

Forced Evictions in India in 2017: An Alarming National Crisis

Introduction

In the year 2017, data collected by **Housing and Land Rights Network India (HLRN)** reveals that government authorities, at both the central and state levels, **demolished over 53,700 homes**, thereby **forcefully evicting more than 260,000 (2.6 lakh) people across urban and rural India**, including the homeless (*see Annexure for details*). It is important to note that these disturbing figures are a conservative estimate, as they only reflect cases known to HLRN. The actual number of people evicted/displaced across India in 2017, therefore, is likely to be much higher.

In the absence of official data on forced evictions, HLRN, through its 'National Eviction and Displacement Observatory,' has attempted to document the scale and magnitude of this escalating crisis that has serious short-term and long-term impacts, including on social justice and the nation's development and prosperity, but continues to be under-reported and ignored by both state and non-state actors. HLRN's research indicates that more people were evicted and displaced in 2017 than in 2016. This increase in forced evictions has occurred despite the central government's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) or 'Housing for All-2022' scheme and increased budgetary allocations for the same.

HLRN uses the definition of 'forced eviction' provided by General Comment 7¹ 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."

Major Findings

Major findings from HLRN's primary and secondary research on forced evictions in India in 2017 include the following:

1. Forced evictions occurred across urban and rural areas – in cities, towns, and villages.
2. They took place for a range of reasons and under various guises, including: 'city beautification' projects, mega events, and interventions aimed at creating 'slum-free cities'; infrastructure and ostensible 'development' projects; forest and wildlife protection; and, disaster management efforts.
3. In most of the reported eviction cases, state authorities did not follow due process established by national and international standards.
4. In the majority of cases, the state has not provided resettlement; where provided, resettlement is largely inadequate. Forced evictions are thus contributing to a rise in homelessness.
5. All cases of forced eviction resulted in multiple, and often gross, human rights violations.
6. Through these acts of eviction and demolition of homes, central and state government authorities have violated national and international laws, policies, guidelines, and schemes.
7. Thousands of families across India are currently threatened with the risk of eviction and displacement.

These findings are elaborated in greater detail below.

1. Evictions occurred across geographical areas and rural-urban boundaries

Incidents of forced eviction in 2017 occurred in large metropolitan cities (Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai), in other Tier I cities² (for example, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Surat, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Guwahati, Jabalpur, Panaji, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Srinagar, Vadodara, and Vishakhapatnam), smaller cities and towns (for example, Amethi, which is a Tier IV³ city), as well as in villages (including in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Odisha).

2. Forced evictions took place for a range of reasons and under various guises

After analysing the available data on 213 reported cases of forced eviction in the year 2017, HLRN has identified four broad categories for which individuals and communities were forcibly removed and displaced from their homes and habitats:

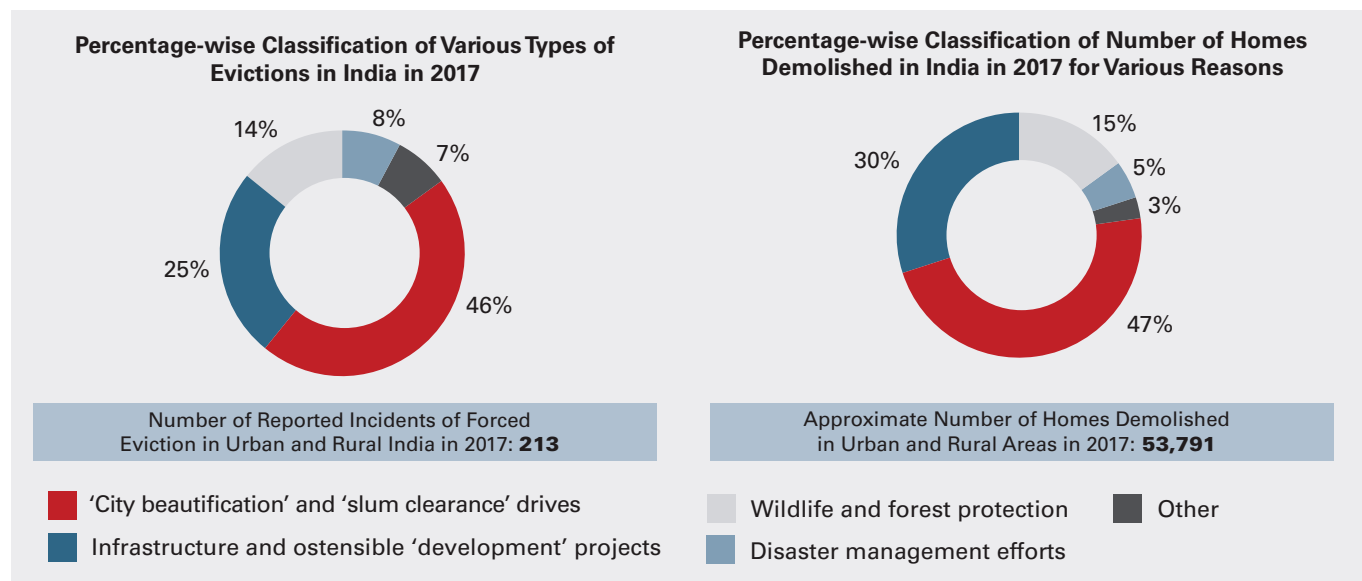
- a. 'City beautification' projects, mega events, and interventions aimed at creating 'slum-free cities' [46 per cent of recorded evictions (99 of 213 cases) in 2017];
- b. Infrastructure and ostensible 'development' projects, including road/highway expansion [25 per cent of recorded evictions (53 of 213 cases) in 2017].
- c. Wildlife and forest protection, and environmental conservation [14 per cent of recorded evictions (30 of 213 cases) in 2017]; and,
- d. Disaster management efforts [eight per cent (16 of 213 cases) of recorded evictions in 2017].

In seven per cent of the cases documented by HLRN, the reason for eviction was not known/not clear.

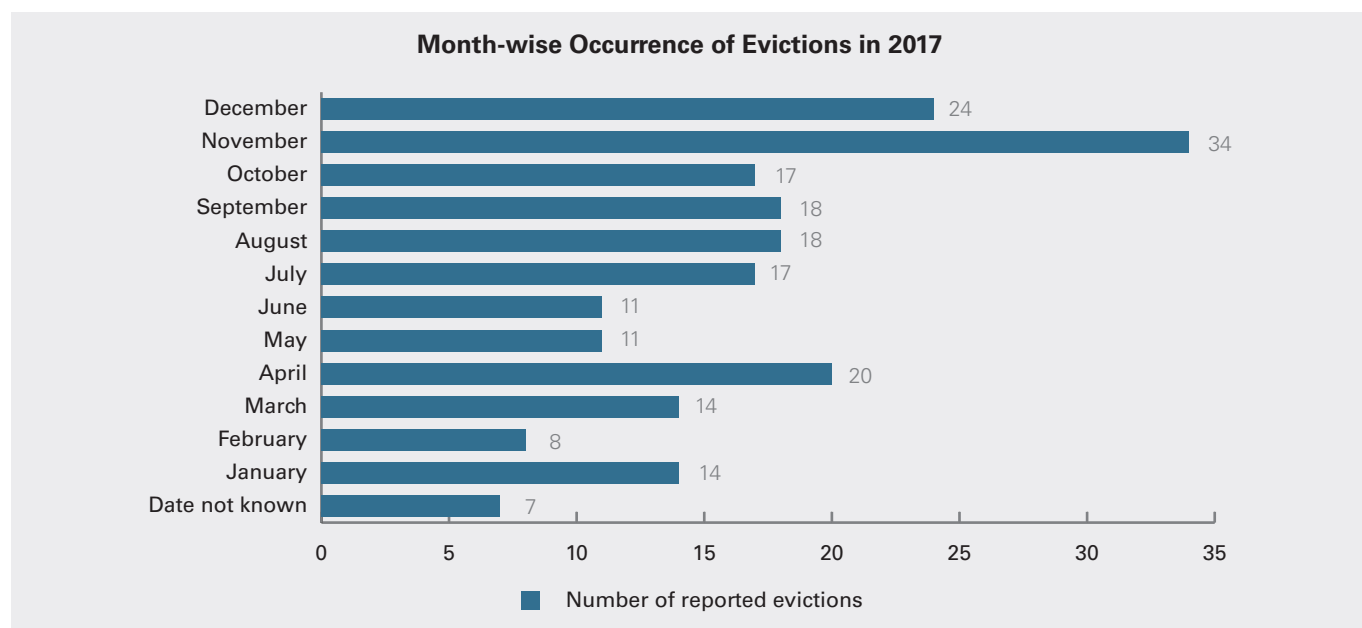
A total of 213 incidents of forced eviction/home demolition have been documented by HLRN in 2017; this translates into one eviction every 41 hours or one eviction taking place every one-and-a-half days. With the state demolishing over 53,700 houses in the year, **at least 147 homes were destroyed every day or six homes were destroyed every hour** in India in 2017. This amounts to at least 30 people being evicted every hour in the year 2017.

HLRN finds that **the highest percentage of reported evictions** (99 of 213 cases) **were carried out for 'slum⁴ clearance' drives and 'city beautification' projects**. Both central and state governments undertook a large number of such drives in several cities resulting in the destruction of self-built homes of the working poor, allegedly towards creating 'slum-free cities' and also for a few 'smart city' projects. The notion of the state that 'city beautification' implies removing the poor from cities reflects an alarming prejudice and discrimination against the country's most marginalized populations. It also indicates the criminalisation of poverty. Such actions by the state are a gross violation of the foundational principles of the Indian Republic as well as the Constitution of India that guarantees everyone

the right to equality and the freedom to reside in any part of the country. In many cities, homes of the urban poor continue to be considered as 'illegal encroachments' and are demolished without any consideration that people have been living in those areas for decades, sometimes 40–50 years, and possess documents such as election and ration cards that validate their legality and proof of residence.



In Navi Mumbai, 'slum clearance' drives rendered over 3,300 families homeless between January and October 2017, while in Delhi, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished over 190 houses in Kishangarh (March 2017), Baljeet Nagar (July 2017), and Shastri Park (September 2017), without any reason, prior notice, or resettlement. Central government ministries such as Defence and Railways have also evicted residents from lands belonging to them, without due process or rehabilitation. The notion of public land is greatly misused in India, as the state that is entrusted with the protection of such land for the people continues to act against the people, by evicting them at its whim. At the heart of this attack of the state against its people is the commercialisation of public land for monetary gain and private profit.



Between August and November 2017, different government agencies in Delhi, including the South Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Public Works Department **forcefully evicted over 1,500 homeless people from under flyovers in Delhi**, under the pretext of 'beautifying' the city's flyovers. In the absence of low-cost housing options and sufficient shelters, a large number of Delhi's homeless seek refuge under flyovers, especially in inclement weather. These eviction drives without resettlement have contributed to increasing the vulnerability and morbidity

of the capital's homeless. A settlement of 62 families belonging to the Gadia Lohar community was evicted from Mansarovar Park flyover in August 2017. In a cruel irony, the homeless were removed from the Sarai Kale Khan flyover to make space for the installation of symbols from the life of Mahatma Gandhi – an apostle of non-violence and social justice.

Mega events are another cause of human rights violations. India hosted the Federation of International Football Associations' (FIFA) Under-17 (U-17) World Cup tournament from 6–28 October 2017. In order to 'beautify' areas for the event, the Government of West Bengal demolished 88 low-income homes and evicted 5,000 street vendors and 18,000 rickshaw-pullers in Kolkata and Salt Lake City, resulting in loss of their income and livelihoods. National and international pressure succeeded in halting further planned evictions. The state government also evicted 1,200 families for the Kolkata Book Fair, in order to construct a pavilion and a stage.



Homeless family evicted from under Sarai Kale Khan Flyover, living on the roadside



Evictions before the FIFA Under-17 Games in Kolkata

Infrastructure and ostensible 'development' projects continued to displace the urban and rural poor across India, generally without due process or rehabilitation. HLRN's research reveals that over 77,000 people across India were impacted by/evicted for infrastructure projects, including highway expansion, canal-widening, and other construction projects.

For instance, in January 2017, over 150 families were rendered homeless in a demolition drive carried out by the Indore Municipal Corporation for a road-widening project, and in March 2017, the Kolkata municipality demolished 573 houses to complete metro projects. Highway expansion projects in Amethi, Delhi, Jalandhar, Mumbai, Salem, and Vijaywada resulted in several hundred families losing their homes.

In Indore, between January and February 2017, local authorities demolished 112 homes that did not have toilets, in an attempt to prove that the city had met 'open defecation free' targets of India's Swachh Bharat Mission. Between 2016 and 2017, over 700 homes without toilets were destroyed⁵ in the city, a cruel twist to the Mission that aims to provide sanitation in all Indian homes by 2019.

HLRN's findings reveal the ironic situation of at least **6,937 homes being destroyed for housing schemes.**

In Hyderabad, about 2,800 families lost their homes under the Telangana government's 'Two Bedroom Housing Programme' that aims to provide permanent housing to the urban poor. The state government, however, forcefully demolished existing homes of affected persons, rendering them homeless without any guarantee of when they will be provided the promised two-bedroom houses. Local authorities demolished about 3,600 houses in Vadodara and 550 houses in Indore under the auspices of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana/ Housing for All–2022 scheme. Thus, even when the state's intentions are seemingly noteworthy, the implementation processes are marked by a glaring lack of respect for people's human rights, including their rights to information, participation, consultation, and adequate housing.

Though several evictions are justified by the state for 'public purpose,' the term continues to be misused and is ill-defined in law, as definitions are largely inconsistent with basic human rights principles. The population that benefits from these ostensible 'public purpose' projects is always different from the one that pays the price for them, including through the loss of their homes, livelihoods, and security.

One of the most brutal evictions was carried out on 30-31 October 2017 by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Kathputli Colony, Delhi. DDA used violence and tear gas to demolish over 2,000 homes for an *in situ* redevelopment project being built under a public private partnership (PPP) with Raheja Builders. The Authority did not provide adequate notice to the residents and rendered several families homeless in the cold. The residents of Kathputli Colony also witnessed a similar demolition drive in January 2017, in the peak of Delhi's winter.



Forced eviction in Delhi's Kathputli Colony

Though the Supreme Court of India and several state High Courts have, in numerous judgments, upheld the right to housing/shelter as an inalienable component of the fundamental right to life, **in 2017, court orders and their interpretation by state authorities were responsible for 17 per cent of the total evictions**

recorded by HLRN. These orders resulted in the eviction and demolition of homes of the urban and rural poor in Amritsar, Bijnor, Chandigarh, Chennai, Darrang and Sonitpur Districts of Assam, Dehradun, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Guwahati, Hubballi, Kaimbwala, Mumbai, Nagpur, Ranchi, and Udhagamandalam.

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), on the basis of a Bombay High Court order (PIL No. 140/2006) that directed clearance of 'illegal hutments' within 10 metres of both sides of the Tansa pipeline, evicted over 6,000 families and has announced plans to demolish 9,816 more structures by May 2018. Allegedly, the cleared land will be used to construct a 39-kilometre cycling track.

In W.P. (C) No. 328/2002, the Supreme Court of India, while deciding the compensation and rehabilitation of families affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project on the Narmada River, set a deadline for their forcible eviction. In an order dated 8 February 2017, the Court stated that, "All the occupants including all the 'project affected families' shall vacate the submergence area under reference, on or before 31.07.2017, and in case there are individuals in the submergence area, after the aforesaid deposit has been made into the account of the Grievance Redressal Authority, after 31.07.2017, it shall be open to the State Government to remove all such individuals forcibly."

Evictions were also executed under the guise of 'disaster management' and for 'restoration of water bodies.' In response to a 2015 order (W.P. No. 39234/2015) of the Madras High Court to take "expeditious steps for early removal of encroachments by construction of alternative tenements," the Government of Tamil Nadu evicted over 4,784 families in Chennai between September and December 2017. The state, however, has only targeted homes of the urban poor and left commercial establishments along water bodies untouched. While most of the affected families have been provided alternative housing in the resettlement sites of Perumbakkam, Gudapakkam, All India Radio site, and Navalur, these sites are located between 20 and 40 kilometres from people's original sites of residence. Relocation, therefore, has threatened the livelihoods of displaced persons and the education of their children.⁶ The resettlement sites are situated on low-lying, flood-prone areas, thus bringing into question the rationale of disaster protection, for which, allegedly, they have been relocated. In another



Demolition of homes along the banks of Cooum River in Chennai

order (W.P. No. 36135/2015), the Madras High Court stated that, “In case the encroachments are not removed even after due process of law, the authorities are at liberty to remove such of those encroachments by use of force, if need be, and in such circumstances, the police authorities shall give all necessary assistance to the authorities for removal of the said encroachments.”

In September 2017, the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, with support from the city police, demolished 630 houses at different locations in the city in a drive to remove all “encroachments” along river bodies.

Some of the evictions in 2017 took place purportedly for reasons of environmental conservation, and wildlife and forest protection. These were mostly ordered by courts acting on public interest litigations. Such cases, unfortunately, have pitted the environment against human rights, even though many of the forest-dwellers do not pose any threats and live in harmony with nature. In April 2017, the Supreme Court of India ordered the removal and rehabilitation of families living in Thatkola and Sargodu Reserve Forests in Karnataka. The state government demolished over 148 houses and destroyed cash crops in Thatkola Reserve Forest, and evicted 156 families from Sargodu Reserve Forest. Also in April 2017, more than 2,000 people were evicted from areas around the Orang National Park in Assam under orders of the Gauhati High Court. In November 2017, also acting on an order from the Gauhati High Court, the Government of Assam forcefully evicted 1,000 families belonging to the Bodo, Rabha, Mishing, and other indigenous/tribal communities from the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. In an unprecedented move, state authorities used elephants to demolish homes and also resorted to violence and force, resulting in injury to four people. Schools and places of worship were also demolished. The affected families, who had been previously displaced by floods, were rendered homeless by this eviction. The Government of Assam also evicted over 2,250 families, without resettlement, from the Kheropara Reserve Forest, Manas National Park, and Lahorijan Reserve Forest during the year.

In August 2017, reports indicate that about 60 huts belonging to the Irular and Jenu Kurumbar *adivasis* (recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups by the Indian government), situated in Vazhaithottam Village, Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu were demolished. The local administration carried out the demolition under an order from the Madras High Court, dated 4 August 2017, W.P. No. 19465/2017, ostensibly to protect the ‘elephant corridor’ identified by the state government. The eviction was carried out in contravention of the objectives of the Forest Rights Act 2006, which provides safeguards against displacement of indigenous/tribal peoples from their traditional homes. Ironically, while local *Dalits* and *adivasis* continue to be evicted from the area pursuant to the Madras High Court judgment in W.P. No. 10098/2008, in other orders dated 6 April 2015, W.P. No. 10324/2013, and 21 June 2016, W.P. No. 28062/2013, the Madras High Court ordered a restraint on the demolition of resorts and other commercial establishments operating in the area till the Supreme Court clarifies the legal ramifications of demarcating the area an ‘elephant corridor.’

The Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit, a part of the Maharashtra Forest Department’s Mangrove Cell, issued eviction notices to 6,000 low-income families in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai in 2017, with plans to demolish all houses by May 2018. In December 2017, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai demolished 800 houses in Ganpat Patil Nagar in Dahisar, as part of its ‘mangrove preservation’ efforts.

Although many reported incidents of eviction in 2017 were carried out under court orders, the judiciary also upheld the ‘right to housing’ in a few progressive orders. For instance, in W.P. (C) No. 11616/2015, the High Court of Delhi regularly monitored the condition of people evicted in 2015 in Shakur Basti (West), Delhi and passed orders for the provision of electricity and installation of toilets. Similarly, in W.P. (C) 5378/2017, the High Court of Delhi directed the rehabilitation of several people who were evicted from Rajiv Camp, Delhi and whose claims of resettlement were denied by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) on technical grounds. Additionally, in an ongoing case, W.P. (C) No. 55/2003, the Supreme Court of India passed a series of positive orders to safeguard the rights of homeless people across the country. The Court hauled up various state governments for their failure to provide adequate infrastructure for the homeless population and strongly urged all states to formulate an effective road-map to deal with the issue of homelessness.

3. In most of the reported eviction cases, state authorities did not follow due process

In almost all cases known to HLRN, including the ones described above, the authorities responsible for the evictions and demolition of homes did not adhere to due process or human rights standards and laws. In most instances, affected communities were not provided any notice or adequate time to remove their belongings from their homes. The documented eviction and demolition drives not only destroyed housing but also cash savings and personal belongings of the residents, including vital documents, jewellery, and school books and uniforms. Furthermore, in many of the reported cases, authorities did not have a legal basis for the eviction, nor did they provide a justifiable reason to people before forcing them out of their homes and razing them to the ground.

Despite a call by the Delhi government to stall evictions in the winter months, central government authorities carried out several demolitions in Delhi, including in Chhatarpur, Pul Mithai, Wazirpur, Mata Sundari Road, and Safdarjung Enclave, during the winter. These demolitions, which occurred without any prior intimation, rendered families homeless and vulnerable to the bitter cold and severe air pollution. In Pul Mithai, bulldozers reached the settlement at 4 a.m. and commenced demolition at 6 a.m. when people were still asleep inside their homes, without any inkling of the impending destruction. Railway and police officials also confiscated dry fruit sold by the residents for their livelihood. Families displaced from several sites across the country still have no information from the government on the justification for the demolition of their homes. Authorities also carried out evictions prior to school examinations, thereby greatly impeding children's ability to study and appear in the exams. For



Evicted families in Rajeev Camp, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi

instance, despite pleas to postpone the relocation, the Delhi government evicted/relocated residents of Vinod Nagar in February 2017, a month before the board examinations, for the expansion of National Highway 24. In Chennai too, authorities evicted families before and during school examinations as well as during the rainy season. Even though a Maharashtra government resolution prohibits evictions during the monsoons (1 June to 30 September), Baltu Bai Nagar in Navi Mumbai was demolished on 7 June 2017, leaving residents out in the rain without any recourse.

In October–November 2017, a demolition drive in Mumbai's Garib Nagar in Bandra (East) resulted in the destruction of more than 350 buildings and the displacement of over 1,000 families. Though the state government had provided a 48-hour notice to the residents, it was not respected and the demolition occurred before that time period. In the ensuing commotion, a major fire broke out in the settlement on 26 October 2017, in which hundreds of homes were destroyed.

4. In the majority of cases, the state has not provided resettlement; where provided, resettlement is inadequate

Information from the field indicates that the majority of those evicted have not received resettlement or rehabilitation from the state. While most displaced persons have had to fend for themselves and rebuild their own homes or seek rental housing, a large number have been rendered homeless. In many cases, the displaced are denied their rights and not resettled on the false grounds that they are not 'legal' residents. The persistent discrimination against the country's poor is further perpetuated in state policy. Several state governments continue to use the exclusionary tool of 'eligibility criteria' to determine whether an evicted family should be rehabilitated or not. Even when families have lived for many years at a site, if they fail to meet the state's documentation requirements or happen to be omitted from state-conducted surveys, they are denied any form of relief or resettlement despite losing their homes, which are generally built incrementally, over years of hard work and investment. This is directly contributing to a rise in homelessness.

For example, of the total 16,717 houses that are to be demolished along Mumbai's Tansa pipeline, residents of only 7,674 homes have been considered 'eligible' for rehabilitation. While those considered 'eligible' for housing at Kathputli Colony, Delhi (2,800 families) have been moved to an overcrowded transit camp without adequate space and basic services, about 492 families have been forced to shift to Narela, a resettlement site located on the outskirts of the city. Those found 'ineligible' (754 families) have been rendered homeless and are awaiting court directions for their rehabilitation. Media reports mention that only 113 of the 1,200 families evicted for the Kolkata Book Fair were considered 'eligible' for resettlement on a plot of vacant land, even though the majority of those affected had been living at the site for decades. In Chennai, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has failed to provide alternative housing to nearly 250 evicted families, which includes 130 families from the fishing hamlet of NTO Kuppam (who have filed a case in the Madras High Court) and other families for whom allotment, allegedly, has been delayed because of 'paper work.' Delhi's resettlement policy requires affected non-Scheduled Caste families to not only meet the 'eligibility criteria' but also to pay Rs 142,000 in cash, as a one-time down payment, for an alternative flat in a resettlement site. While this financial requirement is pushing already marginalized families into cycles of greater indebtedness, those who are not able to raise the requisite funds are denied alternative housing and have to find their own housing or are rendered homeless.

The affected include new-born infants, children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, older persons, and persons with chronic ailments – all of whom are forced to fend for themselves or live in the open, in extremely inadequate conditions.

Where resettlement has been provided for 'eligible' families, including by the Governments of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Delhi, it is in inadequate sites located on the outskirts of cities (for instance, Baprola in Delhi, and Perumbakkam,⁷ Navalur, and Gudapakkam in Chennai). Reports highlight the deteriorating health of people moved from along Mumbai's Tansa pipeline to the polluted resettlement site of Mahul.⁸ In Coimbatore, families relocated to Vellalore, reportedly, are facing problems related to sanitation, street lights, and bus connectivity. Extensive studies⁹ show that resettlement to remote sites has resulted in loss of livelihoods, income, education, and healthcare, with the most severe impacts suffered by women and children.

5. All cases of forced eviction resulted in multiple, and often gross, human rights violations

The UN Commission on Human Rights (in resolutions 1993/77 and 2004/28¹⁰) recognized that forced evictions constitute a "gross violation of a range of human rights, in particular, the right to adequate housing." In all the reported evictions and demolitions of homes of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups

Preliminary findings of a study by HLRN to examine the relationship between forced evictions and long-term homelessness in Delhi revealed that about 60 per cent of homeless persons interviewed said that they were homeless and living on the streets because their homes had been demolished by the state, without the provision of any resettlement.



Destruction and devastation in the aftermath of a forced eviction: Pul Mithai, Delhi

The continued exclusion from housing by local governments using the flawed notions of 'eligibility criteria' and 'illegality' is contributing to a rise in homelessness and an increase in the number of people being forced into insecure and inadequate living conditions across India.

(LIG) across India, there has been little or no compliance with human rights safeguards, such as consultation with affected people, advance notice, free, prior, and informed consent, compensation, and adequate resettlement. The processes followed before, during, and after evictions have resulted in the violation of multiple human rights of affected persons, including their human rights to life, adequate housing, land, work/livelihood, health, food, water, sanitation, education, security of the person and home, information, participation, and freedom of movement and residence.

In a few incidents, forced evictions have resulted in death. The use of tear gas during the demolition drive at Kathputli Colony, allegedly contributed to the death of a two-year old boy,¹¹ while the shock and fear of her home being demolished led a woman resident to attempt suicide. In Chennai, the denial of an alternative housing after eviction resulted in the death of a 70-year-old woman who was living out on the streets awaiting resettlement.¹² A homeless family evicted from the Sarai Kale Khan flyover and forced to live on the roadside, tragically lost its 10-year old son, who was hit by a truck.

The **use of force by local officials and police during evictions** has been reported in several cases, including in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam and Kathputli Colony, Delhi where residents, activists, and a journalist were beaten up.

Inadequate living conditions resulting from loss of housing directly contribute to a deterioration of the health of affected persons. Delhi's evicted Gadia Lohar community in Mansarovar Park is suffering from adverse health impacts, especially the children, older persons, and women who do not have adequate housing or water and sanitation facilities.

The destruction of homes, personal possessions, and educational material during evictions, and the loss of livelihoods, education, and health in the aftermath have resulted in increased marginalization and impoverishment of evicted families. In none of the cases, however, have affected persons been compensated for their losses. Affected families often incur increased financial costs to retain their children in schools that are located far from resettlement sites or alternative housing locales. Those who cannot afford the increased expenditure are forced to pull their children out of school. The girl child is generally most impacted and often stops studying in order to take care of younger siblings or contribute to the household income or because of safety concerns. Displacement also makes girls and women vulnerable to sexual abuse and trafficking. It has also resulted in a rise in early marriage of girls in some places, as parents worry about their safety on the streets or in insecure resettlement sites.

Children, women, persons with disabilities, and older persons are the worst affected by forced evictions and displacement. Several of the evictions have affected Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Access to remedy is limited and the only respite that some communities have received is in the form of 'stay orders' or resettlement from courts where petitions have been filed against the evictions.



Destroyed homes and household items: Bheem Nagar, Mankhurd, Mumbai



Older persons suffer disproportionately from the loss of their homes

6. Central and state government authorities have violated national and international laws, policies, guidelines, and schemes

Most of these acts of forced eviction and demolition of homes across the country have violated the provisions of the Constitution of India, national and international law, and Indian court judgments that have interpreted the right to housing as an integral component of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. They also violate The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 as well as several state and central laws that include provisions for due process, including the requirement of notice, for forced evictions. These include the Delhi Development Act 1957, Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1956, the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act 1971, and The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014, among other laws.



Rubble from demolished houses in Bhuri Tekri, Indore

By these acts of forced eviction, state authorities have also breached India's treaty obligations under, *inter alia*, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural 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. The reported acts of eviction also contravene General Comments 4 and 7 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement (2007), which stipulate that evictions must only be carried out in 'exceptional circumstances' and in accordance with international law and human rights standards.

The reported evictions and demolitions also go against the central government's Housing for All-2022 scheme or PMAY as well as several state housing schemes. While the government has sanctioned 37.4 lakh (3.74 million) affordable houses under PMAY-Urban, as of 1 January 2018, only a little over 300,000 houses had been built, of which only 267,000 had been occupied.¹³ Under PMAY-Gramin (rural), of the 58 lakh (5.8 million) houses sanctioned till January 2018, only a little over 16 lakh (1.6 million) have been built. The slow rate of implementation of the scheme coupled with the demolition of homes in rural and urban areas is not going to achieve housing for all in India.

The destruction of EWS/LIG housing makes a mockery of the ambitious housing targets set by the government. With each home destroyed, the government backtracks on its commitment to provide 'housing for all.'

7. Thousands of families across India are living with the threat of forced eviction and displacement

In addition to the reported incidents of forced eviction, HLRN has also noted information on several imminent threats of forced eviction and displacement. Thousands of families across the country are living in uncertainty and the fear of losing their homes. These include *inter alia* the following, which amount to at least 600,000 people:

- About 8,000 households in Ahmedabad may be evicted for regularisation under the Urban Land Ceiling Act, and for infrastructure projects;
- At least 705 families in Tamenglong District of Manipur could be displaced for the construction of the 66 megawatt Loktak Downstream Hydroelectric Project over the Leimatak River;
- Over 500 households along the Versova Creek in Mumbai face eviction threats for 'mangrove preservation';
- Over 200 families will be evicted in Kayidhe Millath Nagar Anankaputhur in Pallavaram District of Tamil Nadu;

- About 70,000 people face the threat of eviction in Sipajhar Village in Guwahati, Assam, over alleged “encroachment” of grazing land;
- About 200,000 people (mostly belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in forest areas) in Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha are threatened to be displaced by the construction of the Polavaram Dam on the Godavari River;
- More than 20,000 people are likely to be displaced by the Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport (VIDMSP) in Kerala;
- An estimated 50,000 people face the threat of displacement for the construction of Dighi Industrial Port along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor;
- Around 42,000 families in Madhya Pradesh, 500 families in Maharashtra, and 200 families in Gujarat live under the threat of displacement from the Sardar Sarovar Project on the Narmada River;
- A large number of people living in forest areas in Goalpara District, Assam (including in Moylaputa, Bhalukdubi, and Dhuptola) are threatened with eviction; and,
- Several low-income communities in different cities face the threat of forced relocation/eviction for ‘smart city’ project implementation.

The fact that such a large percentage of the Indian population continues to live in insecure and inadequate conditions is an indication of a failure of state policy. Instead of focusing on improving their housing and living conditions, state actions that label the poor as ‘encroachers’ and destroy their homes, thereby directly exacerbating their marginalization and poverty, are condemnable.

Recommendations

Housing and Land Rights Network strongly condemns all acts of forced eviction, demolition of homes, displacement, and forced relocation of the urban and rural poor taking place across India. Given the severity and magnitude of the crisis and the fact that these incidents have resulted in gross human rights violations, in contravention of laws, policies, and schemes, **HLRN would like to propose the following recommendations to the Indian government – at the central, state, and local levels:**

1. Recognize and uphold the human right to adequate housing,¹⁴ which includes security of tenure and the right to freedom from forced evictions, of all residents of India.
2. Take immediate measures towards restitution of human rights of all affected persons by providing adequate resettlement, rehabilitation, and compensation; restoring homes, livelihoods, basic services, and education; and, enabling return to original sites of residence, where possible. Grant compensation to all affected persons, based on human rights assessments and criteria, for all losses—material and non-material—and damage incurred during the eviction/relocation process.
3. Investigate incidents of forced eviction and take punitive action against those found guilty of violating the law and human rights.
4. Invest adequately in low-cost housing for EWS/LIG, with a focus on social rental housing. 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 houses are constructed within five kilometres of people’s original places of habitation.
5. Recognize rights of communities, including to land, and provide security of tenure¹⁵ to residents of low-income settlements. Many families have been living in settlements for decades and have legal rights to the land based on the doctrine of ‘adverse possession.’ However, the state continues to view them as ‘encroachers’ and evicts them from their homes and land. This mind-set needs to change and also needs to be reflected in state policy.
6. Adopt UN standards for ‘adequate housing’¹⁶ in all new housing, *in situ* upgrading, and resettlement/relocation/redevelopment projects. These include: legal security of tenure; provision of basic services; habitability; affordability; accessibility (for all); adequate location; and cultural adequacy.

7. 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. Carry out human rights-based 'eviction impact assessments,'¹⁷ consistent with national and international laws and guidelines, prior to the implementation of any project.
8. Incorporate a human rights and social justice approach for implementation of all schemes related to housing, including PMAY, Smart Cities Mission, and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and ensure that no further evictions and violations of human rights take place.
9. Ensure that evicted, displaced, and homeless/landless families are considered for priority housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
10. Implement laws and court judgments upholding the human right to adequate housing, and incorporate international guidelines, particularly the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement,¹⁸ into national, state, and local laws and policies.
11. Implement recommendations made to India by all UN human rights bodies and Special Procedures, including those of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing in her mission to India report, particularly the recommendation for a "national moratorium on forced evictions and demolitions of homes."¹⁹
12. Implement recommendations made by the UN to India during its third Universal Periodic Review,²⁰ especially the three recommendations related to providing adequate housing for all. These are:
 - 161.155: Implement a human-rights based, holistic approach to ensure access to adequate housing as well as to adequate water and sanitation, also for marginalized groups, including Dalits/scheduled castes, homeless, landless, scheduled tribes, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and women.
 - 161.156: Expand the "Housing for all" scheme to realise the right to adequate housing for vulnerable people and eliminate homelessness by 2030.
 - 161.157: Continue the Housing for All policy led by the Government to eradicate by 2030 the problem of homelessness, in conformity with Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda.

Conclusion

The compilation of data by HLRN on forced evictions and displacement across urban and rural India in 2017, while being a conservative estimate of the actual scale of the crisis, reveals a distressing reality of state-sponsored de-housing and destruction of homes, property, and security of the country's poorest and most marginalized populations. The current state of affairs is only exacerbating living conditions and pushing people further into poverty and misery. Unless concerted efforts are adopted by both the central and state governments to incorporate a strong human rights approach in the conceptualization and implementation of schemes, the targets of 'housing for all' will continue to remain mere rhetoric. It is only through the respect, protection, and fulfilment of the human rights of the urban and rural poor to their lands and homes, that India's housing crisis can be resolved.

HLRN hopes that the recommendations presented above will be taken into consideration and the serious national crisis of evictions and displacement highlighted is recognized and addressed immediately.

Annexure

Table 1: Reported Incidents of Forced Eviction by Category in Urban and Rural India in 2017

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
I. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR 'CITY BEAUTIFICATION AND 'SLUM CLEARANCE' DRIVES					
1	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Cuttack-Puri Road, near Lakshmi Sagar	December 2017	Restoration of a fishery tank	8 structures
2	Delhi	Pul Mithai	December 2017	To vacate Indian Railways' land	60
3	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Shishambara in Vikasnagar	December 2017	To vacate Central Reserve Police Force land	320
4	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Nagla-Nagli Village, along the Noida Expressway	December 2017	To vacate Indian Air Force land	11
5	Kolkata, West Bengal	Opposite Mayukh Bhavan in Salt Lake	December 2017	Kolkata Book Fair	1,200
6	Surat, Gujarat	Katargam	December 2017	To vacate land of the Surat Municipal Corporation	780
7	Ranchi, Jharkhand	Garib Basti, Chaibasa	December 2017	Roro River bank clearance (Jharkhand High Court order)	113
8	Gurugram, Haryana	Sectors 38, 47, and 53	December 2017	To vacate land of the Haryana Urban Development Authority	250
9	Pune, Maharashtra	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) ground in Tukaram Nagar, Pimpri	December 2017	Land clearance, based on an order from the Prime Minister's Office in response to complaints filed by residents of Tukaram Nagar against the community living on HAL land	87
10	Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Sweeper Colony	December 2017	To vacate government land	31
11	Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Science City Centre at Daldal Seoni	December 2017	To vacate government land	40
12	Delhi	Chhatapur Village	December 2017	To vacate government land	17
13	Delhi	Pul Mithai	December 2017	To vacate Indian Railways' land	150
14	Kaibwala, Chandigarh	Kaibwala Village	December 2017	To clear the area outside Lal Dora	7
15	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Matunga and Kurla	December 2017	To clear settlements along the Tansa Pipeline (Bombay High Court order, PIL No. 140/2006)	Over 800
16	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Andheri (East), Kurla, and Bhandup	December 2017	To clear settlements along the Tansa Pipeline (Bombay High Court order, PIL No. 140/2006)	700
17	Delhi	Mata Sundari Road	November 2017	To vacate land of the Union Ministry of Urban Development/'slum clearance'	Over 40
18	Delhi	Wazirpur	November 2017	To clear Railway land	10
19	Delhi	Rajiv Camp, Safdarjung Enclave	November 2017	'Slum clearance' drive	20
20	Delhi	Chiragh	November 2017	Road clearance	15 (houses and shops)

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
21	Panchkula, Haryana	Kundi Village in Sector 20	November 2017	To vacate land of the Haryana Urban Development Authority	250
22	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Bayview Marina Garden, Cuffe Parade	November 2017	'Slum clearance' based on complaints by wealthier residents	5
23	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near Tansa pipeline in Kurla	November 2017	To clear settlements along the Tansa Pipeline (Bombay High Court order, PIL No. 140/2006)	5,500
24	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Four Bungalows, Siddharth Nagar, Andheri	November 2017	Removal of hutments on CIDCO land	400
25	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Along Nanmangalam Canal, near the Keelkattalai signal	November 2017	To clear land along the Nanmangalam Canal	40
26	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Ekta Nagar, behind Carmel Convent School	November 2017	To vacate land of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	4
27	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near Konkan Bhawan Building	November 2017	Removal of hutments on City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) land	500
28	Doda, Jammu and Kashmir	Batt Market Kilhotran Changa	November 2017	To vacate government land/'slum clearance'	12
29	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near Rabale Railway Station	October 2017	To vacate the area outside the railway station/'slum clearance'	100
30	Gurugram, Haryana	Sector 45	October 2017	To clear land of the Haryana Urban Development Authority	Over 100
31	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Along the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation building wall, Bandra (East)	October 2017	'Slum clearance'	120
32	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Garib Nagar, along Tansa pipeline, Bandra	October 2017	To clear settlements along the Tansa Pipeline (Bombay High Court order, PIL No. 140/2006)	Over 1,000
33	Chandigarh	Sector 56	October 2017	To clear government land/'slum clearance'	20
34	Delhi	Shastri Park	September 2017	'Slum clearance'/to vacate Delhi Development Authority land	50
35	Sancoale Village, Goa	Along National Highway 17-A, near St Jacinto Island	September 2017	'Slum clearance'	12
36	Kolkata, West Bengal	Subhas Sarobar	September 2017	FIFA Under-17 World Cup	22
37	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Bungalow Number 2 area, Howbagh Road	August 2017	To vacate defence land	31
38	Gurugram, Haryana	Sector 52	August 2017	To vacate land of the Haryana Urban Development Authority	100
39	Gurugram, Haryana	Bhondsi	August 2017	To prevent "unauthorized construction" on agricultural land	25
40	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near the Haji Ali shrine	July–August 2017	Beautification of the shrine and surrounding area (Bombay High Court order, PIL No. 10/2016)	31
41	Patna, Bihar	Stretch connecting Fraser Road with Exhibition Road	August 2017	Land clearance (Patna High Court order, C.W. No. 12865/2015)	40
42	Delhi	Area near Hanuman Setu	August 2017	'City beautification'	25

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
43	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Jhalana	August 2017	To vacate government land	80
44	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Indira Nagar, Kacchi Basti	August 2017	To vacate Nagar Nigam Land	53
45	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Khadda Basti	August 2017	To vacate government land (Rajasthan High Court Order)	525
46	Kaimbwala, Chandigarh	Sukhna Lake catchment area	July 2017	To remove structures in the catchment area (Punjab and Haryana High Court order, CWP No. 18253/2009)	Over 80
47	Kolkata, West Bengal	IC Block, Salt Lake City	July 2017	FIFA Under-17 World Cup	22
48	Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir	Kheora-Choudhary Nar Road	July 2017	'Slum clearance'	200 (including shops)
49	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Opposite Mahagun Moderne Residential Society in Sector 78	July 2017	Complaint by the Society residents against low-income residents over security issues	50 (including shops)
50	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Kuravakudi, near Usilampatti	July 2017	Demolition and burning of Dalit houses by other castes	50
51	Hyderabad, Telangana	Old Bowenpally and Banjara Hills Road No. 3 and Road No. 10; Gandhi Nagar; Old Malakpet; and, Debeerpura	July 2017	Removal of 'unauthorized' structures and dilapidated buildings	8 structures
52	Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir	Parimpura truck yard	July 2017	To ease traffic congestion	20
53	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Road along Bandra (East) Railway Station	July 2017	To ease traffic congestion	100
54	Kamrup, Assam	Narengi-Panikhaiti Road	July 2017	Road clearance	30
55	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Baltu Bai Nagar	June 2017	'Slum clearance' drive	99
56	Gurugram, Haryana	Sector 57	June 2017	To clear government land	250
57	Warangal, Telangana	Jagjivan Ram Colony	June 2017	To remove houses from land of the Sri Rama Sagar Project	100
58	Kolkata, West Bengal	KB-KC Block, along the canal in Salt Lake City	June 2017	'City beautification' for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup	44
59	Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh	Irrigation Colony of Kalagrah Dam	June 2017	To clear the area (National Green Tribunal order)	27
60	Delhi	Near Palam Flyover, Adarsh Basti, Gali No. 10	May 2017	'Slum clearance' from Delhi Development Authority land	Over 150
61	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ambedkar Nagar, Cuffe Parade	May 2017	'Slum clearance'	2,000
62	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	Near Radisson Blu Hotel, Kaushambi	May 2017	'Slum clearance'	200
63	Nagpur, Maharashtra	Shrikrishna Dham, Koradi Road	May 2017	'Slum clearance'	300
64	Hubballi, Karnataka	Chandana Colony	May 2017	To vacate the area (High Court of Karnataka order)	40
65	Vadodara, Gujarat	Driver Falia, Bathujinagar, Marvadi Mohallo, and Sama Pond	May 2017	Development of a park and beautification of a pond	361
66	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Devri Village	April 2017	To vacate government land	125
67	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Sirukulam Irrigation Tank, Sivakas	April 2017	To vacate the area along the Sirukulam Irrigation Tank	75
68	Vadodara, Gujarat	Sarasiya Talav	April 2017	'Slum clearance'	160

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
69	Salem, Tamil Nadu	Vincent area	April 2017	Removal of houses on land of the Draupati Amman Temple	12
70	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Sanpada	April 2017	'Slum clearance'	180
71	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Sanpada	April 2017	'Slum clearance'	140
72	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ramji Nagar, Koperkhairne	April 2017	'Slum clearance'	250
73	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ambedkar Nagar, Koperkhairne	April 2017	'Slum clearance'	212
74	Pune, Maharashtra	Kamela Buddha Vihar, Salunke Vihar Road	April 2017	Private development	272
75	Vadodara, Gujarat	Kashivishveshwar Mahadev Temple campus	April 2017	'Beautification' of the temple area	28
76	Vadodara, Gujarat	Ambedkar Circle, Alkapuri area	April 2017	Development of a 'Smart City Square'	6
77	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ekata Nagar 1	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	80
78	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ekata Nagar 2	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	60
79	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ekata Nagar 3	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	45
80	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ekata Nagar 4	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	90
81	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ekata Nagar 5	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	250
82	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near St Joseph's High School, Sector 11, Khanda Colony	March 2017	Removal of hutments on City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) land	3,500
83	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near Koparkhairane Railway Station	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	300
84	Abohar, Punjab	Khuyiansarwer Village	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	80
85	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Regional Transport Office Lane, Andheri West	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	45
86	Delhi	Kishangarh	March 2017	'Slum clearance'	50
87	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Chatripura area	February 2017	'Slum clearance'	8
88	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Baltubai, Central Business District of Belapur	January 2017	'Slum clearance'	80
89	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Panchshil Nagar 2, CBD-Belapur	January 2017	'Slum clearance'	180
90	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Durgamata Nagar, CBD-Belapur	January 2017	'Slum clearance'	250
91	Kaithal, Haryana	Kalayath	January 2017	Pond area clearance	14
92	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Along the Airport-Nandankanan Road, near Unit IV and 120 Battalion areas	January 2017	'Slum clearance'	80
93	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Garib Nagar, adjacent to Bandra (East) Railway Station	January 2017	'Slum clearance'	100
94	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Paradhi Commun - Seawoods, near Nerul Railway Station	Month not known	'Slum clearance'	190
95	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ramai Nagar	Month not known	'Slum clearance'	140

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
96	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Near Panel Railway track	Month not known	'Slum clearance'	80
97	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Panchshil Nagar	Month not known	'Slum clearance'	90
98	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Vashi Gaon	Month not known	'Slum clearance'	350
99	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Jui Nagar Railway Station track	Month not known	'Slum clearance'	125
Approximate Total Number of Homes/Structures Demolished for 'City Beautification' and 'Slum Clearance' Drives					25,482
Approximate Total Number of People Evicted for 'City Beautification' and 'Slum Clearance' Drives					122,314

II. EVICTIONS CARRIED OUT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND OSTENSIBLE 'DEVELOPMENT' PROJECTS					
100	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Ambedkar Nagar, Perambur	December 2017	Canal-widening project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 31345/2015)	65
101	Hyderabad, Telangana	Ambedkar Nagar Colony, near Ranigunj	November 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	40
102	Hyderabad, Telangana	Jai Bhavani Nagar, Vanashali Puram	November 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	238
103	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	T-Nagar, Valluvarar Kottam	November 2017	Mambalam Canal Restoration Project	900
104	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Along the Western Express Highway in Andheri (East)	November 2017	Highway expansion	70
105	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Outside Parel Railway Station	November 2017	Construction of a foot-over bridge	33
106	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Tata Nagar Basti, Belapur	November 2017	Construction of a public library	200
107	Delhi	Kathputli Colony	October 2017	Public Private Partnership redevelopment project	1,400
108	Greater Hyderabad, Telangana	Across the city	October 2017	Widening of storm water drains	93
109	Hyderabad, Telangana	Sai Cheran, VST Colony	October 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	108
110	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Rahul Nagar, Bandra (West)	October 2017	Gutter expansion	50
111	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	NTO Kuppam Fishing Hamlet, Ennore High Road	October 2017	Highway expansion	130
112	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Kumedi Kakad	October 2017	Construction of proposed Master Plan road	150
113	Panaji, Goa	Near Basaveshwara Temple, Baina	September 2017	Construction of new residential units and allegedly because residents lacked ownership documents	54
114	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Cooum River banks and Foreshore Estate, near Marina Beach	September 2017	Road-widening project (Madras High Court Order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	350
115	Jalandhar, Punjab	Kang Sabo Village, along the Jalandhar-Nakodar Highway	September 2017	Highway expansion	300
116	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Anaimedu, near Athupalam, Muthu Colony, Cheran Nagar, and Azad Nagar	September 2017	Canal-widening project	630
117	Nagpur, Maharashtra	Ganesh Housing Cooperative Society, Khamla	September 2017	Reservation of land for 'public purpose' (Bombay High Court order) (W.P. No. 585/2016)	14

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
118	Hyderabad, Telangana	T. Anjaiah Nagar	September 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	263
119	Hyderabad, Telangana	Ambedkar Nagar, Secunderabad	September 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	1,280
120	Hyderabad, Telangana	Kattelamandi Thanda, Nampally	September 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	Not known
121	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Ninded	September 2017	Expansion of airport	1,500
122	Jullang Village, Arunachal Pradesh	-	August 2017	Housing project for economically weaker sections	100
123	Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh	Bandar Road, near Poranki	August 2017	Highway expansion (Vijayawada-Machilipatnam Highway - NH 65)	90 buildings
124	Hyderabad, Telangana	Lambada Thanda, Bhaglingam Palli	August 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	118
125	Hyderabad, Telangana	Pilligudisala Basti, Chenchalguda	August 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	124
126	Hyderabad, Telangana	Jiyaguda, Purana Pul area	August 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	86
127	Hyderabad, Telangana	Sarada Nagar, Dabirpura	August 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	34
128	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Area between Thatchetlapalem and R&B Junction	August 2017	'Green belt' clearance and 'smart city' project	6
129	Amethi, Uttar Pradesh	Kathora Gram Sabha in Jagdishpur Block	July 2017	Highway expansion (National Highway 56)	100
130	Chandigarh	Indira Colony, Manimajra	July 2017	Construction of a community centre	Over 50
131	Vadodara, Gujarat	Sahakarnagar in Tandalja, and Sanjaynagar in Warasiya	July 2017	Construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	3,269
132	Hyderabad, Telangana	Pottisriramulu, Bansilalpet	July 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	102
133	Hyderabad, Telangana	Mysamma Banda, Bansilalpet	July 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	308
134	Hyderabad, Telangana	Srilanka, Bansilalpet	July 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	32
135	Hyderabad, Telangana	Kamala Nagar Basti in Yousufguda	June 2017	State "2 Bedroom Housing Programme"	60
136	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Stretch between Inter-state Bus Terminal and Clock Tower	June 2017	To develop a 'model road'	350
137	Salem, Tamil Nadu	Along the Edappadi-Sankagiri Highway at Veerappampalayam	June 2017	Highway expansion	30
138	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Near Naveen Hospital, on the highway in Karera	June 2017	Construction of a bus stand	65
139	Vadodara, Gujarat	Sanjaynagar in Warasiya	May 2017	Construction of housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	325
140	Parbhani, Maharashtra	Nehru Park	April 2017	Storm water drain expansion	25
141	Delhi	Nehru Camp, Vinod Nagar	April 2017	Highway expansion (NH 24)	194
142	Ajmer, Rajasthan	Rathodon Ki Dhani Village	March 2017	Airport construction	3
143	Kolkata, West Bengal	Area between the Dum Dum Cantonment LC Gate and the Bagjola Canal, Noapara Road, and Jessore Road	March 2017	Metro rail project	573

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
144	Delhi	Nehru Camp, Vinod Nagar	February 2017	Highway expansion (NH 24)	350
145	Delhi	Jai Bharati Camp, Vinod Nagar	February 2017	Highway expansion (NH 24)	60
146	Delhi	Rajeev Camp, Vinod Nagar	February 2017	Highway expansion (NH 24)	74
147	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Bhuri Tekri	February 2017	Construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	550
148	Vadodara, Gujarat	Ramdev Nagar	February 2017	Development of a botanical garden	700
149	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	A stretch between Rajmohalla and Bada Ganpati	January 2017	Road-widening project	145
150	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Gadi Adda	January 2017	Bridge construction	55
151	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Rahul Nagar, Bandra (West)	January 2017	Drain expansion	128
152	Delhi	Kathputli Colony	January 2017	Public Private Partnership redevelopment project	200
Approximate Total Number of Homes/Structures Demolished for Infrastructure and Ostensible 'Development' Projects					16,174
Approximate Total Number of People Evicted for Infrastructure and Ostensible 'Development' Projects					77,635

III. EVICTIONS CARRIED OUT FOR WILDLIFE AND FOREST PROTECTION					
153	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Dahisar	December 2017	Mangrove preservation	800
154	Lower Subansiri District, Assam	Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, Lower Subansiri District	December 2017	Forest protection	Not known
155	Pune, Maharashtra	Behind Tukainagar Chawl in Hingne Khurd	November 2017	Forest protection	20
156	Pune, Maharashtra	Panchgaon Parvati, Sinhagad Road	November 2017	Forest protection	44
157	Guwahati, Assam	Nabajyoti Nagar and Kankan Nagar in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary	November 2017	Forest protection (Gauhati High Court order, PIL No. 27/2017)	1,000
158	Guwahati, Assam	Village in Lahorijan Reserve Forest, along the Assam-Nagaland Inter-state Border in East Karbi Anglong, Bokajan	November 2017	Forest protection	160
159	Gurugram, Haryana	Jharsa	November 2017	'Green belt' protection	50
160	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Mandala, Mankhurd, along the Vashi creek	November 2017	Mangrove preservation	108 (including a school)
161	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Malwani, Malad (West)	November 2017	Mangrove preservation	15
162	Pune, Maharashtra	Mohammadwadi	November 2017	Forest protection	16
163	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Ansari Marg	November 2017	Forest protection (High Court of Uttarakhand order)	200
164	Gurugram, Haryana	Sushant Lok 3, Sector 57	September 2017	'Green' area clearance (National Green Tribunal order)	Over 100
165	Jayashankar Bhupalapally District, Telangana	Jalagalancha Forest, Govindraopet Village, Tadwai Mandal	September 2017	Forest protection	40
166	Angul District, Odisha	Satkosia Tiger Reserve	September 2017	Forest protection	83

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
167	Guwahati, Assam	Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary	August 2017	Wildlife and forest protection (Gauhati High Court Order, PIL No. 27/2017)	300
168	Amritsar, Punjab	Kabir Park	August 2017	'Green belt' clearance (Punjab and Haryana High Court order)	25
169	Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu	Vazhaithottam village, Niligiri District, near Mudumalai Tiger Reserve zone	August 2017	Forest protection (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 19465/2017)	60
170	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Charkop	June 2017	Mangrove preservation	123
171	Amravati District, Maharashtra	Melghat Tiger Reserve	June 2017	Forest protection	600
172	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ambojwadi in Malwani	May 2017	Mangrove preservation	427
173	Delhi	Amir Khusro Park, Nizamuddin	May 2017	Preservation of the park (High Court of Delhi order, W.P. (C) No. 7955/2015)	200
174	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Chheda Nagar, Charkop, Chembur, and Colaba	May 2017	Mangrove preservation	Over 2,000
175	Chikkamagalur, Karnataka	Thatkola Reserve Forest	April 2017	Forest protection	148
176	Chikkamagalur, Karnataka	Sargodu Reserve Forest	April 2017	Forest protection	115
177	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Charkop, Kandivali	April 2017	Forest protection	186
178	Darrang and Sonitpur Districts, Assam	Orang National Park	April 2017	Forest protection (Gauhati High Court Order, PIL No. 27/2017)	343
179	Goalpara District, Assam	Kheropara Reserve Forest	April 2017	Forest protection	32
180	Bargarh District, Odisha	Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary	April 2017	Forest protection	8
181	Barpeta, Assam	Manas National Park	December 2016–February 2017	Forest protection	700
182	Baripada, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha	Similipal Tiger Reserve	January 2017	Forest protection	70
Approximate Total Number of Homes/Structures Demolished for Wildlife and Forest Protection					7,973
Approximate Total Number of People Evicted for Wildlife and Forest Protection					38,270

IV. EVICTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT/PREVENTION					
183	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Apparao Garden, Cooum River, Chetpet	December 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	370
184	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Muthumarriamman Koil Street (Dr Ambedkar Nagar), Cooum River	December 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	13
185	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Appasamy Street, Cooum River, Chetpet	December 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	270
186	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Mackey's Garden, Greaves Road	November 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	117
187	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Rangoon Street, Cooum River, Mount Road	November 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	245

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
188	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Om Shakthi Nagar, Cooum River, Maduravoyal	November 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	108
189	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Thideer Nagar, Cooum River, Greams Road	November 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	603
190	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	MGR Colony, Cooum River, Anna Nagar	November 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	110
191	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Arumbakkam, Cooum River	November 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	100
192	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Karunanidhi Nagar	October 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	24
193	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Kalvaikarai	October 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	65
194	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Along Cooum River, East Namasivayapuram, near Choolaimedu	October 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	172
195	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Avvai Puram	October 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	110
196	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy (EVR) Salai	September 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	46
197	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Aminjikarai, along banks of Cooum River	September 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	46
198	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	MSP Nagar, Maduravoyal	September 2017	Cooum River Restoration Project (Madras High Court order, W.P. No. 39234/2015)	406
Approximate Total Number of Homes/Structures Demolished for Disaster Management/Prevention					2,805
Approximate Total Number of People Evicted for Disaster Management/Prevention					13,464

V. EVICTIONS CARRIED OUT FOR UNKNOWN AND OTHER REASONS					
199	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	Baholpur Tigri Village	December 2017	Not known	30 structures
200	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Tarini Basti, Gandamunda	November 2017	Not known	60
201	Nashik, Maharashtra	Savitri Bai Phule Nagar	October 2017	Not known	500
202	Delhi	Gulshan Chowk, Baljeet Nagar	July 2017	Not known	89
203	Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	Dohra Road, Ramganga Nagar	May 2017	Not known	6
204	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Gwala Colony, near Sirpur Pond	April 2017	Not known	20
205	Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir	Majeen Sidhra	March 2017	Not known	Over 25
206	Nagpur, Maharashtra	Goa Colony, Bhim Nagar, and New Colony	March 2017	Not known	140
207	Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Along roads from Amanaka to Telghani toll	February 2017	Not known	44
208	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Ahirkhedi	February 2017	For the Swachh Bharat Mission	72

	AFFECTED CITY/ VILLAGE AND STATE	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	PURPORTED REASON FOR THE EVICTION	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED
209	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Sukhniwas Road	January 2017	For the Swachh Bharat Mission	40
210	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Khajrana, Chandan Nagar, Ahirkhedi	Month not known	'Gunda Dharpakad Abhiyaan' – a government initiative to control crime	55
211	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Govandi	January 2017	Not known	45
212	Vadodara, Gujarat	Area between Tarsali and Ajwa Road	January 2017	Not known	181
213	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Somani Nagar, Airport Road	January 2017	Not known	Over 50
Approximate Total Number of Homes/Structures Demolished in 2017 for Other Reasons					At least 1,357
Approximate Total Number of People Evicted in Urban and Rural Areas in 2017 for Other Reasons					Over 6,513
APPROXIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMES/STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED IN URBAN AND RURAL INDIA IN 2017					AT LEAST 53,791
APPROXIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVICTED IN URBAN AND RURAL INDIA IN 2017 (Using the Census 2011 estimate of 4.8 persons per family – assuming one family per house. 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.)					OVER 258,196

Table 2: Incidents of Eviction of Homeless Persons Living under Flyovers and in Shelters in Delhi (May–November 2017)

	SITE OF EVICTION	MONTH	NUMBER OF HOMELESS FAMILIES EVICTED (APPROXIMATE)
1	Signature Bridge, Rohini	October–November 2017	100
2	Britannia Chowk	October 2017	17–18
3	Manglapuri Flyover	October 2017	18
4	Lajwanti Flyover, Janakpuri	October 2017	13
5	Mayapuri Flyover	October 2017	20
6	Sarai Kale Khan Flyover	September 2017	60
7	Nehru Place Flyover	September 2017	15
8	Hauz Khas Flyover	September–October 2017	10
9	Ber Sarai Flyover	September–October 2017	10
10	Mansarovar Park Flyover	August 2017	62
11	Homeless shelter in Amir Khusro Park, Nizamuddin	May 2017	100 (persons)
Approximate Number of Homeless Persons Affected			1,665

Source of Data: Primary and secondary research by Housing and Land Rights Network, and information from partner organizations across India*

* These include: Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities, Chennai; Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, Mumbai; Habitat and Livelihood Welfare Association, Mumbai; Ghar Hakka Sangharsh Samitee, Navi Mumbai; Deen Bandhu Samaj Sahyog, Indore; Slum Jagatthu, Bengaluru; Centre for the Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources, Bhubaneswar; Montfort Social Institute, Hyderabad; Adarsh Seva Sansthan, Jamshedpur; National Hawkers' Federation, Kolkata; Voluntary Health Association of Punjab, Chandigarh; ActionAid Association, Jaipur; National Alliance of Peoples' Movements; Kalpvriksh; and, Land Conflict Watch.

Map of India Showing Sites of Forced Eviction in 2017



Endnotes

1. General Comment 7: 'The right to adequate housing (Art. 11.1 of the Covenant): forced evictions,' United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1997. Available at: http://hlrn.org.in/documents/CESCR_General_Comment_7.pdf
2. As per the population-based classification of the Reserve Bank of India, a Tier 1 city is one with a population of 100,000 and above.
3. A Tier IV city is one with a population of 10,000–19,999.
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6. For example, see: 'Moving house to the middle of nowhere,' *The Hindu*, 3 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chennai-corporation-eviction-drive-moving-house-to-the-middle-of-nowhere/article21253155.ece>
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13. Data from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs website, January 2018. Available at: <http://moud.gov.in/cms/progresspmay.php>
14. *What Does the 'Human Right to Adequate Housing' Mean?* Housing and Land Rights Network, Delhi. Available at: http://hlrn.org.in/documents/Human_Right_to_Adequate_Housing.htm
15. See, 'Guiding Principles on Security of Tenure for the Urban Poor,' presented in the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, A/HRC/25/54, 2013. Available at: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/25/54
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