

Forced Evictions in India | 2021



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FORCED EVICTIONS IN INDIA 2021





Gyaspur, Delhi

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In 2015, **Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)** established the **National Eviction and Displacement Observatory** to highlight the crisis of forced evictions in India and to overcome the lack of official data on this issue. Over the years, the Observatory has documented, monitored, and highlighted forced evictions and displacement across India while attempting to provide relief and support to affected communities. We believe that accurate data and information on this issue is critically important to elicit an adequate policy response towards addressing this unending crisis.

Since 2017, HLRN has been publishing the findings from the Observatory as an annual report on forced evictions in India. The reports have highlighted the increasing gravity of this issue and the severe consequences of dispossession of marginalized communities. It is unfortunate that over the years, this situation has only worsened and the magnitude of people displaced has increased despite the intervening pandemic. This report, the fifth in the series, presents information on forced evictions and displacement in 2021, the year India experienced the deadly second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also encapsulates the major evictions that were carried out in 2022 (January to July) and highlights a worrying trend of state demolishing homes as a punitive measure, violating all due process norms and established human rights procedures. While this report focuses on data and statistics on evictions and displacement, it is also a testimony of all the marginalized people and families who have lost their homes due to their poverty and perceived illegality.

This report is the result of extensive primary and secondary research by the HLRN team as well as the data and information received from our network of partners across the country. Without their sustained support, these annual reports would not be as accurate or comprehensive.

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals for their enthusiastic support and efforts to provide us with data and information for this report: Vanessa Peters, Beena Jadav, Feroze Ahmed, Dharendra Panda, Ranjit Sutar, Jiten Yumnam, Themson Jajo, Anuradha, Isaac Arul Selva, and Balamma. We also acknowledge the assistance of Manju Menon, i-Probono, Tripti Poddar, Ashok Pandey, and Mansoor Khan.

We would like to thank Shivani Chaudhry, former Executive Director, HLRN, for initiating the documentation of forced evictions in the country and developing the methodology on which this report is based.

Housing and Land Rights Network is grateful to the following organizations for their contribution to this report:

- Aashray Abhiyan, Patna
- Action Aid, Jaipur
- Affected Citizens of Teesta, Sikkim
- Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur (CRAM)
- Centre for the Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources (CSNR), Bhubaneswar
- Human Welfare Voluntary Organisation, Srinagar
- Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), Chennai
- Kalpavriksh, Pune
- Land Conflict Watch

- Rahethan Adhikar Manch (Housing Rights and Human Rights Group), Gujarat
- Shahri Gareeb Sangharsh Morcha, Prayagraj
- Slum Jagatthu, Bengaluru
- Video Volunteers

We hope that HLRN's consistent efforts to document and highlight forced evictions in the country will help to address this unending crisis and bring justice to affected persons.

Enakshi Ganguly

Executive Director, Housing and Land Rights Network

CONTENTS

List of Acronyms

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF FORCED EVICTIONS IN 2022

MAJOR FINDINGS ON FORCED EVICTIONS IN INDIA IN 2021

1. Geography of Forced Evictions
2. Evictions during COVID-19 Pandemic
3. Reasons for Forced Eviction and Home Demolitions
4. Impacts on Dalits, Adivasis, and other Marginalized communities
5. Inadequate and Delayed Resettlement
6. Lack of due process and multiple human rights violations
7. Loss of Housing from Fire and Arson in 2021
8. Threat of Eviction and Displacement
9. Displacement from Disasters and Conflict in 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

ANNEXURES

Map One: Forced Evictions in India in 2021

Map Two: State-Wise Evictions in India in 2021

Map Three: State-Wise Threat of Eviction in India

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BDA	Bangalore Development Authority
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DDA	Delhi Development Authority
DTCP	Department of Town and Country Planning
DUSIB	Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
HLRN	Housing and Land Rights Network
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IRCDUC	Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities
JJ	<i>Jhuggi Jhopri</i> ['informal settlement']
NGT	National Green Tribunal
PMAY	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
TNSCB	Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board
TNUHDB	Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board
UN	United Nations

A photograph of a slum area. In the foreground, a rickshaw is parked on a dirt path. The middle ground is dominated by a large, messy pile of rubble, including bricks, concrete blocks, and debris. In the background, there are several large, leafy green trees under a cloudy sky. A dark blue banner with the word "INTRODUCTION" in white capital letters is overlaid on the right side of the image.

INTRODUCTION

In 2021, information collected by **Housing and Land Rights Network** reveals that government authorities at both the central and state levels demolished over **36,480 homes**, thereby **evicting over 207,100 (2.07 lakh) people from their homes across urban and rural India**. Preliminary research from January to July 2022 also reveals that state authorities across the country have already demolished over **25,800 homes**, affecting at least **124,450 people**.

These disturbing figures are a conservative estimate, as they only reflect cases accessed by HLRN through secondary data, partner organizations, and its own reach in the areas. The actual number of people evicted/displaced across India in 2021 and 2022 is likely to be much higher.

Definition of 'Forced Eviction'

This report uses the definition of 'forced eviction' provided by General Comment 7 (1997) of the United Nations (UN) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: **"The permanent or temporary removal against the will of individuals, families or communities from their homes or land, which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection."**

In India, over 4 million people live in homelessness¹ and at least 75 million people² live in 'informal settlements' in urban areas without access to essential services, including water and sanitation. A large majority of the rural population also lives in inadequate housing, without access to basic facilities. The grave housing crisis in the country is further compounded by the state's unending practice of home demolition and forced eviction of marginalized and vulnerable persons in both rural and urban areas.

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), through its **National Eviction and Displacement Observatory** established in 2015, has been collating data on forced evictions and displacement across India. Through its fifth annual report titled, **'Forced Evictions in India in 2021'**, HLRN presents the findings of its research and analysis of forced evictions and displacement across the country in the year 2021. In this year's report, HLRN has also attempted to identify the socio-economic details of the evicted persons to highlight how historically marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by state sponsored demolitions. The report also provides an overview of evictions that have occurred in 2022 (January to July).

This report aims to highlight critical issues related to evictions in India over the last year-and-a-half. It also proposes recommendations to the government to address this continuing crisis and to provide justice and ensure restitution of the human rights of affected persons.



Overview of forced eviction in India in 2021

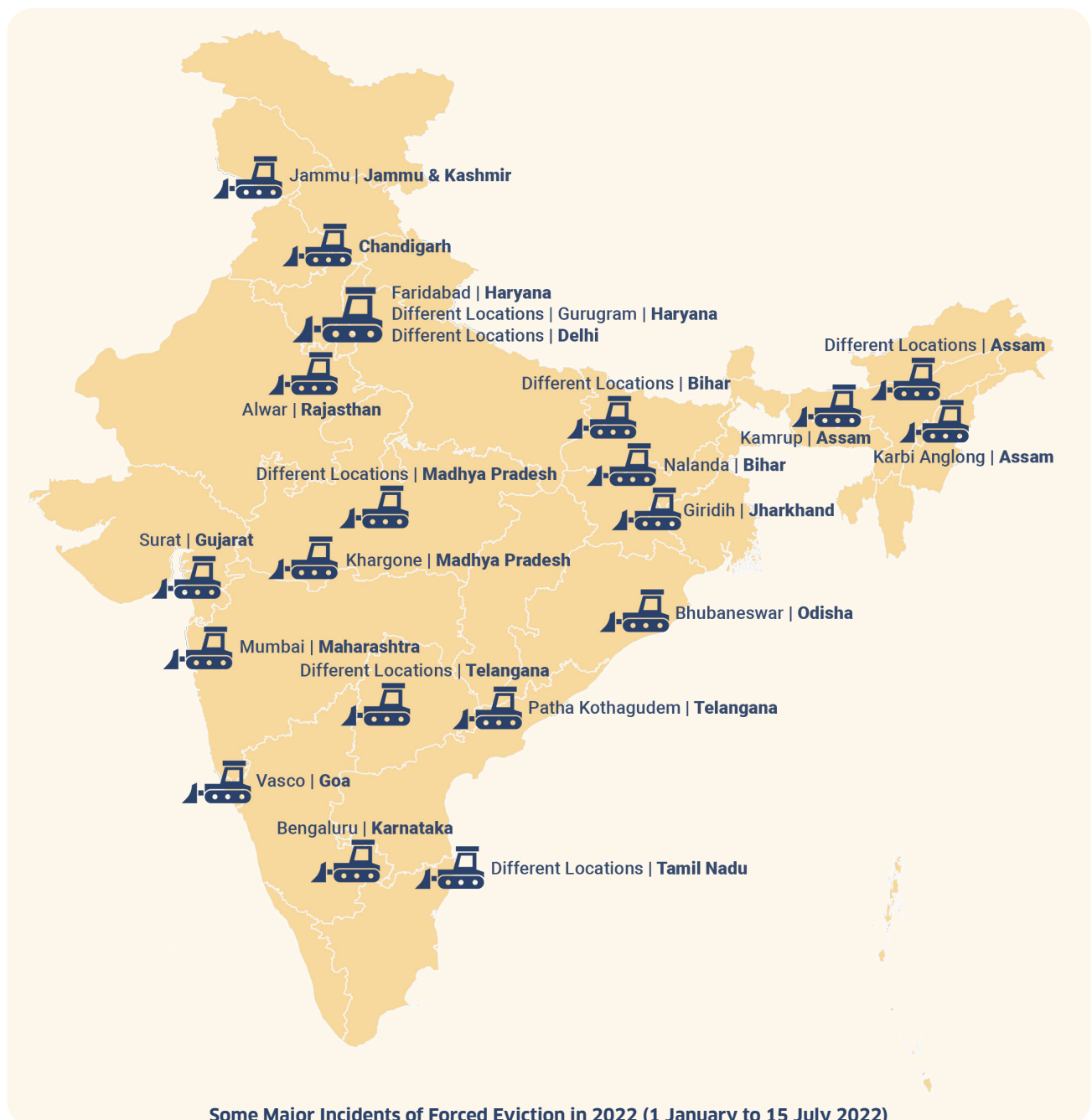


OVERVIEW OF FORCED EVICTIONS IN 2022

While this report primarily presents an analysis of evictions carried out in India in 2021, HLRN has also compiled preliminary data on demolition of homes and eviction of families by the Indian government from 1 January to 15 July 2022.

Preliminary research by HLRN reveals that between 1 January 2022 and 15 July 2022, state authorities across the country have already demolished over 25,800 homes, affecting at least 124,450 people.

The evictions occurred despite the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic during January–March 2022 and the continued impact on the livelihood and lives of people.



Some Major Incidents of Forced Eviction in 2022 (1 January to 15 July 2022)

Decreasing Legal Protections

Between February and July 2022, India's capital city of Delhi witnessed several incidents of home demolition, largely by central government authorities. In Punjabi Bagh, the Indian Railways demolished 250 homes, in February 2022, to vacate its land of 'encroachments'. The families have been living at the same site post-demolition as they have not been resettled. Delhi also witnessed several other cases of eviction which contravened the government's promise to provide in-situ housing for settlement dwellers and the objective to provide Housing for All under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

In Gyaspur, where the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished over 100 homes of low-income families between June and August 2022, the High Court of Delhi [W.P.(C) 9625/2022] refused to intervene to prevent the evictions despite the residents having proof of residence in the area for decades. The court stated that the settlement was not included in the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board's (DUSIB) list of identified bastis (settlements). A similar trend was also exhibited in other cases of demolitions in 2022, for example, in *Vaishali (Minor) (Through Next Friend Mrs. Sita Devi) v. Union of India* [L.P.A 271/2022], and *Shakarpur Slum Union v. DDA* [W.P.(C) 6779/2021]. By limiting the requirement of due process and rehabilitation only for residents of listed settlements, the courts ignored the vast number of settlements in Delhi that are yet to be surveyed. It also sidelines landmark judgments in *Sudama Singh v. Government of Delhi* and *Ajay Maken v. Union of India* that place the duty on state authorities to conduct a survey and provide rehabilitation before carrying out the demolition.

Delhi Development Authority renders over 400 people homeless in Gyaspur

Located on the Yamuna floodplains, Gyaspur basti consisted of two clusters - with approximately 100 houses. Residents of the settlement include women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, who migrated from Uttar Pradesh, in search of employment opportunities. Most of the residents of the settlement belong to Scheduled Caste communities and work as daily-wage earners, domestic workers, and street vendors. From 27 June to 8 August 2022, authorities from the Delhi Development Authority, with the Delhi Police, carried out a series of demolition drives in the settlement, without adequate provisions for rehabilitation, thus rendering over 400 persons homeless. Despite many families having identity documents to prove their residence in the area for over 40 years, the High Court of Delhi refused to provide any protection to the settlement, on the ground that the settlement was not included in the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board's (DUSIB) list of settlements.



Demolished homes in Gyaspur, Delhi

Demolitions as a Punitive Measure

Following the communal violence during the celebrations for the Hindu festivals of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti in April 2022 in Madhya Pradesh, 16 houses and 29 shops of Muslim households were demolished in Khargone district³, including a house built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) Scheme.⁴ Statements from government officials and ministers indicated the intention of using demolitions as punishment against those who were viewed by the state as participating in the communal clashes.⁵ Similar demolitions also occurred in Khambat⁶ and Himmatnagar in Gujarat where Muslim families were affected.

Following the clashes during the Hanuman Jayanti procession, on 20 April 2022, officials from the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) arrived with 12 companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and demolished around 25 shops, vending carts, and houses primarily belonging to Muslims in Jahangirpuri, Delhi allegedly to remove “encroachments”.⁷ The demolition drive began early in the morning without adequate notice and continued⁸ despite an order from the Supreme Court later in the morning to maintain the status quo.⁹

In June 2022, municipal authorities in Uttar Pradesh’s Prayagraj¹⁰ and Saharanpur¹¹ districts demolished homes of Muslim families allegedly to remove ‘encroachments’ in the backdrop of protests by the Muslim community against controversial religious remarks. Notices of demolitions were served to those found accused in protests leading to communal tensions.

In Madhya Pradesh’s Jirapur Village, after an altercation occurred between the local Muslim and Dalit communities, state authorities demolished 18 homes of Muslim families who were deemed as accused in the incident. Around 30 houses in the predominantly Muslim neighbourhood were also partially demolished, allegedly to remove ‘encroachments’ from the area, but was seen as collective punishment against the community.¹²

All the evictions and demolitions have been carried out by government agencies professedly to “clear encroachments” and remove “illegal structures” from public land. However, the state authorities have used this reasoning to arbitrarily select and demolish settlements. In Mansarovar Park, Delhi, out of the three settlements, only the settlement with a mostly Muslim population was targeted during the demolition drive on 2 May 2022, just a day before *Eid-ul-fitr*. The authorities partially destroyed at least 25 houses as well as their water connections, despite the heat, resulting in grave distress, fear of demolition, and insecurity amongst the community members especially women.

Similar incidents of demolitions occurred across Delhi in settlements with predominantly Muslim populations, including in Madanpur Khadar, Y-Block Mangolpuri, Samaypur Badli, and Prem Nagar¹³ where various state authorities carried out or attempted demolition drives seemingly to remove “encroachments”.

In the past, state governments in India have been known to demolish homes of persons accused with rape and other crimes as a punitive measure.¹⁴ The recent incidents of demolition highlight forced evictions being used by government as a measure of punishment.

Taking cognizance of the alarming situation, in June 2022, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing along with the UN Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion and minority issues, sent a joint communication to the Government of India strongly condemning the destruction of Muslim homes and properties by state authorities to mete out “collective punishment” to the community.¹⁵

The arbitrary acts of demolition of homes and structures of minority communities have compounded the vulnerabilities of women¹⁶, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

MAJOR FINDINGS ON FORCED EVICTIONS IN INDIA IN 2021

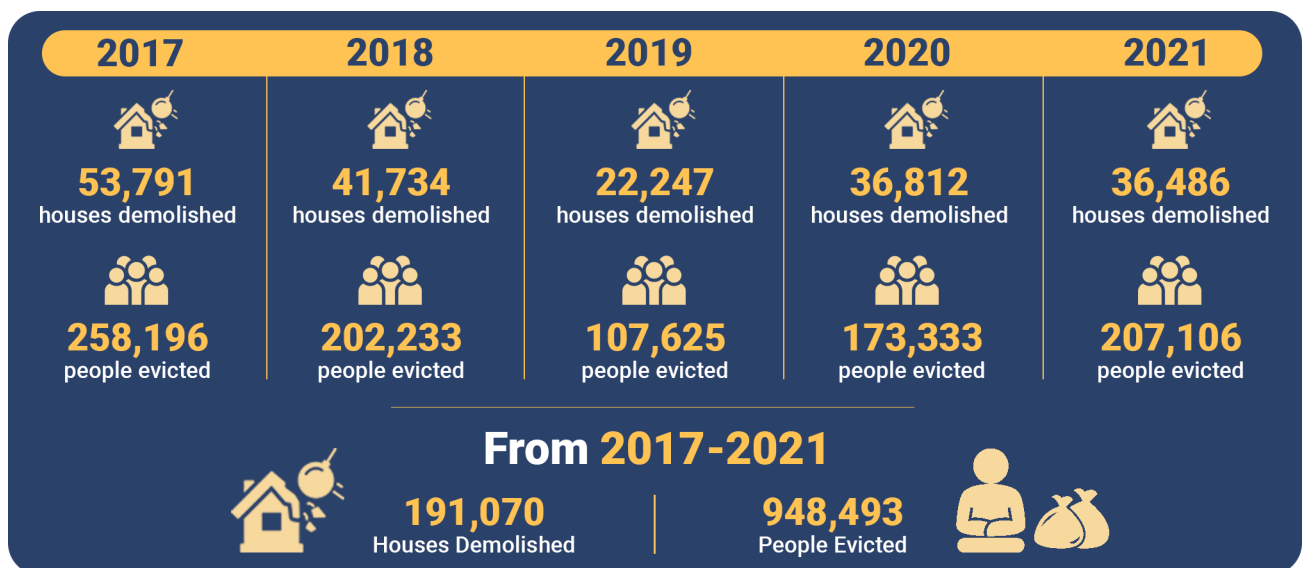


Families living in makeshift tents after the demolition of their homes, near Madipur Metro Station, Delhi

A total of 158 incidents of forced eviction/home demolition have been documented by HLRN in 2021. With the state demolishing 36,486 houses in the year, at least 100 homes were destroyed every day. This amounts to at least 567 people being evicted every day or 24 people losing their homes every hour in the year 2021.

Major findings from HLRN’s primary and secondary research on forced evictions in India in 2021 include the following:

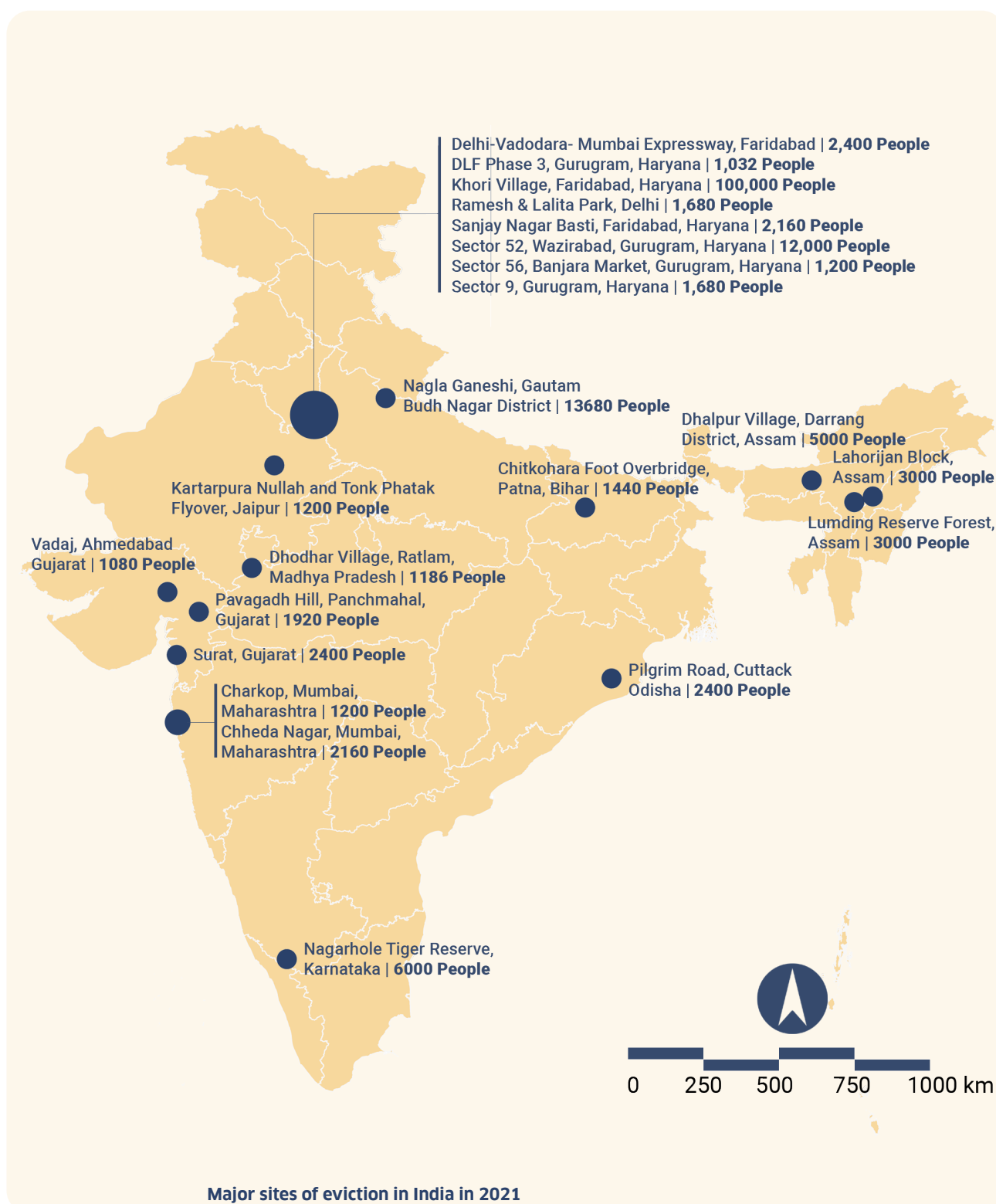
1. Evictions occurred across the country—in mega cities, urban agglomerations, Tier I and II cities, and in villages.
2. **Demolitions of homes continued unabated** even during second and third waves of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. During the peak of the severe second wave of the pandemic in April and May 2021, over 13,750 people were forcefully evicted from their homes.
3. In 2021, the **maximum percentage** of people (**57 per cent**) were evicted, purportedly, for **forest and wildlife protection**. This resulted in the forced eviction and displacement of at least **117,623** people across the country. Other reasons for eviction, include clearance of ‘encroachments’, city beautification, and conservation of water bodies.
4. In 2021, **court orders** and their implementation by state authorities resulted in the eviction of **over 106,014 people** in at least 11 incidents of demolitions.
5. At least **twenty-eight per cent** of people affected by forced evictions in 2021, for which information is available, belong to marginalized groups, including, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, nomadic communities, migrant workers, and Muslims.
6. All cases of eviction resulted in gross human rights violations, including lack of resettlement, and government authorities not following due process.
7. **Fifty-nine per cent** of those who were evicted in 2021, **did not receive any resettlement/partial resettlement/compensation** from the state.
8. About **15 million people** across rural and urban areas continue facing threat of eviction from their habitats.
9. Multiple cases of fire in low-income settlements affected over **16,430 people** in different parts of India.
10. The number of people displaced in India due to natural disasters and conflicts increased in 2021.

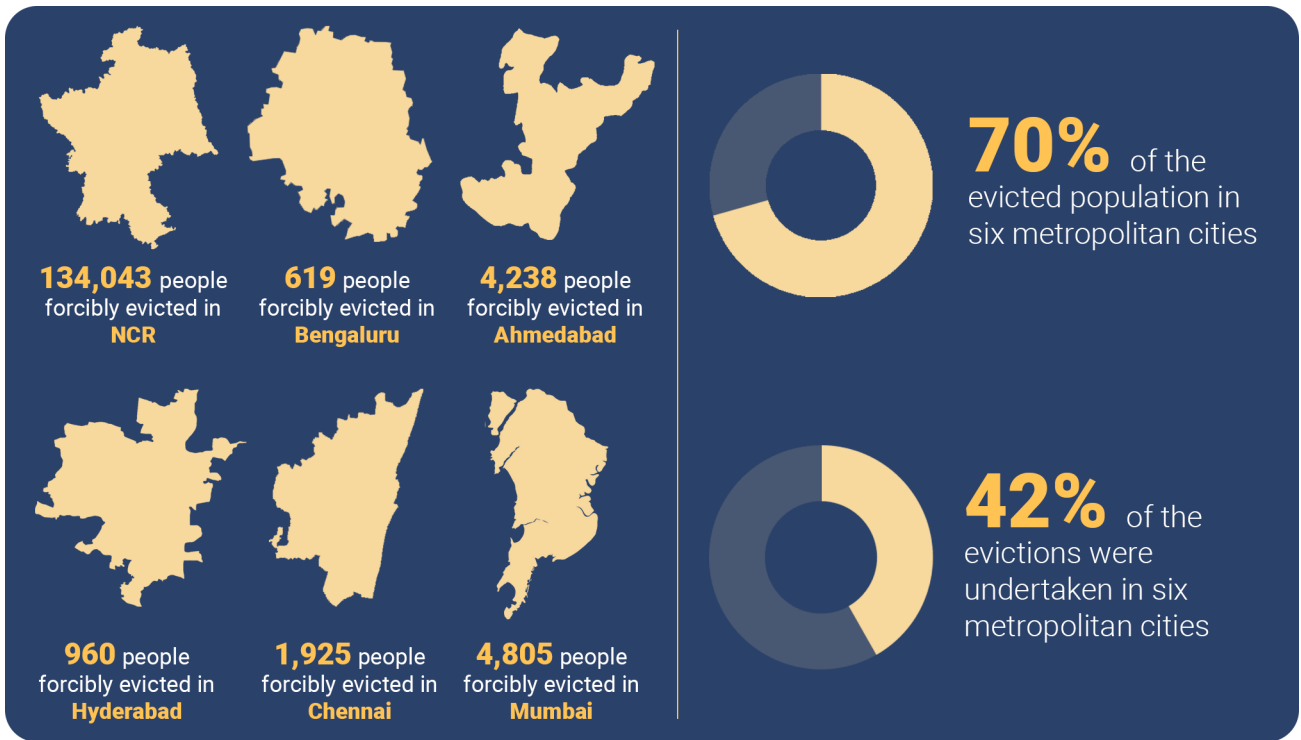


Overview of forced evictions in India: 2017–2021

1. Evictions occurred across geographical regions in rural and urban areas

In the year 2021, HLRN recorded incidents of forced eviction across urban and rural India, in **at least 17 states and 3 Union Territories** (Chandigarh, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir). It is, however, likely that evictions also took place in other states/Union Territories for which we do not have information. A large number of people lost their homes in ‘megacities’¹⁷ (Delhi and Mumbai) and in other ‘million –plus urban agglomerations’/ cities¹⁸ (for example, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Patna, Prayagraj, Pune, Ranchi, Surat, and Varanasi).





Forced evictions in metropolitan cities in 2021

Demolitions of homes were also reported in urban agglomerations or **Tier I⁹ cities** (for example, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Darrang, Gurugram, Jamshedpur, Karnal, Mysuru, Siddipet, Siliguri, and Ujjain); **Tier II cities** (for example, Puttur); and, also in many **villages** (including in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana).



Families rendered homeless after eviction near Madipur Metro Station, Delhi

2. Demolitions continued unabated even during the pandemic

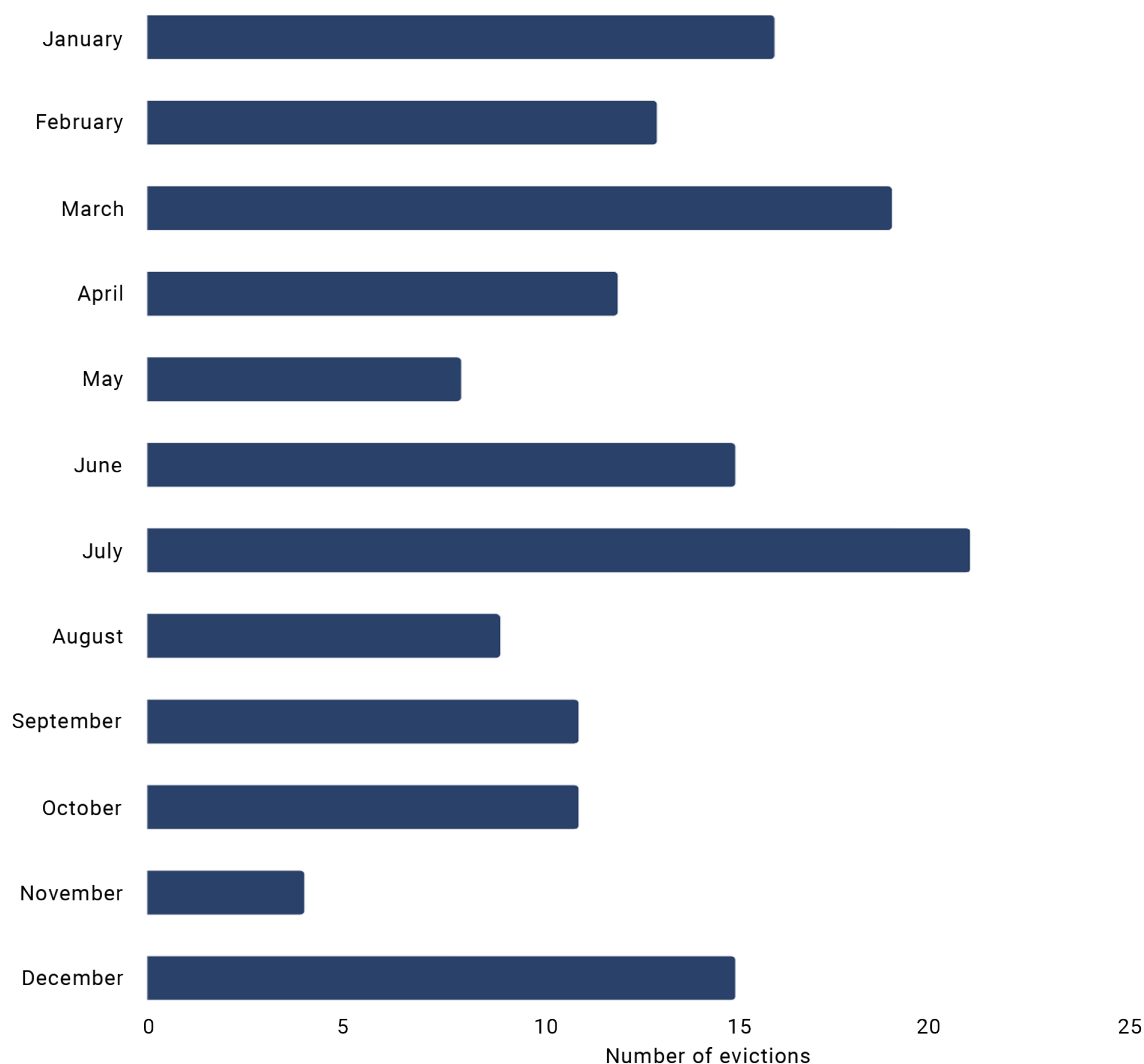
In the last two reports, HLRN had highlighted the unabated occurrence of evictions despite the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2021, state authorities continued to demolish homes even at a time when the raging virus wrecked people’s lives, livelihoods, and health. When people needed to stay at home to protect themselves from the even more contagious Delta variant, low-income families witnessed horrific demolitions of their homes, thereby losing their fundamental protection against the virus: housing. Already suffering from the pandemic-induced financial crisis, the loss of homes and personal belongings during demolition drives further exacerbated their harsh living conditions and their vulnerability to contracting the virus.

About **13,750 people** were evicted during the peak of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and resultant lockdowns in April and May 2021.

Demolition of homes continued throughout the year, including during the onset of the third wave of the pandemic in December 2021.

“Garmi ho ya baarish ho, hum to yahin rehte hain. Aur kahaan jaayein? Humaari to koi sunta hi nahi hai”
Be it extreme summer or rain, we have to live here. Where else could we go? No one listens to us.”

- A resident of Mansarovar Park, who was evicted in 2021

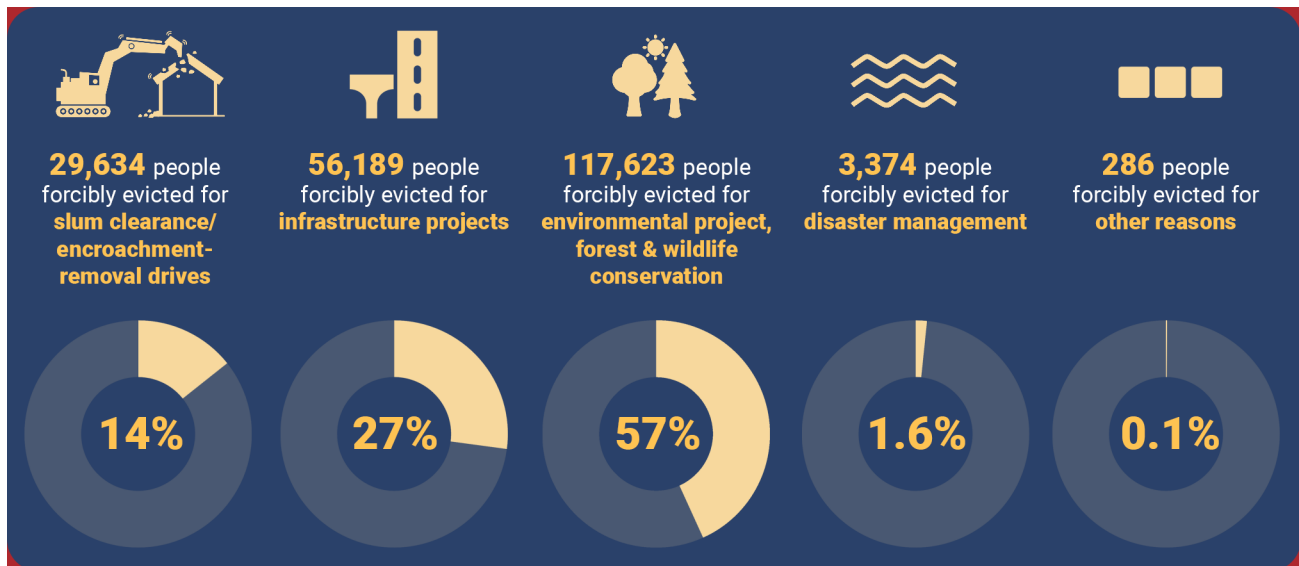


Month-wise evictions in India in 2021

3. Forced evictions were undertaken for a range of reasons

The National Eviction and Displacement Observatory at HLRN has analysed the available data on evictions, and has identified five broad categories for which individuals and communities were forcibly removed and displaced from their homes and habitats in the year 2021:

- 'Slum-clearance/anti-encroachment/city-beautification' drives [14.31 per cent of affected persons];
- Infrastructure and ostensible 'development' projects, including road widening, highway expansion, bridge construction, and 'smart city' projects [27.13 per cent of affected persons];
- Ostensible environmental projects, forest protection, and wildlife conservation [57 per cent of affected persons];
- 'Disaster management' actions [1.63 per cent of affected persons]; and,
- Other reasons, including military operations and conflict [0.14 per cent of affected persons].



Approximate number of people evicted for various reasons in 2021

a. 'Slum'/Land Clearance/ 'Beautification'/Removal of 'Encroachments'

Homes of the urban and rural poor across India continue to be considered as 'illegal' or 'encroachments' by all the branches of the government—the legislature, executive, and often the judiciary—and are demolished without due process, despite affected persons having documents to prove their residence in the area for decades.

In 2021, state authorities evicted at least **29,634** persons, accounting for about **14 per cent** of the total number of people evicted during the year, under the guise of 'slum'-clearance, 'encroachment'-removal, and 'city-beautification' drives.

Some major incidents of evictions in 2021 to clear 'encroachments':

- In Delhi, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) carried out several demolition drives, throughout the year, to remove 'encroachments' and vacate government land. In most of these incidents, due process was not followed and affected persons were not rehabilitated. In February 2021, DDA demolished 150 houses in Shastri Park to remove 'encroachments' on its land.²⁰ In Delhi's Dhobi Ghat area, DDA along with police

demolished 26 houses to remove ‘encroachments’ on its land.²¹ In December 2021, the DDA demolished over 140 houses in Kalkaji to remove ‘encroachments’ near the temple area, without any rehabilitation provided to the affected families.²²

- The Indian Railways continued to evict people residing on its land arbitrarily and without due process. In March 2021, the Indian Railways demolished 35 houses in Mansarovar Park, Delhi without providing any prior notice and rehabilitation to the families. The affected families have been living in the area for over four decades and have faced evictions multiple times. In the absence of any compensation or rehabilitation they have been living at the same site in temporary shelters without any basic facilities, facing further risk of eviction by the Railways.²³ In September 2021, 450 homes in Sanjay Nagar Basti in Faridabad, Haryana were demolished by the Indian Railways. The drive was conducted despite a stay order from the Supreme Court of India, in S.L.P. (C) 23559/2021. Families comprising daily wage earners, construction workers, factory workers, and domestic workers had been living in the area for the past 50 years.²⁴ Similarly, in Medhara Basti in Kothagudem, Telangana, the Railways along with police officials demolished 120 houses on its land in July 2021, following an order of the High Court for the State of Telangana. The affected people claimed that they had been living in the colony for many years.²⁵

*“15 din yehi chalta raha. Roz fauj ke saath aake bolte the ki kal tootegi, kal tootegi. Har samay yehi sochte rehte the”;
“Mahilaon ka shauchaalya tod rahe the, aur kehte hain sabki sarkaar hai”*

This went on for 15 days. They used to come to threaten to evict us every day accompanied by police. It used to be the only thing on our minds. They were destroying toilets made for women, but claim to be everybody’s government.

-A resident of Rajiv Gandhi Camp, New Delhi who was evicted in 2021

- Homeless families across the city continue to be evicted under the guise of city beautification. For instance, in June 2021, officials from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi evicted 13 homeless families living in Urdu Park, near Jama Masjid.²⁶ As per information received from the community, as of September 2022, they continue to live under the constant threat of being evicted and face continued harassment from officials, who also allegedly destroy their personal belongings frequently.
- In September 2021, 300 Dalit families, belonging to the Nat community, living under the Chitkohara foot overbridge in Bihar’s Patna were rendered homeless. The authorities in Patna bulldozed their homes to remove ‘encroachment’ despite a stay order on demolition by the High Court of Patna. Several residents, including women, reportedly suffered violence from the police during the process. Affected families alleged that they didn’t receive any prior notice resulting in the loss of their belongings during the demolition, including books and study materials of children.²⁷
- A team of Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran, in November 2021, removed over 200 houses of low-income people in DLF Phase 3 area in Gurugram to clear ‘encroachments’ on its land.²⁸
- In Jharkhand, the Jamshedpur district administration and police officials evicted 200 people in Khasmahal to vacate government land of ‘encroachments’ in March. Reportedly, the police detained a few people who were protesting against the demolition of their homes.²⁹
- In January 2021, the Bhubaneswar administration demolished homes in the guise of removing ‘encroachments’ in several parts of the city. For instance, 138 houses were demolished in Arabinda Nagar, and 207 houses in Maa Tarini Basti.³⁰

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement

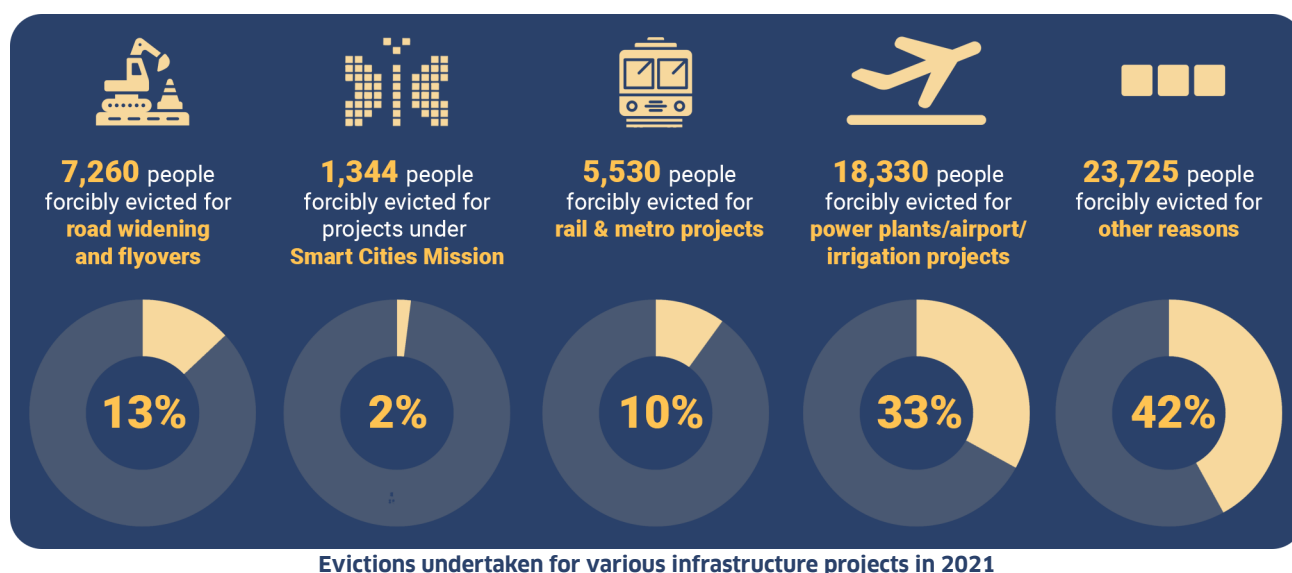
49. Evictions must not take place in inclement weather, at night, during festivals or religious holidays, prior to elections, or during or just prior to school examinations.

b. Infrastructure and ostensible 'development' projects

Infrastructure and ostensible 'development' projects continued to displace the urban and rural poor across the country often without adequate rehabilitation. An estimated over 70 million people in the country have been displaced for infrastructure development projects that include, inter alia, dams, mining, road construction, building of ports and industries, and urban renewal since Independence.³¹

Research by HLRN reveals that in 2021, at least **11,432** houses were demolished for ostensible 'development' projects resulting in the eviction of at least **56,190** people (27 per cent of the total number of people evicted in 2021).

Evictions were carried out in various states, including but not limited to, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha.



Evictions undertaken for various infrastructure projects in 2021

Some major incidents of evictions in 2021 for ostensible 'development' projects:

- For the construction of the proposed Jewar International Airport in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, state officials evicted over 2,850 families in five villages – Ranhera, Rohi, Parohi, Nagla Ganeshi, and Kishorpur located in Gautam Buddha Nagar. Most of the affected families have shifted to houses constructed at Jewar Bangar's rehabilitation and resettlement site. However, the families have alleged that there is a lack of water and sanitation facilities at the rehabilitation site and poor quality of construction of the houses. During the monsoon rains in July 2021, 40-50 houses developed cracks, reflecting the poor quality of the construction of houses.³²
- In 2021, state authorities continued to evict low-income residents in cities for the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission. In January 2021, the Varanasi district administration in Uttar Pradesh evicted over 100 low-income families, without any rehabilitation, in Teliana railway line area, for the supposed development of the area under a Smart Cities Mission project.³³ In Madhya Pradesh, as part of the Rs 500-crore expansion plan of the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain under the Smart Cities Mission, over 117 houses were demolished in July³⁴ and December 2021.³⁵ Similar demolitions for the implementation of projects under the Smart Cities Mission were carried out in Coimbatore.³⁶

- In March 2021, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, along with a heavy contingent of police officials, demolished 2,500 houses in Sector 52, Wazirabad, to vacate land for the construction of a sports stadium.³⁷
- In Surat, the Western Railways demolished 500 houses, in August 2021, along railway tracks for the expansion of the Jalgaon railway line. Many of the affected families, including pregnant women and children, had been the worst affected as they were rendered homeless without any alternative accommodation.³⁸
- In September 2021, the state administration in Dholpur Village in Darrang district of Assam, evicted over 800 families (5,000 people) to vacate its land for an agricultural project in Gorukhuti. The eviction began in the wee hours of the morning, at around 6.00 a.m. The notice of eviction was served to the people a day before, at midnight. Two persons, including a 12-year-old boy, lost their lives when a clash with the police personnel erupted during the removal exercise. The affected families, majority of them who were Muslims, had been living in the area for the past several years and did not receive any rehabilitation as they were labelled as 'encroachers'. These families have faced eviction multiple times in the past.³⁹

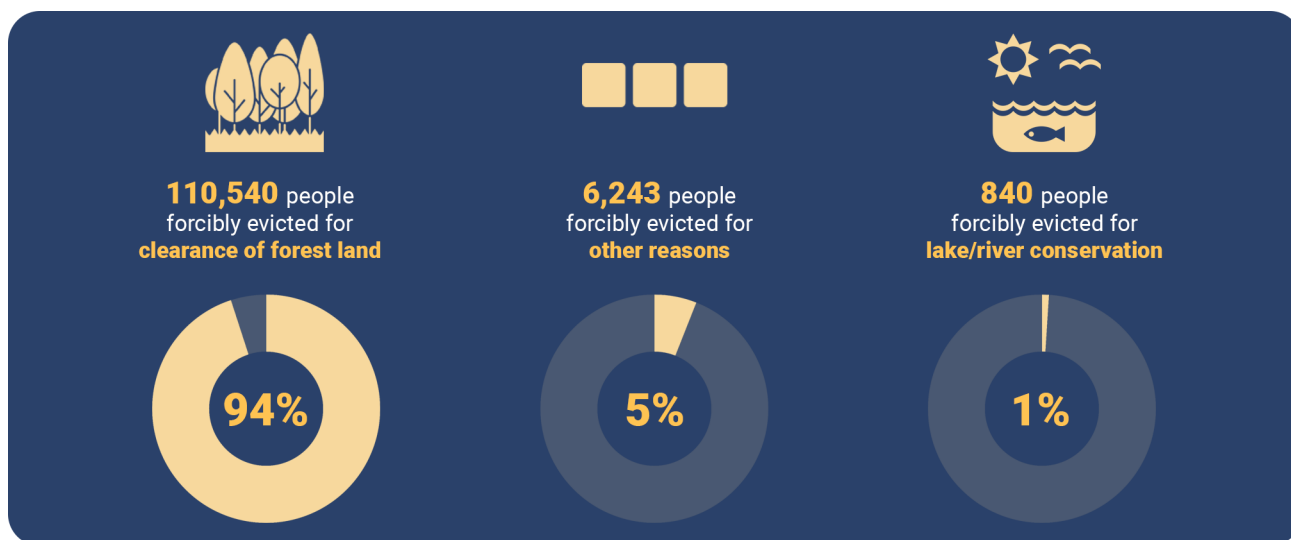
Adverse Impacts of Forced Evictions and Displacement on Women

Forced evictions, displacement, and inadequate resettlement disproportionately affect women. In the aftermath of an eviction, challenges faced by women are multi-fold. These include loss of livelihoods and access to food, breakdown of social structures and support systems, debilitating health impacts, and increased vulnerability to gender-based violence. Incidents of home demolition and eviction also adversely impact economic and social vulnerabilities of women and exacerbate pre-existing and intersectional challenges faced by women in accessing their rights to housing, land, health, work, water, sanitation, privacy, and security.

c. Environmental Projects, Forest Protection, and Wildlife Conservation

In 2021, the maximum percentage of people (**57 per cent**) had been evicted, purportedly, for the implementation of forest and wildlife protection. This resulted in the forced eviction and displacement of at least **117,623** people across the country.

In many of these instances, the evictions were carried out under the orders of the judiciary and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) deepening the artificial conflict between human rights and rights of the environment. While the demolitions were carried out purportedly for the conservation of environment and forests, it is unfortunate that they result in the eviction of local communities, who live harmoniously with nature and contribute to its conservation and sustainable development.



Evictions for ostensible environmental reasons in 2021

Some major incidents of evictions in 2021 for environmental projects, forest protection, and wildlife conservation:

- In one of the worst instances of evictions in 2021, around 10,000–15,000 families, accounting to over one lakh people, were forcefully removed from Khori Gaon, Haryana by the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad in July 2021. The eviction was carried out following directives from the Supreme Court of India [S.L.P. (C) 7220– 7221/2017] to remove ‘encroachments’ in the Aravalli Forest areas. During the eviction process, several affected persons and activists suffered injuries by the corporation officials and the police personnel. The incident occurred while the threat of the pandemic was still looming, and in gross neglect of international norms and human rights of affected persons. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing along with other UN experts issued a communication to the Government of India not to evict families in Khori Gaon during the pandemic. Most of the affected families have not been adequately rehabilitated by the government.

Mass Evictions in Khori Gaon

Khori Gaon is a large informal settlement located on the border of Delhi and Haryana. An erstwhile mining area, most of the early residents of the settlement migrated from Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal in search of livelihood opportunities.⁴¹ Over the years, families spent their entire life savings to build houses on government land, and get access to essential services such as water and electricity. In July 2021, based on an order from the Supreme Court of India [S.L.P. (C) 7220- 7221/2017] to remove ‘encroachments’ in the Aravalli forest areas, the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad demolished around 15,000 houses in Khori Gaon, thus, rendering around 1 lakh persons homeless.⁴² Community members, independent experts, and activists however, estimate that there were around 150,000 persons living in the settlement, including 20,000 children, over 5,000 pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, and older persons who were adversely impacted by the demolitions. The eviction drive was carried out over several days, prior to which electricity and water connections were disconnected. Several media reports have also documented that a curfew (Section 144)⁴³ was imposed in the area, and a large police force was also deployed, during which residents were allegedly manhandled and injured.⁴⁴ As no proactive action was taken by the state to rehabilitate the families even after a year, the Supreme Court of India directed the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad to pay a monthly solatium of Rs 2,000 to families found ‘eligible’ for resettlement.⁴⁵ As of September 2022, of the thousands of families displaced, only 550 of them had received alternative housing⁴⁶, even as affected persons and the media continue to highlight the dismal and highly inadequate living conditions of one of the resettlement sites – Dabua colony.⁴⁷

Communication by UN Human Rights Experts on the Khori Gaon eviction

“We appeal to the Indian government to respect its own laws and its own goal of eliminating homelessness by 2022 and to spare homes of 100,000 people who mostly come from minority and marginalised communities. It is particularly important that residents be kept safe during the pandemic. We find extremely worrying that India’s highest court, which has in the past led the protection of housing rights, is now leading evictions placing people at risk of internal displacement and even homelessness, as is the case in Khori Gaon. The role of the Supreme Court is to uphold the laws and to interpret them in light of internationally-recognized human rights standards, not to undermine them. In this case, the spirit and purpose of the Land Acquisition Act 2013, among other domestic legal requirements, have not been met. We call on India to urgently review its plans for razing Khori Gaon and to consider regularizing the settlement so as not to leave anyone homeless. No one should be forcibly evicted without adequate and timely compensation and redress. It is especially important that this act of mass displacement does not happen during the pandemic.”

- UN Human Rights Experts Press Release on the Khori Gaon eviction⁴⁸

- In September 2021, the Faridabad Municipal Corporation demolished over 200 homes in Jamai Colony, Haryana allegedly to clear ‘encroachments’ on forestland. The families had received a notice of eviction only ten days prior to the demolition. The eviction followed the same directive from the Supreme Court of India [S.L.P. (C) 7220– 7221/2017] to clear forestland in the Aravalli of ‘illegal encroachments’, which also saw massive eviction of families in Khori Gaon in July 2021. The evicted families were already struggling from the loss of employment due to the pandemic and escalating house rents which they could not afford.⁴⁹



Evictions in Khori Gaon, Haryana in 2021

"Sabse pehle hand pump toda, fir jhopdi. [...] Saare khet ujaad diye... rozgaar chheen liya aur ab isi jagah inke forest ke liye ped laga rahe hain. Pehle apni marzi se kheti karte the, ab bandhe hue hain"

They removed the hand pump first and then the hut. [...] They destroyed all our crops, took away our livelihoods and are now planting trees for their forests here. Earlier, we used to be able to farm as per our wishes, now we are bound by theirs.

- Resident of Shastri Park, New Delhi, whose house was demolished in 2021

- In July 2021, the DDA destroyed 15 houses in Rangpuri Pahadi, alleging they were built on forestland. Similar incidents of eviction were undertaken in the Yamuna floodplains in 2021.



Destroyed homes in Rangpuri Pahadi, Delhi

d. Disaster Management

In 2021, several evictions were carried for ‘disaster management’ that affected **1.63 per cent** of the total evicted population in the year.

Some major incidents of evictions in 2021 for disaster management:

- In Tamil Nadu, state authorities carried out evictions admittedly for disaster management in multiple districts and cities, including Chennai and Coimbatore⁵⁰. For instance, the Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation removed about 60 homeless families living near Egmore Railway Station in October 2021. According to the Corporation Commissioner, families were removed in view of the northeast monsoon and accommodated them in shelter homes. Affected families had been seeking rehabilitation near their previous location owing to their livelihood concerns. Due to the advocacy done by Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), the families were provided alternative accommodation at Kesava Pillai Park which is within the five-kilometre radius of their previous location.⁵¹



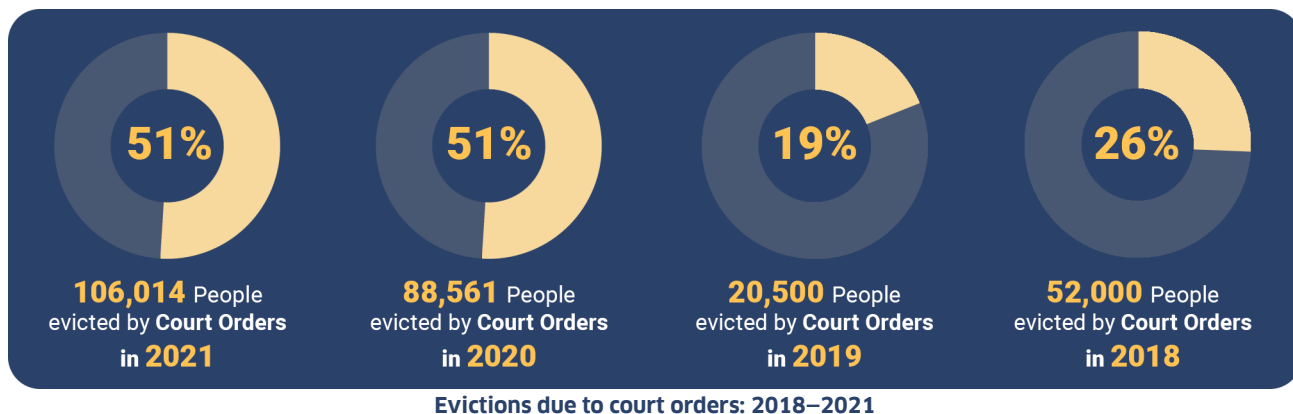
Eviction of homeless families in Egmore, Chennai

- In July 2021, 130 families were evicted from Arumbakkam in Chennai for the Cooum River Restoration Project. Of the total affected families, 94 families were rehabilitated in houses constructed by Tamil Nadu Urban Housing Development Board in Kesava Pillai Park. Many of the affected families who were living on rent in the settlement for over 20 years and who work as daily wage earners or domestic workers were left without any resettlement. In the same month, the then Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) now renamed as Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) demolished 130 houses in Radhakrishnan Nagar in Arumbakkam, Chennai, for the Integrated Cooum River Eco-Restoration Project. The affected families have received resettlement in houses built by the Board in Kesava Pillai Park.⁵²
- Following an order of the High Court of Jharkhand to remove ‘encroachments’ along water bodies, to mitigate flooding – the Ranchi Municipal Corporation demolished around 43 houses in several locations, including 15 houses along Kanke Dam, 18 houses near the Hinoo River, and 10 houses in Bandhu Nagar, in July 2021. The High Court had ordered the removal of all constructions within 15 metres of water bodies under the Jharkhand Public Land Encroachments Act, 2000. As per reports received by affected persons, the civic body carried out the drive by serving a prior notice of only two days. Affected families claimed that they hold valid documents and land ownership certificates.⁵³

e. Other Reasons for Forced Eviction in 2021

Apart from the aforementioned categories of eviction, HLRN recorded multiple instances of evictions that were undertaken in 2021 due to various other reasons, including but not limited to, military operations, village conflict, and forced relocations.

For example, in July 2021, forest officials and Gotamunda Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) members, forcefully evicted 35 tribal families (190 people) from two villages in Kalahandi, Odisha, allegedly to vacate forest land of 'illegal' occupation. During the removal, a violent clash erupted, which was allegedly, instigated by forest officials.⁵⁴



In 2021, court orders and their implementation by state authorities resulted in the eviction of over 106,014 people in at least 11 incidents of demolitions.

In several instances, the judiciary refused to provide relief to affected persons. For example, the Supreme Court of India, in [S.L.A. (C) 7220/2017] exhorted state authorities to demolish 'unauthorized' houses of migrant workers in Khori Gaon, Haryana despite the pandemic.



Affected persons collecting their belongings after the demolition of their homes in Rangpuri Pahadi, Delhi



Houses being demolished in Sanjay Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana

4. Impact on Dalits, Adivasis, and other historically marginalized communities

Primary research by HLRN reveals that of the total 158 cases of eviction documented in the year 2021, in 44 incidents (28 per cent) the people affected belong to marginalized groups, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, nomadic communities, migrant workers, and Muslims, including in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

The data on eviction of historically marginalized communities is a conservative estimate as these are based on cases known to HLRN. Of the total recorded cases, HLRN was able to obtain information from 44 sites regarding the caste, religion, and identities of the affected persons. The numbers could have been higher as many such cases go unreported and in most of the cases where media reports do cover the impacts of forced eviction and displacement on vulnerable groups due to various reasons, they lack adequate information and estimates on the number of people affected and their identities.

For example, the majority of those evicted from several locations in Assam in 2021 were Muslims; in Bihar, people evicted from under the Chitkohara bridge in Patna belong to the Scheduled Caste (Nat) community; in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh, persons comprising the Scheduled Tribe community were evicted in Negaon-Jamniya; in most of the cases of eviction recorded in Odisha in 2021, people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities were affected; in Rajasthan's Vidhyadhar Nagar in Jaipur, evicted families comprise members of the nomadic tribes, including the Banjaras and Sansis; in May 2021, forest officials in Shopian district evicted persons from the Gujjar community to remove 'encroachments'.⁵⁵

The Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran demolished 350 homes, mostly resided by nomadic families, in Sector 9, Gurugram, in March 2021, to vacate its land for the construction of a school.⁵⁶

The Revenue Department in Puttur, Karnataka, evicted a Dalit family living near Darbethadka school, in July 2021. The head of the family, who was away working when his house was razed, attempted suicide by consuming poison.⁵⁷

In different villages in Karnataka, affected families, mostly Dalits, pastoralists and farmers, resisted the move of the Bangalore Development Authority to evict them from their land and houses where they had been residing for over 100 years.⁵⁸

Independent experts estimate that since India's independence in 1947, ostensible 'development' projects have disproportionately affected communities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Of those displaced, 40 per cent are Adivasis/Indigenous Peoples/Tribals, while 20 per cent are Dalits/Scheduled Castes; with only one-third amongst them receiving resettlement.⁵⁹

The Forest Department in Anamalai Tiger Reserve, in December 2021, demolished 23 houses belonging to the Kadar tribal community. Officials alleged that families were erecting houses on land not earmarked for them in Theppakulmedu. However, families claimed that they were constructing houses on land for which the state government had allotted them *patta* (titles) after two years of struggle.⁶⁰

In Delhi's Wazirabad Colony, families belonging to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes have suffered multiple evictions, including in 2021. Families had been living in the area for over 50 years on the land they claim was allotted to them by the erstwhile Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi under the 20-point programme in 1975. During the eviction, the affected families alleged that the police misbehaved and manhandled people, including women.⁶¹

Members of the Gadia Lohar community in Delhi continue to live under the persistent threat of being evicted. For instance, in December 2021, despite the bitter cold and the threat of the Omicron variant, officials from the

Public Works Department threatened to evict 33 families of the Gadia Lohar community living in Azadpur.⁶² With the support of partners, HLRN was able to prevent the demolition of homes in the settlement by obtaining a stay order from the High Court of Delhi [(W.P. (C) 15001/2021) and CM APPL.47333/2021].

Forced eviction of historically marginalized communities in 2021 were carried out for various reasons, including for removal of 'encroachments', infrastructure development, and environment and wildlife conservation. The chart below shows instances, in per cent, of eviction of low-income and vulnerable communities (SCs/STs/OBCs, nomadic groups, and Muslims) under various guises by state authorities in India in 2021.

5. Inadequate and delayed resettlement

Research by HLRN indicates that the vast majority of those evicted in 2021 have not been resettled by the state. **Resettlement/partial resettlement/some compensation** was provided in only **41 per cent of the documented cases** of eviction in 2021 for which information is available.

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement

16. All persons, groups and communities have the right to resettlement, which includes the right to alternative land of better or equal quality and housing that must satisfy the following criteria for adequacy: accessibility, affordability, habitability, security of tenure, cultural adequacy, suitability of location, and access to essential services such as health and education.

52. The Government and any other parties responsible for providing just compensation and sufficient alternative accommodation, or restitution when feasible, must do so immediately upon the eviction... [emphasis added].

Of the 158 incidents of forced eviction recorded in 2021, information on resettlement is available for only 85 incidents. Of these, the state provided some form of resettlement/alternative housing in only 21 (or 24.70 per cent) of the affected sites; partial resettlement in seven (8.24 per cent) of the sites; and, some compensation in only seven (8.24 per cent) of the sites. **No resettlement was provided by the state to affected persons in 58.82 per cent of the cases of eviction in 2021 for which information is available.**

Delayed Rehabilitation of Evicted Families in Delhi

In several instances of demolitions in Delhi, evicted families have been waiting for rehabilitation for several years. In many of these cases, the rehabilitation has been ordered by the High Court of Delhi and the families have paid for alternative housing, often by taking personal loans at high interest rates. For example, in Kidwai Nagar, around 400 affected persons have been waiting for the allotment of alternative flats since 2017 despite the directions from the High Court of Delhi in *Mathura Prasad v. South Delhi Municipal Corporation* [W.P.(C) 3430/2017]. In the proceedings, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board averred that they were restrained from allotting houses, due to the implementation of the Central Government's Affordable Rental Housing Complex sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Similarly, in Gol Market, around 80 families who were evicted more than a decade ago in 2010 have been waiting for rehabilitation despite the High Court directing the same. With the continued lack of coordination between governments and overlapping implementation of schemes for the poor, the evicted families in Delhi are forced to languish in inadequate living conditions, waiting to be rehabilitated by the state.

6. Lack of due process and multiple human rights violations

In all reported incidents of eviction and demolition of homes in 2021, there has been no or minimal compliance with human rights safeguards and guidelines, including the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement⁶³ and the pandemic-related guidance notes of UN Special Rapporteurs.⁶⁴

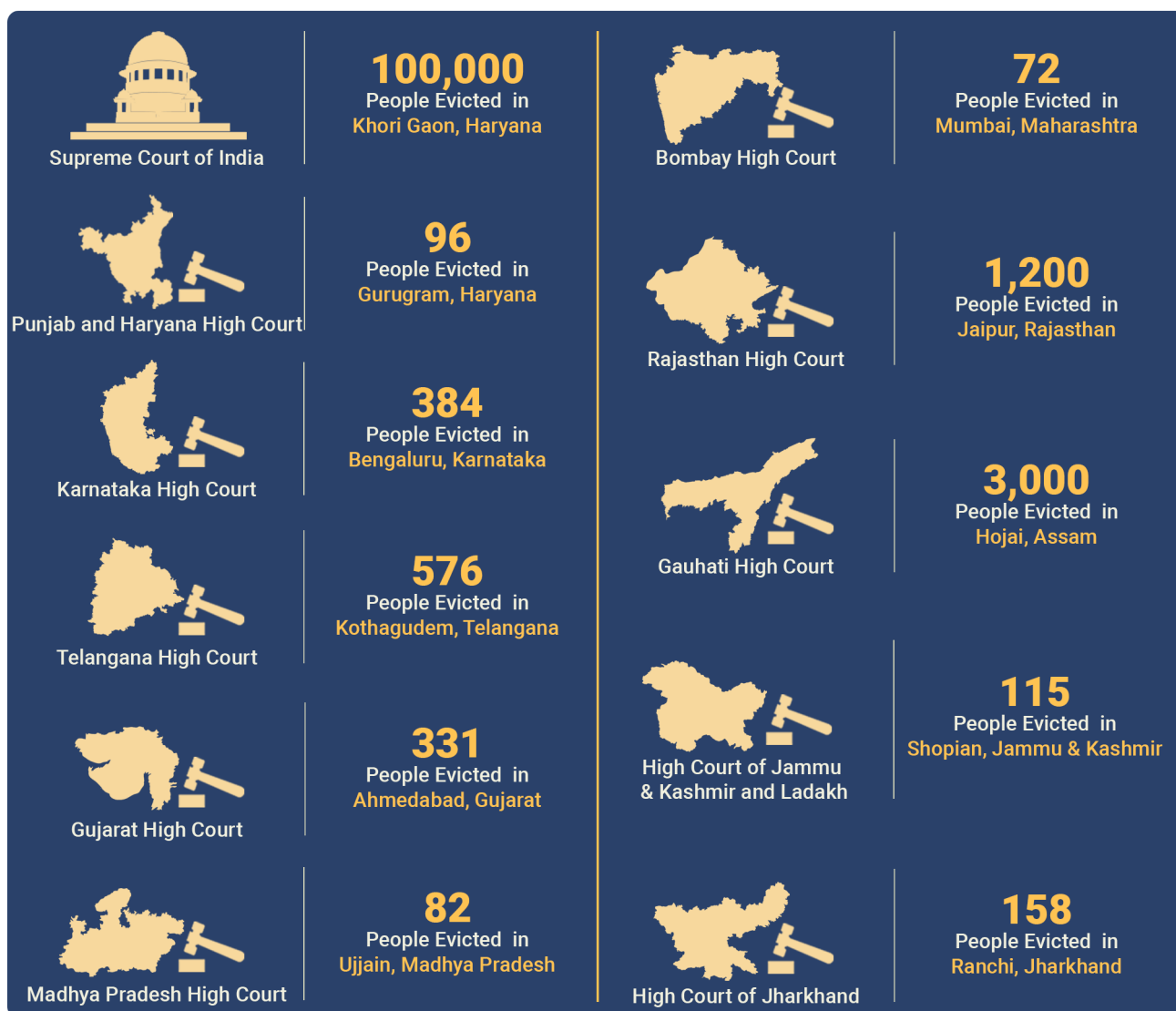
The non-adherence to due process norms, reportedly, resulted in the death of a person after suffering a fatal injury during a demolition drive in Nerul, Maharashtra in October 2021. The person was asleep in his house when the demolition was undertaken. The residents alleged that the civic body failed to ensure no was inside their houses during the removal process.⁶⁵

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement

58. Persons, groups or communities affected by an eviction should not suffer detriment to their human rights, including their right to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

The evictions have also violated multiple human rights, including, the human right to adequate housing, the right to legal remedy, the fundamental right to education of children, the right to safety and security, the right to health, and the right to life, among others.

State authorities have also disregarded key international human rights standards and guidelines related to the right to housing, and breached India's treaty obligations under, *inter alia*, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, by carrying out the evictions.



Evictions due to court orders in 2021

7. Loss of Housing from Fire and Arson in 2021

Multiple cases of fire in low-income ‘informal’ settlements were reported from different parts of India in 2021. These fires resulted in the widespread destruction of houses, gutting down some settlements, as well as deaths. As in the preceding years, in most of the cases in 2021, the reasons attributed to fire and resulting housing loss include short-circuiting of wiring and gas cylinder blasts. Climate change and the consequent rise in temperature have also been cited as a reason for fire in low-income settlements. In majority of reported incidents, however, the exact cause of fire could not be ascertained.

In the year 2021, HLRN recorded the loss of **over 3,900 houses of low-income families to fire, which affected at least 16,430 people** in settlements across the country. This data only reflects incidents known to HLRN. The actual number could be much higher as many incidents of fire are not reported.

In Delhi, between January and November 2021, HLRN recorded several cases of fire in informal settlements, resulting in the destruction of homes and loss of belongings of the families. For example, fire destroyed 45 houses, mostly of rag pickers, in Neb Sarai’s Kumhar basti in November. Families reconstructed their houses with help received from civil society.⁶⁶ In June, over 50 houses of Rohingyas living in a refugee camp in Kalindi Kunj were reduced to rubble due to fire.⁶⁷ Six members of a family, including a three-month-old child, died in a fire incident in Valmiki Colony in Bijwasan, which destroyed three houses in April. In the same month, 50 families lost their homes to a fire in Jamia Nagar,⁶⁸ and 30 houses were destroyed in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Camp.⁶⁹ In April, a five-year-old child lost his life when fire engulfed 24 houses in Bengali Basti in Rohini.⁷⁰ A fire broke out in Bawana JJ Colony razing 60 houses in March.⁷¹ In the Rangpuri area in Vasant Kunj, 14 houses were gutted in March.⁷² About 22 houses in Sanjay Colony in Okhla Phase II were burnt to ashes in February 2021.⁷³

Haryana witnessed several cases of fire incident in informal settlements between April and December 2021. For example, 700 houses of daily-wage labourers were reduced to ashes when a fire broke out in Nathupur Village in Gurugram in April 2021, rendering about 1,000 people homeless.⁷⁴ In the same month, 100 houses were razed down in Naharpur Kasan in Manesar. The affected families are mostly scrap dealers and waste collectors.⁷⁵ Also in April 2021, in Wazirabad Village in Sector 52, a massive fire resulted in the destruction of about 50 houses and shops.⁷⁶ In December, a fire broke out in Ferozepur Namak Village in Nuh district, gutting 32 houses of Rohingyas.⁷⁷

During the course of the year, HLRN also documented fire incidents in informal settlements in multiple states across the country, including in Andhra Pradesh⁷⁸, Assam⁷⁹, Bihar⁸⁰, Gujarat⁸¹, Jammu and Kashmir^{82,83}, Punjab⁸⁴, Odisha⁸⁵, Uttar Pradesh⁸⁶, and Uttarakhand⁸⁷.



Gutted homes, Bawana, Delhi

8. Threat of eviction and displacement

Housing and Land Rights Network has estimated that about 15 million (1.50 crore) people continue to live under the impending threats of eviction and displacement in the country. This is a conservative estimate based on the available data we have collected till April 2022.

In 2021, HLRN has documented at least 220 cases of imminent threats of eviction. Across the country, several families are living under the fear and uncertainty of being evicted and losing their homes for various reasons, including environmental and wildlife protection, removal of ‘encroachments’ from railways land, and infrastructure development.

Of the documented instances of imminent threat of evictions, the highest number of instances – 44 per cent are for infrastructure-related projects, 34 per cent for “slum clearance” and removal of “encroachments”, 13 per cent for environment, forest, and wildlife conservation, and 5 per cent for disaster management, among other reasons.

Post-Covid economic recovery plans of the Indian government have already resulted in the creation of ‘land banks’ for industries,⁸⁸ easing of land acquisition procedures in several states⁸⁹, and dilution of environmental laws.⁹⁰ The push for infrastructure projects could lead to a greater rise in the number of evictions in the coming years.

Some of the prominent threats of eviction include *inter alia* the following:

- About 110,000 people in 273 villages falling in ‘core’ areas inside 28 tiger reserves in the country face eviction threats for tiger conservation;
- An estimated 40,000 houses will be removed in several villages in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh for the protection of forestland;
- Around 4,500 houses (16,000 people) in Gafur Colony in Uttarakhand’s Haldwani may be demolished by the Indian Railways for clearance of its land;
- Construction of the Rishikesh–Karnaprayag Railway line will result in the displacement of at least 1,100 families in Pauri Garhwal in Uttarakhand;
- In Dinkia Village of Odisha’s Jagatsinghpur, 25,000 people face the threat of eviction due to the construction of 13.2 MTPA JSW Utkal Steel Plant;
- Asian Development Bank sponsored Asian Highway construction in Manipur will result in the displacement of 2,080 families (8,320 people);
- At least 284 families (1,363 people) could be evicted in Odisha’s Patrapalli due to coal mining;
- Over 13,000 houses along railway tracks in Mumbai will be removed to follow the direction of the Supreme Court of India to remove ‘encroachments’;
- At least 900 people face the prospect of eviction due to the widening of National Highways 66 in Kerala;
- The Suru Irrigation Project in Jharkhand’s Seraikela Kharsawan would displace 7,000 people; and,
- Around 10,000 people are likely to be displaced due to gold mining in Sonakhan village in Chhattisgarh

"Yeh banana chaahate hain park, taaki inke 10-10 lakh rupay ke kutte yaha ghum sake"
They want to construct a recreational park here for their expensive dogs to walk around.

- **Resident of Nala Camp, Rangpuri Pahadi, Delhi** (the settlement is under the threat of being evicted to implement the order of the National Green Tribunal [O.A. 58/2013] to remove 'encroachments from forest area)

These are just a few cases of eviction threats that HLRN has recorded till April 2022. The aforementioned cases reflect the continuing and persistent fear of thousands of persons across the country. In addition to the fear of losing their homes, living under the threat of being evicted adversely affects their livelihoods, security, and severely impacts their mental and physical well-being.



9. Displacement from disasters and conflict in 2021

In the face of climate change and its impacts, people continue to be displaced by natural disasters. Internal conflicts and civil strife remain yet another cause for communities being displaced.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), about 60 million people, including 25.2 million children under the age of 18, were internally displaced worldwide as a result of natural disasters and conflicts in 2021. The economic cost of internal displacement in 2021 has been estimated at around USD 21 billion.⁹¹

It is estimated that 4.9 million people (4,903,000) were displaced on account of natural disasters, including cyclones, floods, and monsoon rains in India in 2021. Heavy rains in Kerala, in October 2021, led to the evacuation of 14,000 people. In November 2021, heavy rains and floods caused the displacement of 411,000 people in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. In 2021, nearly 2.5 million people in three states – Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Odisha were displaced due to cyclones—Tauktae, Yaas, and Gulab.⁹²

Many of the displacements were pre-emptive evacuations. As also documented by IDMC in its previous report, the extent of housing damage from disasters suggests that affected people could face the prospect of protracted displacement.⁹³

Incidents of conflict and violence led to the displacement of 13,000 people in India in 2021. Post-poll violence in West Bengal resulted in the displacement of over 11,000 people in May 2021.

As of December 2021, India was estimated to have 22,000 people internally displaced due to natural disasters, and 506,000 internally displaced persons as a result of conflict and violence.⁹⁴



Residents protesting against forced eviction, Maa Tarini settlement, Bhubaneswar

Housing and Land Rights Network has consistently stood against the practice of forced evictions. Given the persistent occurrence of forced evictions across India without any accountability, **Housing and Land Rights Network would like to propose the following recommendations** —which are based on and in compliance with international human rights standards and norms—for immediate implementation, **to the Indian government – at the central, state, and local levels.**

- **Impose an immediate national moratorium on forced evictions and home demolitions.** Housing and Land Rights Network has been calling for a moratorium on evictions in India for several years. This was also a recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, in her 2017 report on her mission to India.⁹⁵
- **Strictly ensure that demolitions are not used by state authorities against communities as a means of meting out summary justice or punishment.** The practice of ‘punitive demolition’ disproportionately targets low-income communities who are already marginalized and violates all due process norms and established national and international human rights laws and standards. The state must strongly condemn any evictions which are carried out to instil fear and insecurity among specific communities and individuals.
- Follow due process and ensure that **the free, prior, and informed consent** of all affected persons is taken before any eviction/ relocation/redevelopment/in situ upgrading project is finalized.
- **Urgently provide alternative accommodation** to all evicted families who have been waiting for rehabilitation for several years. Ensure that the implementation of government schemes, including the Affordable Rental Housing Complex (AHRC), does not disrupt existing plans to rehabilitate those affected by forced evictions in Delhi.
- **Implement progressive court judgments** upholding the human right to adequate housing. It is important to note that all state governments immediately implement court orders calling for evictions but do not implement orders aimed at providing relief and rehabilitation. This has been a consistent finding in HLRN’s research on forced evictions since 2015.
- Adopt a protocol based on the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement,⁹⁶ to ensure that relocation/eviction only takes place for ‘**exceptional circumstances**’ and complies with due process requirements and protects human rights of affected persons.

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement

21. States shall ensure that evictions only occur in exceptional circumstances. Evictions require full justification given their adverse impact on a wide range of internationally recognized human rights. Any eviction must be: (a) authorized by law; (b) carried out in accordance with international human rights law; (c) undertaken solely for the purpose of promoting the general welfare;* (d) reasonable and proportional; (e) regulated so as to ensure full and fair compensation and rehabilitation; and (f) carried out in accordance with the present guidelines. The protection provided by these procedural requirements applies to all vulnerable persons and affected groups, irrespective of whether they hold title to home and property under domestic law [emphasis Compile **disaggregated data on evictions**, home demolitions, displacement and resettlement across India. This information should be published and regularly made available to the public.

- Carry out human rights-based ‘**eviction impact assessments**,’⁹⁷ consistent with national and international guidelines, prior to the implementation of any project. Ensure that the differential impacts of evictions and displacement on women, children, and marginalized groups are taken into account, including through the collection of disaggregated data. All social, eviction, and environmental impact assessment documents should be made public, and must be shared with the affected persons.
- Recognize and **uphold the human right to adequate housing**,⁹⁸ as guaranteed in international law⁹⁹ and affirmed by orders of the Supreme Court of India and state High Courts. **Develop a comprehensive housing policy aimed at providing durable solutions for adequate housing for all.** This should include the adoption of a ‘Housing First’ approach to prioritize adequate housing for homeless persons and the provision of low-cost housing options along a ‘housing continuum,’ including hostels for migrant workers and single homeless persons, collective housing arrangements, and social rental housing. In order to develop adequate policy response, states must conduct accurate surveys and collect disaggregated data on the number of migrant workers, homeless people, and others living without adequate housing. The ‘Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing’¹⁰⁰ developed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing should be incorporated into state housing policies and implemented.
- **Invest adequately in low-cost housing** for low-income groups, with a focus on social housing. Define ‘affordable housing’ on the basis of income to prevent its misuse. Prioritize participatory and human rights-based *in situ* (on site) upgrading of housing that respects peoples’ livelihoods and cultural needs. In areas where *in situ* upgrading is not possible, ensure that alternative housing/land is provided within three kilometres of people’s original places of habitation, after consultation with, and the consent of, affected communities.
- Define ‘**public purpose**’ adequately, consistent with human rights standards, to ensure that marginalized individuals, groups, and communities are not routinely displaced for projects that do not benefit them but instead result in their chronic impoverishment and increased marginalization.
- Recognize and uphold the **right to land of urban and rural communities**. Take immediate measures to provide security of tenure to all those living in conditions of insecurity in urban and rural areas, consistent with the requirement of international human rights instruments, including General Comment 4 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹⁰¹, the UN Guiding Principles on Security of Tenure for the Urban Poor,¹⁰² and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.¹⁰³
- Incorporate a human rights and climate justice approach to implementing the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, several of which relate to the need to improve housing and living conditions of the urban and rural poor. The indicators to monitor the Goals should be human rights-based and developed in consultation with independent experts and local communities.



Demolition in Charkop, Mumbai

This report highlights the persistent crisis of forced evictions across rural and urban India, which is perpetuated – year after year, without due process and consideration for the affected populations. This has continued despite the additional crises caused by the Covid-19 pandemic since 2020, thus compounding the difficulties of people’s lives. Of greater concern is the use of demolitions across many states to punish people and further dispossess and disenfranchise certain communities.

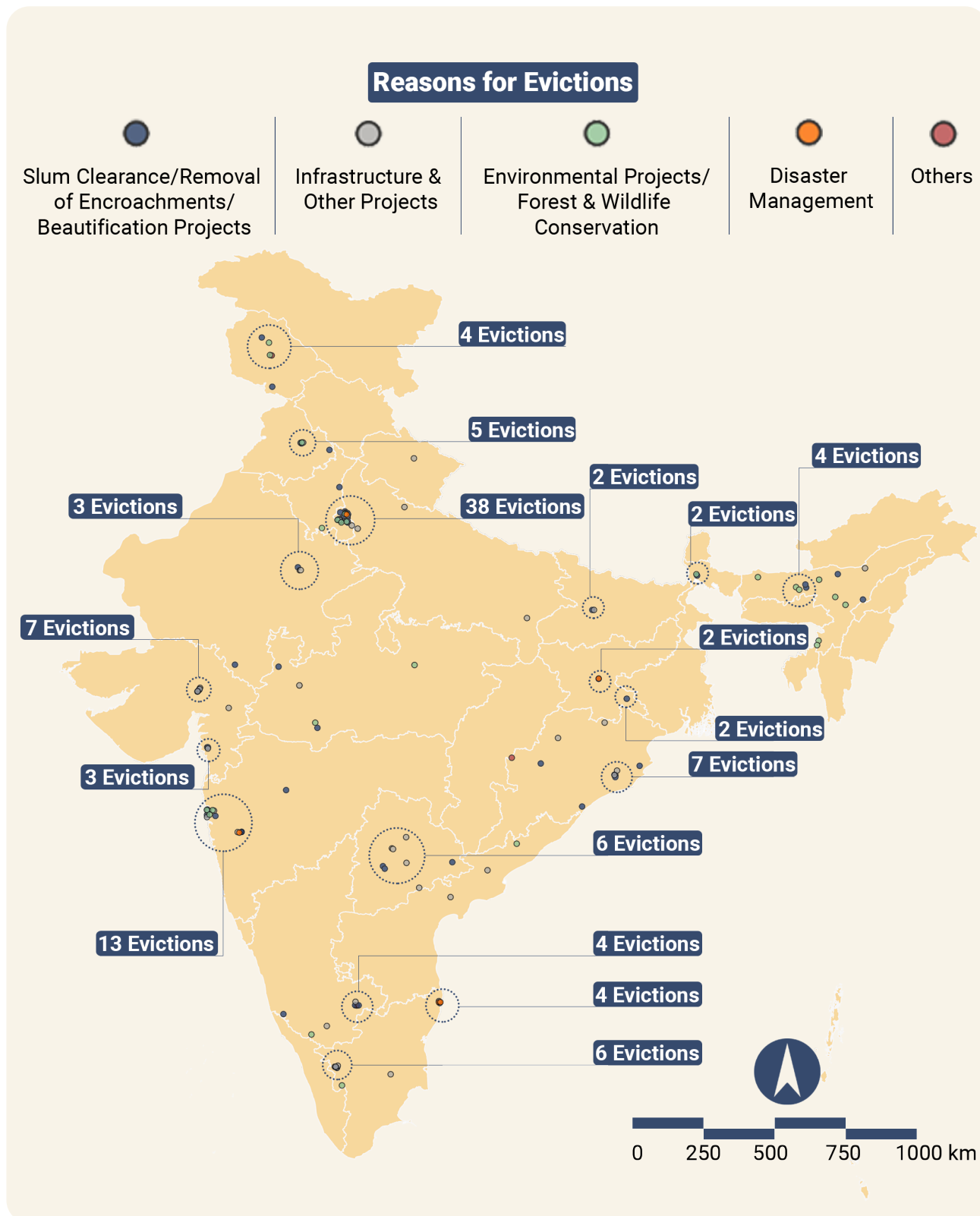
The practice of forced evictions not only constitutes a gross and severe violation of human rights, but also leads to the systemic destruction of homes, lives, and dreams of thousands of marginalized individuals, groups, and communities. Over the years, HLRN has also documented how forced evictions lead to an increase in homelessness and contravenes government policies and schemes intended to provide housing for all.

Housing and Land Rights Network hopes that this report will help draw attention to the unending crisis of forced evictions and displacement, and that the recommendations presented above will be implemented immediately, in order to address this emergency situation and bring about justice and restoration of the human rights of millions of affected persons.

ANNEXURES

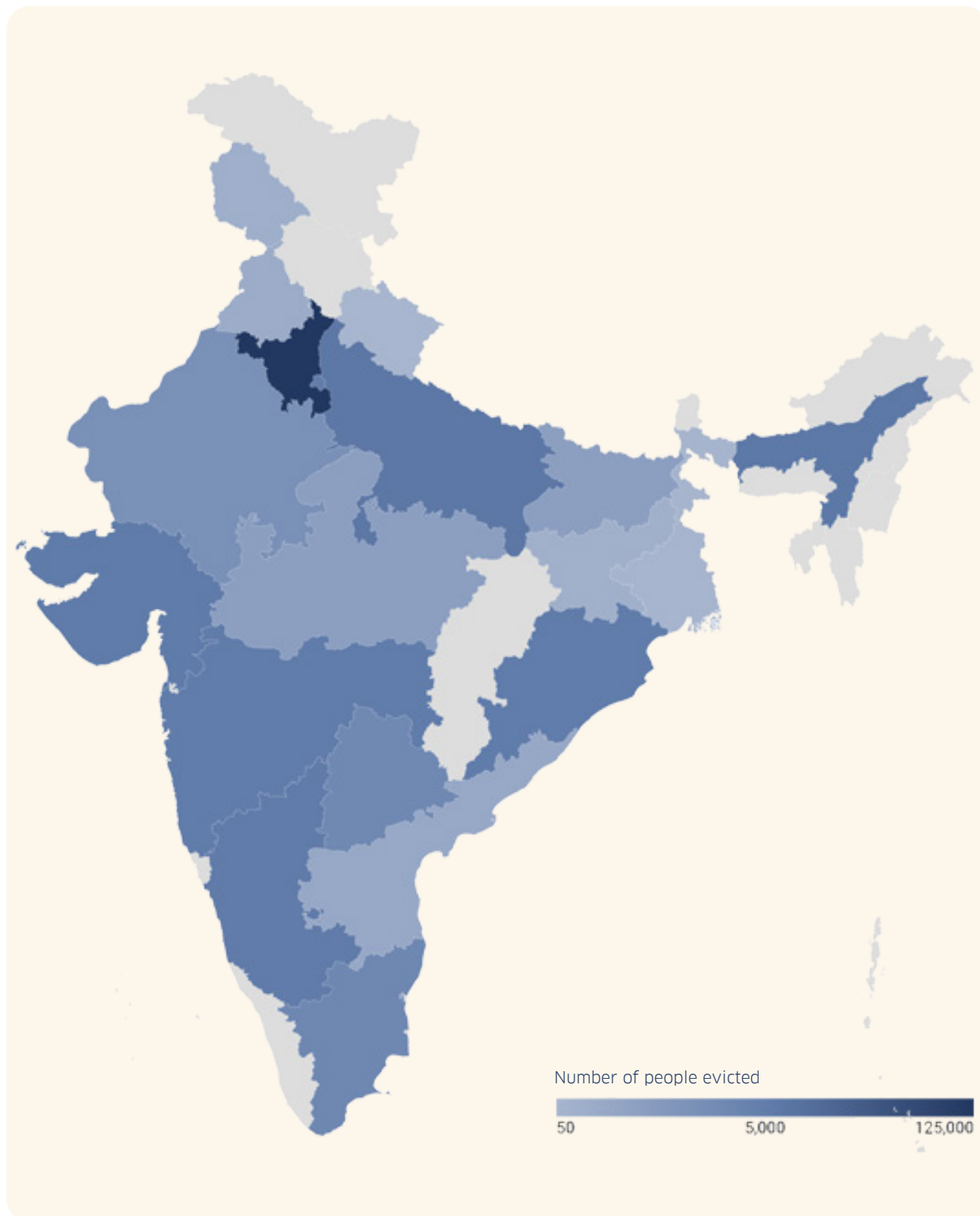
ANNEXURE I

MAP ONE: FORCED EVICTIONS IN INDIA IN 2021



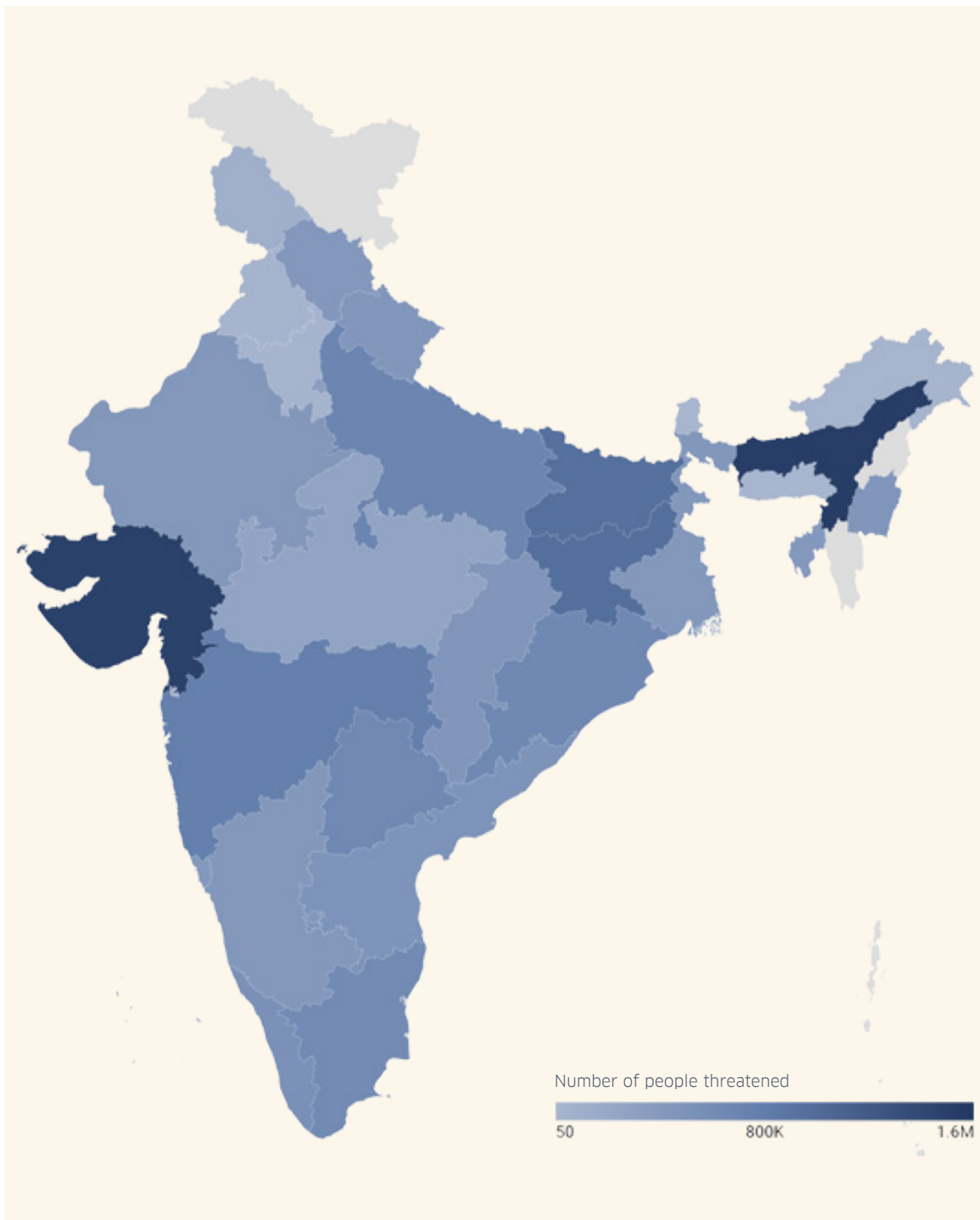
ANNEXURE II

MAP TWO: STATE-WISE OCCURRENCE OF EVICTIONS IN INDIA IN 2021



ANNEXURE III

MAP THREE: STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF EVICTION THREATS IN INDIA



ANNEXURE IV

TABLE ONE: INCIDENTS OF FORCED EVICTIONS IN INDIA IN 2021

I. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR 'SLUM' CLEARANCE/ REMOVAL OF 'ENCROACHMENTS'/ 'BEAUTIFICATION'

S No.	STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	DISTRICT/CITY	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED (FAMILIES AFFECTED)	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE	RESETTLEMENT PROVIDED
1	Assam	Assam-Nagaland border	Lahorijan block in Bokajan sub-division	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	107	3000	Not known
2	Assam	Darrang	Dholpur No. 1 Village	June	Removal of 'encroachments'	49	235	Not known
3	Assam	Sonitpur	Jamugurihat	May	Removal of 'encroachments'	25	120	Not known
4	Assam	Darrang	Sipajhar	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	45	216	Not known
5	Bihar	Patna	Living under the Chitkohara foot overbridge	September	Removal of 'encroachments'	300	1440	Not known
6	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	Lambian Village, Sector 69	February	Removal of 'illegal' structures	60	288	Not known
7	Delhi	Delhi	Lotus Temple Road, Kalkaji	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	140	672	No
8	Delhi	Delhi	Rajiv Gandhi Camp, Chanakyapuri	2021	Removal of 'encroachments'	15	72	No. Families received just a verbal assurance of resettlement
9	Delhi	Delhi	Wazirabad Colony	October	Removal of people living 'illegally'	-	-	Not known
10	Delhi	Delhi	Chilla Khadar	September	Removal of 'encroachments'	60	288	No
11	Delhi	Delhi	Dhobi Ghat near Batla House	August	Removal of 'encroachments'	26	125	No
12	Delhi	Delhi	Madanpur Khadar	July	Removal of 'illegal' settlements	56	269	No. Families have been living in temporary shelters near the previous site.
13	Delhi	Delhi	Sultanpuri	July	Removal of 'encroachments'	100	450	No. Three families are living at the same site, while others are living on rent.
14	Delhi	Delhi	Usmanpur	June	Removal of 'encroachments'	20	96	No
15	Delhi	Delhi	Urdu Park	June	City beautification	13	62	No
16	Delhi	Delhi	Madanpur Khadar	March	Removal of 'illegal' settlements	63	300	No. Families have been living in temporary shelters near the previous site.
17	Delhi	Delhi	Mansarovar Park, near the Shri Nanak Niwas Gurudwara	March	Removal of 'encroachments'	35	168	No

18	Delhi	Delhi	Usmanpur	March	Removal of 'encroachments'	70	336	No
19	Delhi	Delhi	Yamuna Khadar	February	Removal of 'encroachments'	20	96	Not known
20	Delhi	Delhi	Near Shastri Park	February	Removal of 'encroachments'	150	720	A few of the affected families received compensation, while others gone back to their native villages
21	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Vadaj	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	225	1080	Only 87 families allotted alternative accommodations in Chandkheda
22	Gujarat	Surat	Mochi Ni Chali	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	No
23	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Juhapura	June	Removal of 'illegal' constructions	130	624	Not known
24	Gujarat	Surat	Valmiki chawl, Rampura	January	To remove dilapidated houses	90	432	Yes. Affected families relocated in different parts of the city
25	Haryana	Karnal	Barsat Road in Gharaunda	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
26	Haryana	Gurugram	Sohna Chowk	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	100	480	Not known
27	Haryana	Gurugram	DLF Phase 3	November	Removal of 'illegal' structures	215	1032	Not known
28	Haryana	Gurugram	Sector 56, Banjara market	October	Clearance of land of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran	250	1200	No
29	Haryana	Gurugram	Nathupur Village	October	Removal of 'encroachments'	50	240	Not known
30	Haryana	Faridabad	Sanjay Nagar Basti	September	Removal of 'encroachments'	450	2160	Not known
31	Haryana	Gurugram	Sector 5	September	Removal of 'encroachments'	55	264	Not known
32	Haryana	Gurugram	Nathupur Village near DLF Phase-3	September	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
33	Haryana	Gurugram	Chakkarpur and Sikanderpur area, behind the marble market, MG Road	June	Land clearance for the development of an urban forest	60	288	Not known
34	Haryana	Gurugram	Sector 52	March	Clearance of land of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran following a ruling of the Punjab and Haryana High court in a dispute pertaining to land ownership	20	96	Not known
35	Haryana	Gurugram	Saraswati Kunj colony located along the Golf Course Road	February	Removal of 'illegal' colonies	200	960	Not known
36	Haryana	Faridabad	Sector 20-A	January	Clearance of land of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran	100	480	Not known
37	Jammu and Kashmir	Bandipora	Shahgund Village, Hajin area	February	Land clearance	7	34	No
38	Jammu and Kashmir	Bathindi	Sunjwan village	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	3	14	No
39	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	Khasmahal, Parsudih	March	Removal of 'encroachments'	42	200	Not known

40	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	Golpahadi in Parsudih and Sundernagar area	March	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
41	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Kathar Gonda and Sarvar Nagar, near Kamke Dam	February	Removal of 'encroachments' along the catchment areas of the dam	40	192	No
42	Karnataka	Puttur	Near Darbethadka school	July	Land clearance	1	5	Not known
43	Karnataka	Bengaluru	Agrahara Dasarahalli	February	Removal of 'unauthorised' people living illegally	17	82	No
44	Karnataka	Bengaluru	Krishnappa Garden, New Thippasandra ward	January	Clearance of land following an order of the Karnataka High Court	80	384	No.
45	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Along the banks of Doodh Talai lake	July	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
46	Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	Dhodhar Village	Since September	Land clearance	247	1186	Not known
47	Maharashtra	Pune	Hadapsar	October	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
48	Maharashtra	Navi Mumbai	Near Gavdevi Temple in Sector 10, Nerul	October	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
49	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Bandra Bandstand	October	Removal of 'illegal' structures	100	480	Not known
50	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	Hut No. 216, Near Harsul	August	Removal of 'encroachments'	7	34	Not known
51	Maharashtra	Borivali	Chikuwadi	July	Removal of 'encroachments'	45	216	No
52	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Siddharth basti, Andheri	February	Removal of 'encroachments'	50	100	No
53	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	VSS Nagar	August	Land clearance	4	19	No
54	Odisha	Berhampur	Areas under Ward No. 18, including, Phulasundari and Kapileshwar Road	July	Removal of 'encroachments'	46	180	Only a few affected families received alternative housing.
55	Odisha	Kendrapada	Raisarapur	April	Removal of 'encroachments'	1	5	No
56	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Sainath Basti	March	Removal of 'encroachments'	24	115	No
57	Odisha	Bolangir	Along Karngakata pond	February	Removal of 'encroachments' and city beautification	154	739	No
58	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Tarini Slum, Chandrasekharpur	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	69	331	No
59	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Arabinda Nagar Slum, Chandrasekharpur	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	138	662	No
60	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Maa Tarini Basti, Damana	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	207	994	Only 179 families received alternative accommodation; others made their own arrangements
61	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Unit-28, Goutam Nagar	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	1	5	No. The Odisha High Court has ordered BMC to pay compensation
62	Punjab	Ludhiana	New Model Town in Zone D	April	Removal of 'Illegal' construction	25	120	Not known
63	Punjab	Ludhiana	Near Rose Garden	January	Removal of 'encroachment'	50	240	Not known
64	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Rawan Gate near Vidhyadhar Nagar	May	Removal of 'encroachments'	200	960	No

65	Rajasthan	Dungarpur		2021	Removal of 'encroachments'	177	850	No
66	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Thangavel Street in Valluvar Kottam	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	77	370	Yes. Affected families received alternative housing in KP Park
67	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Alameen Colony, Ukkadam	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	26	125	Only nine families received houses in Selvapuram Kallamedu
68	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Along the Selvampathy tank bund on Sundapalayam Road	January	Removal of 'encroachments'	141	677	Yes. Affected families received houses in Kovaipudur
69	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Thangavelu Street, T. Nagar	January	Removal of 'encroachments' from the poramboku land (land outside the revenue records)	77	370	Not known
70	Telangana	Hyderabad	Basavataraka Nagar in Gachibowli	December	To vacate government land	200	960	Not known. 150 families are seeking 2BHK houses
71	Telangana	Hyderabad	Phool Bagh Basti	December	Removal of 'encroachments'	-	-	Not known
72	Telangana	Near Kothagudem Railway Station	Medhara Basti colony	July	Removal of 'encroachments' following an order of the High Court for the State of Telangana	120	576	Not known. Families had been given temporary shelters in a government school in Patha Kothagudem
73	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Bhovapur	February	Removal of 'encroachments'	25	120	Not known
74	West Bengal	Siliguri	New Jalpaiguri DS colony	December	Removal of 'encroachments' on land of the Indian Railways	-	-	Not known

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED/FAMILIES EVICTED

5593

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED

(Using the Census 2011 average household size of 4.8 persons – except where the exact number of affected people is known)

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29634

II. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER PROJECTS

S No.	STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	DISTRICT/CITY	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED (FAMILIES AFFECTED)	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE	RESETTLEMENT PROVIDED
75	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Atmakur, Mangalagiri	2021	Road widening	70	336	No
76	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari District	Five villages in Devipatnam Mandal	February-March	Polavaram project	128	614	Yes. Affected families relocated to resettlement colonies. However, the resettlement is inadequate. Families complain about lack of basic facilities. 18 families in Seetharam Village didn't receive resettlement owing to

								lack of proper documents
77	Assam	Darrang	Dhalpur villages in Sipajhar	September	Clearance of land for the Gorukhuti Multipurpose Agriculture Project	800	5000	No
78	Bihar	Patna	Malahi Pakri	October	Removal of 'encroachments' for Metro Rail Project	125	600	No
79	Delhi	Delhi	Trilokpuri	June	Metro project	20	96	Yes. Families received flats.
80	Gujarat	Surat	Along railway tracks	August	Surat-Udhna upto Jalgaon Third Railway Line Project	500	2400	Not known
81	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Juhapura	June	Removal of 'illegal' constructions, road widening, Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, and Town Planning Development	6	29	Not known
82	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Fathewadi, Juhapura	April	Removal of 'illegal' constructions, road widening, Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, and Town Planning Development	130	624	Yes
83	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Shankar Bhuvan , Shahpur	March-April	Construction of a metro station	150	720	Yes
84	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Opposite Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera	March	Removal of 'encroachments' for the Ahmedabad Metro Project work following a 2020 Gujarat High Court order	69	331	No
85	Gujarat	Panchmahal	Pavagadh hill, near the Kalika Mata temple	March	Temple renovation and facelift as a part of the Gujarat Pavitra Yatratham Vikas Board projects	400	1920	No
86	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	JP ni Chali, Sabarmati area	March	Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project	70	350	No
87	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Different areas in Juhapura	January	Removal of 'illegal' constructions, road widening, for the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, and Town Planning 'Development'	30	144	No
88	Haryana	Gurugram	Sector 9	March	Clearance of land of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran meant for the construction of a school	350	1680	Not known
89	Haryana	Gurugram	Sector 52, Wazirabad	March	Clearance of land for the construction of a stadium	2,500	12000	Not known

90	Haryana	Gurugram	Sector 15	March	Road construction	4	19	Not known
91	Haryana	Faridabad	Along Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway (NH-128NA)	January	DND-Faridabad-KMP interchange section construction	500	2400	Not known
92	Karnataka	Bengaluru	Doddabettahalli, Somashettahalli, MedaAgrahara and Lakshimpura villages in Yelahanka Hobli	August	Development Shivarama Karanth Layout	32	154	No
93	Karnataka	Mysuru	Yadavagiri and Bamboo Bazar 'slum'	April	Expansion of railway tracks	200	960	Yes. Families received alternative housing in the old Kesare area
94	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Begum Bagh Colony, Mahakal temple area	December	Removal of 'illegal houses' for the expansion of the Mahakal temple area under the Smart Cities Mission project following an order of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh	17	82	Not known
95	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Mahakal Tekri	July	Expansion of Mahakaleshwar Temple	100	480	Only a few families received compensation
96	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Divia in Thane	October	Construction of railway overbridge and road-widening project	120	576	Yes. Affected families have been allotted alternative housing in Padle Village which is 8 km away from their current location. However, residents don't want to shift due to the distance issue
97	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Near Mahalakshmi station on Keshavrao Khadye Road	October	Construction of a flyover	16	77	Only 'eligible' families have been rehabilitated
98	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Kurar in Malad	July	Construction of a metro station at Kurar after the High Court of Bombay ordered in favour of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority	15	72	Yes. Affected families received alternative accommodation
99	Maharashtra	Pune	Sagar Colony, Kothrud	March	Road widening	80	384	Not known
100	Odisha	Bolangir	Pardhiapalli Village	June	Lower Suktel Irrigation project	58	278	Affected families have received compensation
101	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Mahishikhal	June	Removal of 'encroachments' and road widening	90	300	No
102	Odisha	Cuttack	Pilgrim Road Dasa Sahi along the Taladanda canal	February - April	Expansion of Sri Rama Chandra Bhanja (SCB) Medical college and Hospital	500	2400	Yes. Affected families relocated to Balisahi. They received polythene sheds as temporary shelters, and allotted a land plot of 15/15 sq ft and a financial assistance of Rs 50,000 to each family, which families say is inadequate to construct a house
103	Odisha	Keonjhar	Rugudi and Dhoba Kuchuda villages	April	Kanpur Mega Irrigation Project	100	480	Families received compensation

104	Punjab	Ludhiana	Along the Buddha Nullah, near Pavitar Nagar Bridge at Haibowal	April	Removal of 'encroachments' for laying sewer pipes under the rejuvenation of Buddha Nullah project	19	91	Not known
105	Punjab	Ludhiana	Opposite Chand Cinema	August	Clearance of land for the installation of a static compactor	25	120	Yes. Affected families allotted flats in Giaspura. However, families don't want to relocate due to livelihood issue.
106	Punjab	Ludhiana	Gopal Nagar and Upkar Nagar, along the Buddha Nullah	April	Construction of a road along the nullah and iron fencing	22	106	Not known
107	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Between Kartarpura Nullah and Tonk Phatak Flyover, along the Jaipur-Delhi railway line	2021	Road-widening project; order of the Rajasthan High Court [W.P. 4783/2003], where general directions were issued for removal of 'encroachments' from various roads in Jaipur	250	1200	Only 34 families received houses in Govindpura JDA Colony, Sanganer
108	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Jhalana	2021	Road widening	59	283	Only a few families received compensation
109	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Ukkadam Dhobikana	December	Ukkadam-Athupalam flyover construction	96	461	Yes. Affected families received alternative accommodations
110	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Avvai Nagar, Kolathur	December	Construction of a flyover and beautification of the area	57	274	Not known
111	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchy	Crawford	September	Road expansion	10	48	Not known
112	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Along Krishnampathy tank	July	Lake development work under the Smart Cities Mission	68	326	Allotment orders had been given to residents for alternative houses at Kovaipudur; however, families didn't move
113	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Linganur, along Krishnampathy tank	July	Lake development work under the Smart Cities Mission	20	96	Allotment orders had been given to residents for alternative houses at Kovaipudur
114	Tamil Nadu	P.N. Pudur	Gokulam Colony, Marudhamalai Road	July	Restoration of water bodies under the Smart Cities Mission	75	360	Not yet. Families to get alternative housing
115	Telangana	Karimnagar	Ramakrishna Colony in Thimmapur	September	Clearance of land for the construction of 2BHK houses	-	-	Not known
116	Telangana	Siddipet	Etigaddakishtapur Village	July	Mallannasagar project	44	211	Yes. Affected families have been shifted to the rehabilitation and resettlement Colony in Mutrajpally near Gajwel, 2BHK houses at Sangapur, and given a cheque of Rs 7.5 lakh to each family

117	Telangana	Nalgonda	Modhugula thanda and Kapura thanda, Dharmacharla mandal	2021	4,000-MW supercritical Yadadri Thermal Power Plant	173	830	Yes. The state government has allotted empty plots to affected families. Six families did not get the rehabilitation package
118	Telangana	Siddipet	Vemulaghat	April	Mallannasagar project	200	960	Yes. Families relocated to Mutrajally
119	Telangana	-	Pallephad tanda in Toguta mandal	2021	Mallannasagar project	100	480	Families received compensation. About 10 families did not receive compensation
120	Uttarakhand	Chamoli	Haat Village in Pipalkoti	September	Vishnugad-Pipalkoti 444 MW hydro project	16	77	Not known. The issue of rehabilitation is pending in the High Court of Uttarakhand
121	Uttar Pradesh	Gautam Budh Nagar District	Five villages—Ranhera, Rohi, Parohi, Nagla Ganeshi, and Kishorpur	July	Construction of the Noida International Greenfield Airport	2,850	13680	Yes. Affected families relocated to houses constructed at Jewar Bangar's rehabilitation and resettlement site. However, families complain about bad quality of houses and lack of water and sanitation facilities at the rehabilitation site.
122	Uttar Pradesh	Gautam Budh Nagar district	Nagla Ganeshi	June	Noida International Greenfield Airport	125	600	Not known. Families moved to rented houses in neighbouring villages
123	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	Teliana railway line	January	Smart Cities Mission project	100	480	No
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED/FAMILIES EVICTED						11432	0	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED (Using the Census 2011 average household size of 4.8 persons – except where the exact number of affected people is known)							56189	
III. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS/PROJECTS AND FOREST AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION								
S No.	STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	DISTRICT/CITY	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED (FAMILIES AFFECTED)	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE	RESETTLEMENT PROVIDED
124	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada	Kullapadu Village	2021	Clearance of forestland	60	288	Not known
125	Assam	Hojai	Lumding Reserve Forest	November	Clearance of forestland following the Gauhati High Court order	670	3000	A few families have left for their native districts, while some are living in temporary shelters roadside
126	Assam	Mangaldai	Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve	2021	Removal of 'encroachments' from the Reserve	10	48	Not known
127	Assam	Kamrup district	Manahkusi Village, Hajo	June	Clearance of forestland	20	96	Not known
128	Assam	Hojai	Kakitila forest area	June	Clearance of forestland	70	500	Not known
129	Assam	Karimganj	Patharkandi	June	Not known	200	960	Not known
130	Assam	-	Longai Reserve Forest area	May -June	Clearance of forestland	28	134	Not known
131	Assam	Udalguri district	Runikhata forest	May	Clearance of forestland	-	-	Not known
132	Assam	Chirang	Karaibari Forest village	May	Clearance of forestland	-	-	Not known
133	Delhi	Delhi	Rangpuri Pahadi	July	Clearance of forestland	15	72	Not known

134	Delhi	Delhi	Yamuna Khadar	April	To protect the floodplains of the Yamuna from 'encroachments' following an order of the National Green Tribunal [O.A. 6/2012 and M.A. 967/2013 & 275/2014, Principal Bench	50	240	Not known
135	Delhi	Delhi	Kalka Stone Basti, Lal Kuan	March	Clearance of forestland	20	96	No
136	Haryana	Faridabad	Jamai Colony	September	Clearance of forestland	200	960	Not known
137	Haryana	Gurugram	Basai	August	Clearance of forestland and restore green cover	60	288	Not known
138	Haryana	Gurugram	Kadarpur	August	Clearance of forestland and restore green cover	50	240	Not known
139	Haryana	Faridabad	Khori Village	July	Following an order of the Supreme Court of India to clear 'encroachments' from the Aravalli Forest	15,000	100000	'Eligible' families (899) yet to receive promised flats. The Supreme Court has directed the authorities to give Rs 2,000 to each families as monthly rental allowance till houses are constructed
140	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Near Khushaal Sar lake	October-November	Restoration of the Khushaal Sar lake	95	456	No
141	Jammu and Kashmir	Shopian	Chotimarg area, Zampathri	May	Clearance of forestland following an order of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh	24	115	No.
142	Karnataka	-	Nagarhole Tiger reserve	March	Tiger conservation/eco-tourism activities	1250	6000	Not known
143	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	-	November	Clearance of forestland	8	38	Not known
144	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Negaon-Jamniya)	July	Removal from forestland	40	200	Not known
145	Maharashtra	Thane	Kalwa	August	Clearance of forestland	30	38	No
146	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Charkop	April	Conservation of mangroves	250	1200	Not known
147	Maharashtra	Mumbai	Chheda Nagar, Chembur	February	Conservation of mangroves	450	2160	Not known
148	Punjab	Ludhiana	Near Chand Cinema area	May	Development of green belt area	50	240	Not known
149	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Anamalai Tiger Reserve	December	Removal from land not allotted to tribal families	23	110	Yes. Resettled at the allotted land.
150	West Bengal	Siliguri	South Bagha Jatin Colony	December	Removal of 'encroachments' on the banks of the river Mahananda following an order of the National Green Tribunal	30	144	Not known
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED/FAMILIES EVICTED						18703	0	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED (Using the Census 2011 average household size of 4.8 persons – except where the exact number of affected people is known)							117623	
IV. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT								

S No.	STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	DISTRICT/CITY	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED (FAMILIES AFFECTED)	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE	RESETTLEMENT PROVIDED
151	Delhi	Delhi	Ramesh Park and Lalita Park	July	Removal of 'encroachments' from the Yamuna floodplains	350	1680	No
152	Jharkhand	Ranchi	In different locations including along the banks of Harmu River, Kanke Dam, and Hinoo River	July	Removal of 'encroachments' along water bodies following an order of the High Court of Jharkhand	33	158	Not known
153	Maharashtra	Pune	Along Ambil Odha near Dandekar Bridge	June	Widening of the Ambil Odha stream to prevent flooding	130	624	Not known. The state government to provide temporary accommodation to the affected families and permanent houses later
154	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Near Egmore railway station	October	Removal drive ahead of the northeast monsoon	60	288	Yes. Affected families allotted houses in KP Park.
155	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Radhakrishnan Nagar in Arumbakkam	July	Integrated Cooum River Eco-Restoration Project	130	624	Only 94 families received houses in KP Park near Pulianthope
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED/FAMILIES EVICTED						703	0	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED (Using the Census 2011 average household size of 4.8 persons – except where the exact number of affected people is known)							3374	
V. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR OTHER REASONS								
S No.	STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	DISTRICT/CITY	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED (FAMILIES AFFECTED)	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE	RESETTLEMENT PROVIDED
156	Jammu and Kashmir	Shopain	Rawalpura Village	March	Military operations	10	48	No
157	Madhya Pradesh	Ashok Nagar	Near Magadi Road toll gate	May	Forced relocation to beggars' colony	10	48	Not known
158	Odisha	Kalahandi	Bhatapani and Dumerpani villages (Sahajkhol reserve forest), Koksara block	July	Village conflict	35	190	No
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED/FAMILIES EVICTED						55	286	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED (Using the Census 2011 average household size of 4.8 persons – except where the exact number of affected people is known)								
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED/FAMILIES EVICTED IN URBAN AND RURAL INDIA IN 2021						36,486		
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED IN URBAN AND RURAL INDIA IN 2021 [Using the Census 2011 average household size of 4.8 persons – except where the exact number of affected people is known. However, many families consist of more than 5 persons and many of the demolished structures housed more than one family. This total, is, thus, a conservative estimate]							2,07,106	

Endnotes

1. The Supreme Court commissioners appointed to monitor the implementation of orders in the 'right to food' case – PUCI v. Union of India [W.P. (C) 196/2001] estimated that at least one per cent of India's urban population is homeless. This amounts to nearly 4 million homeless people living in urban India.
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Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)–based in New Delhi, India–works for the recognition, defence, promotion, and realization of the human rights to adequate housing and land, which involve gaining a safe and secure place for all individuals, groups, and communities–especially the most marginalized–to live in peace and dignity. Housing and Land Rights Network aims to achieve its goals through advocacy, research, human rights education and monitoring, and standard-setting- at the local, national, and international levels.

In the absence of official data on evictions in India, HLRN established the ‘National Eviction and Displacement Observatory’ in 2015. The Observatory monitors documents and responds to forced evictions across urban and rural India by aiming to assist affected communities with relief, redress, restitution, and access to justice, where possible.

In this report titled, ‘Forced Evictions in India in 2021’ – the fifth in this series of annual evictions reports on India – HLRN presents the findings of its research and analysis on the scale, nature, and magnitude of forced evictions and displacement across the country in the year 2021. It also includes an overview of instances of evictions documented from January to July 2022, including during India’s third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also documents the recent shifts to use demolitions to punish and dispossess marginalized communities.

Among other recommendations to provide justice and restitution of human rights, HLRN’s report calls for an immediate moratorium on evictions in India in order to protect lives and prevent further impoverishment of communities.

Housing and Land Rights Network hopes that this report will generate awareness on this state perpetuated human rights crisis; move the government to take action to end forced evictions; and, restore dignity and improve housing and living conditions of affected persons.



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