

OT MEET

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REPORTER'S DIARY

## Can't use plastic bags? Try newspapers

There's little more than a month left before TN implements the ban on plastics. That, however, does not mean the city cannot start preparing itself from now.

At an event held recently at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan School, United States Consul General Robert Burgess spoke about the unparalleled value of studying in the US and kicked off International Education Week 2018 in Chennai. It was followed by a media interaction and reporters from various media organisations had assembled in the conference hall. When it was time for lunch, the school staff began to distribute paper bags with vegetable sandwich inside it.

Interestingly, the bags were made up of local newspapers and had jute strings as handles. It was a part of the school's initiative to ban the use of plastic products within the campus. The school staff also avoided distributing plastic folders as a part of the press kit and handed the press release over to the reporters directly.

Burgess appreciated the effort and carried the bag with him even after the press conference. A few reporters, who had initially hesitated to accept the food, too hailed the school administration. Apart from preparing the reporters for what to expect after the plastics ban sets in, it also paved the way to make newspapers stay relevant for over a day.

— R Sathyanarayana, Chennai