

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

IN

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 606 OF 2018**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

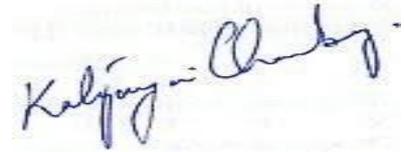
**COMPLIANCE OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES, 2016 AND  
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

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Dated: 19.03.2026

New Delhi



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**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****OBSERVATION NOTE FOR AFFIDAVIT FILE ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISOR TO THE ADMINISTRATOR, UT OF LAKSHADWEEP (MARCH 26)**

This Observation note is submitted in continuation of the ongoing compliance proceedings regarding the implementation of environmental norms in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep—a fragile coral archipelago exhibiting high ecological sensitivity. The islands suffer from severely limited land availability, profound dependence on marine ecosystems, and escalating anthropogenic pressures, notably from tourism and rising population density.

Owing to the inherent vulnerability of coral reefs and lagoons, deficiencies in waste management precipitate direct marine pollution, groundwater contamination, and biodiversity loss, thereby invoking grave concerns under the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, and sustainable development doctrine as enshrined in Indian environmental jurisprudence.

**OBSERVATION NOTE**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Submission</b>
Solid waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Union Territory of Lakshadweep comprises 10 inhabited islands with a total population of approximately 64,473 persons, thereby indicating a concentrated demographic load on limited land resources.</li> <li>2. There are approximately 13,370 households within a total inhabited land area of about 30.05 square kilometres</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. As per the records, the quantum of kitchen (biodegradable) waste generated is approximately 834.5 kilograms per day, necessitating adequate decentralized processing mechanisms. (pg. 1035)</li> <li>4. Total waste generation in the Union Territory has been reported at approximately 6685 TPD (pg. 1046)</li> <li>5. 1,91,171 kilograms of non-biodegradable waste was collected in the month of February 2026, (6 MTD as per oral submissions made before the Chief Secretary, indicating ongoing efforts toward waste collection and segregation)</li> <li>6. A total of 25,40,049.54 kilograms of waste has been transported during the period from June to December 2025</li> <li>7. The collected waste is transported to designated <i>Central Garbage Depositories</i> (CDGs), from where recyclable materials are subsequently sent to the mainland, including Kochi and Beypore, for further processing and recycling. (pg. 1038)</li> <li>8. The report is silent on storage and transportation of garbage during monsoon and rough weather season. Information and dedicated Action plan is required for sanitary waste disposal and solid waste management from commercial, institutional and non-residential sources.</li> </ol>
Legacy waste	No legacy waste reported
Liquid waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is submitted that all households are provided with Septic Tanks.</li> <li>2. However, the report does not mention about sewer/ septage treatment from non-residential units like- hotels, resorts, commercial establishments, manufacturing units, Airport, ports, hospitals, colleges and schools etc.</li> </ol>
Ring fenced account (pg. 1062)	<p>No EC has been imposed</p> <p>Project funding cost- Rs. 6.24 lakhs</p>

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In light of the foregoing observations, it is evident that the existing waste management framework in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep requires urgent strengthening to address systemic gaps in both solid and liquid waste handling. The fragile ecology of the coral archipelago, coupled with increasing population pressures and tourism-related waste generation, necessitates a shift towards decentralized, sustainable, and strictly regulated environmental management practices.

Accordingly, the following recommendations are proposed with a view to ensuring compliance with statutory mandates, safeguarding marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and advancing a resilient, zero-waste model tailored to the unique geographic and ecological context of the islands.

1. Establish island-level Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and composting units.
2. Carrying capacity-based tourism limits
3. Mandatory “zero-waste tourism” protocols. Eco-friendly tourism certification
4. Deposit-refund system for plastic bottles.
5. Covered, climate-resilient storage facilities. Pre-monsoon waste evacuation strategy.
6. Sanitary & hazardous waste- Install small-scale incinerators/autoclaves compliant with CPCB norms.
7. Deploy modular STPs for each island cluster. Promote nature-based solutions such as constructed wetlands.
8. Mandatory on-site STPs for:
  - Hotels and resorts
  - Airports and ports
  - Government institutions
9. Scheduled desludging system with sludge treatment facilities.
10. Real-time monitoring dashboards for waste tracking.

## 11. MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION:

Reporting on Microplastic Pollution	Links
<p>Total Plastic Waste generation: 46 Ton per annum</p> <p>Lakshadweep has no plastic waste recyclers and manufactures, since all the plastic wastes are transported to authorized recyclers at mainland.</p>	<p>OA 673 of 2018</p> <p><a href="https://nmcg.nic.in/writereaddata/fileupload/ngtmp/47_Lakshadweep%20-%20MPR%20Jan%202022.pdf">https://nmcg.nic.in/writereaddata/fileupload/ngtmp/47_Lakshadweep%20-%20MPR%20Jan%202022.pdf</a></p>
<p>News dated: 02.12.2025</p> <p>Mongabay India</p> <p>A mounting waste crisis as tourism surges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakshadweep is facing a worsening waste crisis. Community bins have been removed and garbage now accumulates in open dumping yards near the sea.</li> <li>A surge in tourism, increased plastic use, and lack of planning have intensified the waste disposal problem, affecting beaches, lagoons and everyday life for residents.</li> <li>Plastic pollution now threatens fisheries and public health. Locals blame administrative failures and poor waste-management systems.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://india.mongabay.com/2025/12/a-mounting-waste-crisis-as-tourism-surges/">https://india.mongabay.com/2025/12/a-mounting-waste-crisis-as-tourism-surges/</a></p>
<p>News Dated: 14.07.2025</p> <p>Times of India</p> <p><b>Plasticdweep: 4,000 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste pile up in Lakshadweep</b></p> <p>A recent study conducted by the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) proves that marine litter threatens the UT's coastal and coral ecosystems.</p> <p>The study, conducted across 28 beaches and three lagoon reef stations on Kavaratti island, documented a staggering 32,710 litter items, categorised into 11 types, with an average density of <math>0.82 \pm 0.80</math> items per sqm. Plastic waste emerged as the most dominant category, accounting for 63.7% of the total litter.</p> <p>Public littering was identified as the primary source, contributing to 43% of the pollution. It also showed that marine litter causes severe stress on</p>	<p><a href="https://timesofindia.com/city/kochi/plasticdweep-4000-tonnes-of-non-biodegradable-waste-pile-up-in-lakshadweep/articleshow/print/122430606">https://timesofindia.com/city/kochi/plasticdweep-4000-tonnes-of-non-biodegradable-waste-pile-up-in-lakshadweep/articleshow/print/122430606</a>. Cms</p>

<p>the coral reefs; 59.37% of these affected colonies showed signs of disease and tissue loss, while 14.86% exhibited partial bleaching or paling.</p> <p>Experts say that the administration should employ technology-driven measures to remove the non-degradable waste regularly reaching the beaches and lagoons from the sea, instead of mere awareness creation programmes.</p> <p>The existing measures are limited to human-habited islands, and there has been no measure to collect the non-degradable waste washing ashore the 26 uninhabited islands.</p>	
<p>News dated 08.10.2025</p> <p>Outlook Business</p> <p>Coral Reefs in Lakshadweep at High Risk as Microplastic Pollution Deepens Ecological Threats</p> <p>The first multi-island microplastics (MPs) assessment in Lakshadweep coral reef ecosystem has revealed severe contamination in both water and sediments, as per a study by a marine research team from Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat).</p>	<p><a href="https://www.outlookbusiness.com/news/lakshadweep-microplastics-coral-reef-pollution-study">https:// www.outlookbusiness. com/ news/ lakshadweep-microplastics-coral-reef-pollution-study</a></p>
<p>News dated: 18.09.2025</p> <p>Down to Earth</p> <p>Plasticdweep: Lakshadweep’s paradise buried under 4,000 tonnes of waste</p> <p>A fire on Minicoy Island exposes the Union Territory’s worsening waste crisis, where fragile coral reefs, fisherfolk livelihoods, and the future of India’s “Maldives dream” stand on the brink of collapse.</p> <p>Spread across 1,500 square metres, Minicoy’s dump yard is a grotesque mix of discarded beds, refrigerators, fishing nets, plastic bags, and e-waste. The story repeats across the Union Territory. From Kiltan to Kalpeni, beaches are lined with mounds of inorganic junk, awaiting the next storm or fire to scatter them across lagoons. According to the Union Territory’s forest and environment department, nearly 4,000 tonnes of dry waste lie uncollected across Lakshadweep—waste that should have been shipped to the mainland years ago but never was.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.downtoearth.org.in/waste/plasticdweep-lakshadweeps-paradise-buried-under-4000-tonnes-of-waste">https:// www.downtoearth .org.in/waste/plasticdweep-lakshadweeps-paradise-buried-under-4000-tonnes-of-waste</a></p>

- a) Establish a dedicated **microplastic monitoring program** across all inhabited islands, including lagoons, beaches, and groundwater sources.
- b) Collaborate with national research institutions for periodic sampling, data collection, and impact assessment.
- c) Regulate and phase out plastic-based fishing gear; promote biodegradable or eco-friendly alternatives.
- d) Introduce strict controls on import of plastic-packaged goods into the islands.
- e) Ensure 100% segregation, collection, and scientific disposal of plastic waste to prevent fragmentation into microplastics.
- f) Deploy floating barriers or traps in strategic lagoon inlets to intercept floating plastics.
- g) Mandate **eco-certification** for resorts with strict waste and plastic management compliance.
- h) Action Plan for collecting and disposing solid waste (non- biodegradable) from the 26 uninhabited islands.

12. Bio- medical waste management- there are 46 hospitals and healthcare facilities, generating around 100 kgs/ day of bio medical waste in Lakshadweep islands. No CBMWTF is available, although there are incinerators at Kavaratti and Agatti islands.

(info source: monthly progress report in compliance to the National Green Tribunal matter of OA No. 673/2018 for information and further necessary action submitted by Lakshadweep pollution control committee to NMCG.-

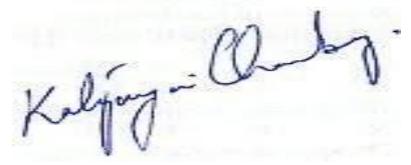
[https://nmcg.nic.in/writereaddata/fileupload/ngtmpr/47\\_Lakshadweep%20%20MPR%20Jan%202022.pdf](https://nmcg.nic.in/writereaddata/fileupload/ngtmpr/47_Lakshadweep%20%20MPR%20Jan%202022.pdf))

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.

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Dated: 19.03.2026  
New Delhi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katyayni Chaubey', is written on a light-colored rectangular stamp or piece of paper.

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