BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

IN

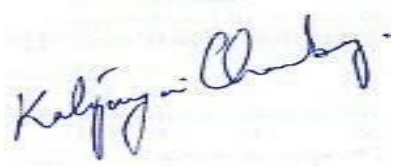
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 606 OF 2018

IN THE MATTER OF:

COMPLIANCE OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES, 2016 AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

INDEX

Dated: 19.05.2026
New Delhi



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Observation note by the Amicus Curiae to Status Report/ Compliance Affidavit filed by the Respondent UT of Andaman & Nicobar Island

The Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands presents a unique and ecologically sensitive jurisdiction. Comprising 836 islands, of which 31 are inhabited, and home to a population of 1,08,048 persons including "*Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups*" such as the Sentinelese people of North Sentinel Island.

It is respectfully submitted that the undernoted observation emerges from the compliance reports filed in the above-captioned matter by the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Island.

**What will happen during this fuel shortage time? Should the Island device a mechanism to dispose the solid waste by itself?

S.NO	TOPIC	OBSERVATION
1.	Population	i. Total population on the Island- 108048 ii. Total no. of islands- 836 iii. Total inhabited islands- 31 (-1 island: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group- Sentinelese)
2.	Solid waste	i. GAP- **17.15 TPD**

	(pg. 4152/ 4408/ 4509)	ii.	Total waste generated (pg.4409)- **84.42 TPD** (71.36 TPD on pg.4152)
		iii.	Total waste processed- 65.26 TPD
		iv.	Urban processing Gap- 15.66 TPD
		v.	Rural processing Gap- 1.5 TPD
		vi.	Decentralised baling units- 42 (38 operational and 4 non- functional)
		vii.	Waste processing facility (pg. 4414)- existing waste processing facility of 56 TPD comprising 23TPD for dry waste, 32.5 TPD for wet waste & 0.5TPD for sanitary & domestic hazardous waste (SW/DHW).
		viii.	Total waste disposed in landfill- 0.9 LMT
		ix.	Household collection- 100% (1,15,815 urban, rural, tribal)
		x.	WTE Plant- No
		xi.	C& D plant- no information provided
		xii.	Sanitary & domestic hazardous waste processing- 0.5 TPD
		xiii.	Inert & Silt-
		xiv.	Compost generated- 11 decentralised composting facilities in urban areas with total capacity of 32.5 TPD in 2908 sqm.
		xv.	Other information- a) What is the current commissioning status of the 30 TPD Integrated Solid Waste Processing Plant (dry & wet waste), which was targeted for commissioning by April 2026? b) What is the current status of the 13 TPD rural processing plant, also scheduled for commissioning by April 2026? c) The 4 non-functional baling units were to be rectified/replaced by April 2026. What is the updated status of this compliance?
3.	Legacy waste	i.	GAP-
		ii.	Total identified LWS- 1
		iii.	Total legacy waste- 1.0 lakh MT (at Brookshabad claimed to be remediated in 2024, but receives daily waste)
		iv.	Daily added waste to LWS- 0.9 LMT (biomining will commence by May 2026)
		v.	WTE Plant- No

		vi. Inert & Silt-Reused for land reclamation at the plant site; also segregated and re-laid at the vii. bio-remediated site. (pg. 4133) viii. RDF utilisation- Transported to the mainland for co-processing/incineration at cement plants. What kind infrastructure has been created for storage of RDF for longer durations? ix. Leachate disposal- No information provided x. Site Remediation plan for LWS (soil & ground water)- LWS not recovered xi. Utilisation plan for recovered land from LWS- LWS not yet recovered, however no advance action plan provided.
4.	Liquid waste (4220/ 4410/ 4511)	i. GAP- 13.52 MLD (grey water treatment gap) ii. Total sewage generation- **36.75 MLD** (13.51 MLD black water and 23.24 MLD grey water/ pg. 4411) iii. Major drains (carrying storm & grey water)- 20.625 MLD (pg. 4415/ 4516) iv. Treatment of Black water @ 12.67 MLD: a) Onsite Sanitation Systems (OSS), i.e., septic tanks and soak pits at every household. b) 42 KLD Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) c) The FSTP will be upgraded to 60 KLD by Aug 2026 v. Final discharge- coastal & sea outfall, creek, low lying coastal zone. vi. Water quality analysis of drains- Indicates High FC count (pg.4138) vii. Total STP- 139 with combined capacity of 2.303 MLD (pg. 4139) viii. Total ETPs- 36 with combined capacity of 363.5 KLD ix. Household Sewage management on 9 Islands (pg. 4220): a) Households- 62,590 b) Total sewage- 9.65 MLD (100% treated) c) Soak pits- 50,710 d) Septic tank- 52,320

		There are more soakpits & septic tanks than total households. For eg. Swaraj dweep has 735 households and it has 4200 septic tanks and 4000 soak pit (pg. 4220) Numerically, though, the ratio is suspicious: • 4,200 septic tanks / 735 households ≈ 5.7 septic tanks per household • 4,000 soak pits / 735 households ≈ 5.4 soak pits per household x. Water quality analysis of STP inlet- information not provided xi. Water quality analysis of STP outlet- information not provided xii. Number of streams used for sewage disposal- information not provided.
5.	Ring fenced account (pg. 4221)	i. Account opened- Yes ii. Amount deposited- Rs. 13.16 Cr for solid waste and Rs. 41.50 Cr for sewage management.

SUGGESTIONS:

Accordingly, the following observation/ suggestions are respectfully proposed to ensure time-bound compliance, strengthen institutional accountability, enhance environmental safeguards, and align implementation with statutory mandates and judicial directions.

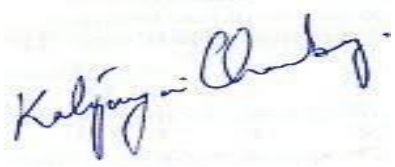
1. The existing processing facility of 56 TPD is significantly below the reported generation figure, even at the lower estimate. The processing gap is not adequately explained.
2. In the absence of a WTE plant and with RDF being transported to the mainland for co-processing, there is significant risk of accumulation during periods of disruption to maritime logistics. The Respondent must present a *Contingency Plan* for solid waste processing self-sufficiency.
3. The absence of any leachate treatment and disposal information is a critical gap. On an island ecosystem with a shallow water table and coastal proximity, unmanaged leachate presents a direct and severe risk of groundwater and marine contamination. The Respondent must furnish a *Leachate Management Plan* forthwith.

4. What infrastructure has been created for the storage and safe handling of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) prior to transportation to the mainland? What protocols are in place to prevent environmental releases during storage and transit?
5. The 139 STPs with a combined capacity of only 2.303 MLD are wholly inadequate relative to the 36.75 MLD of sewage generated. This implies massive untreated discharge into coastal and marine environments.
6. A comprehensive *Coastal Discharge Impact Assessment* must be conducted and placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

The observation note is respectfully submitted for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS, THE ADVOCATE AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER BE GRATEFUL.

Dated: 19.05.2026
New Delhi



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