it was meat shops, it was malls last week. For instance,

each day one type of establishment can be raided, including marketplaces, departmental stores, confectionaries, restaurants," said an official.

The strict enforcement, senior health department officials said, had also created better awareness among a lot of people. "As per officials on the ground, we have been informed that most shopkeepers

stopped using plastic bags. In the last one week alone over 46,000 kg of plastic has been seized," an official added.

A zone-level official in the Royapuram zone said the amount of plastic being seized was decreasing by the day. "Most have moved on to plantain and lotus leaves."

Nasir, a meat shop owner in Nandanam, said he had begun using aluminum foil covers. "Many of my customers bring their own covers. Some also bring vessels and boxes to buy meat so I don't have a problem. However, there are rumours going around that foil packaging is also not allowed," he said.

When contacted, corporation officials said foil packaging was not banned and that they would keep up the intensity of awareness rallies across the city as a few plastic traders were spreading rumours regarding the ban.

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