



ANIL AGARWAL
DIALOGUE 2026

What comes to mind when you visualise solid waste and Northeast together?





Let's look at the numbers: Northeast States compared to Delhi

Parameters	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura & Sikkim	Delhi
Estimated Population (Urban)	~ 10 Million	~ 22 Million
Reported Solid Waste Generation	~ 2371 TPD (SBM U) 2,400 – 5,300 TPD (as per reported per capita generation – massive discrepancy)	~11342 TPD (DPCC)
Per Capita Waste Generated (Reported)	0.24 - 0.53 kg/day	0.6 kg/day
Per Capita Waste Generated (Calculated)	≈ 0.237 kg/day (National Average 0.45 kg/day)	≈ 0.516 kg/person/day
Total Active Dumpsites	76	3



Major ULBs	Reported Waste (TPD)”	Estimated Current Waste (TPD)*	Difference (TPD)
Guwahati	532.26	~800	267.74
Agartala	230	~250	20
Shillong	170	~200	30
Imphal	132.71	~190	57.29
Aizawl	172	~185	13
Itanagar	85	~90	5
Gangtok	52	~65	13
Kohima	52.26	~65	12.74

“Source: Swachhatam Portal (SBM-U MIS Reporting)

*Source: CSE Field Assessment & Ground Analysis



State	Waste Generation (TPD) SBM	Door to Door Collection (%) SBM	Door to Door Collection (%) SS 24	Source Segregation (%) SBM	Source Segregation (%) SS 24	Processing (%) SBM	Processing (%) SS 24
Arunachal Pradesh	177.78	99.43	27.9	95.84	3.8	22	0.2
Assam	1266.72	96.99	57	56.78	13.5	65	59.1
Meghalaya	207.44	72.36	29.8	52.85	9.3	39	6.8
Manipur	273.14	99.34	24.8	97.05	15.9	59	51.6
Mizoram	23.92	100	18.9	72.73	2.4	0	0.2
Nagaland	16.06	51.67	29.8	31.43	0.9	1	0
Tripura	341.19	94.91	55	94.91	22.8	99	16.8
Sikkim	65.2	100	52.8	100	15.5	87	69.4



Structural Constraints

- Geographic & terrain challenges
- High organic waste fraction
- Weak Recycling Infrastructure



Governance & Institutional Complexity

- Sixth Schedule Areas: Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)
- Overlapping jurisdiction (ULBs, ADCs, boards, departments)
- Political instability affecting continuity of reforms
- Poor utilisation of existing infrastructure





Fiscal Fragility

- Multiple funding sources but weak O&M support
- Poor own-revenue mobilisation (property tax, user charges)
- Too much dependence on state funds



Funding & Policy Signals

- ₹1,000 crore allocation for training & IEC under Hill & Himalayan Cities Solid Waste Fund.
- Budget reduction in SBM allocation
- Capital support improving, community initiatives and dumpsite remediations underway





The Northeast does not have a waste problem of scale, it has a waste problem of systems, terrain, and fiscal viability. What should be the road ahead?

- Measurement has to be non-negotiable. Data needs to be fixed before fixing infrastructure
- Implementation of SWM Rules 2026 in spirit, not just for compliance
- Build systems not on metro templates
- Fund operations, not just inaugurations
- Competent accountability needs to be established
- Investments in capacity building and transparent monitoring



“In the Northeast, the real headline is not how much waste is generated but why the system struggles to manage it.”

