

Plastic roads in India

What is the issue?

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India has a huge potential of using its plastic waste for laying plastic roads.

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What are plastic roads?

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- Roads constructed from mix of aggregate (sand and stone chips), bitumen and shredded plastic.
- The new material mix is reported to have superior binding.
- But plastic roads are quite the rage in the European Union which has taken on massive environmental conservation and pollution mitigation goals.

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What is the status of plastic roads in India?

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- India has already built some 21,000 miles of roads using plastic waste.
- The civic authority in Bengaluru has experimented with plastic roads building some 600 km of thoroughfare.
- The Centre even issued a set of guidelines for plastic blending in rural roads programme, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- Researchers in Tamil Nadu, has developed plastic blended water-resistant blocks, it can be used to line canals and other flowing water bodies.
- Plastic based roads are catching up in many other cities in India.

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What are the advantages of plastic roads?

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- Safer disposal of plastic is ensured than melting it down and releasing copious quantities of toxic fumes.
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- It is a cheap input that could pull down road construction cost.
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- Can be efficiently used for rural road building and smart city plans.
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- The bitumen usage is cut because of plastic thereby reducing the carbon footprint of road construction.
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- It has greater durability than asphalt-concrete roads because they don't absorb water.
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Source: Indian Express

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