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SHRAM KO NAMAN

A PHOTO ESSAY SERIES



PHOTOGRAPHS & CAPTIONS BY
JIGNESH MISTRY

PHOTO ESSAY

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Delhi, India- Residents of Sansi Camp Shanty "Jhuggis" next to a Railway line at Badarpur Border in Delhi on September 11, 2020



The Supreme Court passed an order on August 31 for the demolition of *jhuggis* along the 140km of railway tracks in Delhi. There are large clusters of shanty settlements alongside the tracks in the city, amounting to nearly 48,000 *jhuggi jhopdis*. There is severe uncertainty over the rehabilitation prospects of these inhabitants due to the involvement of various stakeholder organisations including the Central Government, Delhi Development Authority and Northern railways. The government has ensured that they won't demolish the *jhuggis* unless the rehabilitation measures are in place. However, the tussle or shared responsibility of this situation paints a

rather grim picture for the future of these people.

During a raging pandemic where livelihoods have been severely affected, the government has not only failed to control the rising unemployment or failing economy, it has rendered the fate of these people hanging in uncertainty. Thousands of families are at the risk of being evicted without a suitable housing alternative during dire times.

THE INDIAN HOUSING CRISIS



Residents spend time on a railway track at Sonia Gandhi Camp shanty at Badarpur Border in Delhi on September 14, 2020.



Children play on a railway track at Sonia Gandhi Camp shanty at Badarpur Border in Delhi on September 14, 2020



An Oil Tanker train crosses at Sonia Gandhi Camp Badarpur Border.



Delhi, India- Residents of Sansi Camp Shanty next to a Railway track at Badarpur Border in Delhi on September 11, 2020



Children at Shanty below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi on September 17, 2020



Delhi Metro trains crosses next to Sansi Camp Shanty at Badarpur Border



A man stands next to railway track below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi on September 17, 2020



People cross a railway track below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi



A resident works in a Shanty below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi on September 17, 2020



Household belongings in a Shanty below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi on September 17, 2020



A local train crosses the residents of Sansi Camp Shanty at Badarpur Border in Delhi.



A local train crosses the residents of Sansi Camp Shanty at Badarpur Border in Delhi



A shoe shine kit lies on a bed in a Shanty at Sansi Camp next to a Railway track at Badarpur Border in Delhi on September 11, 2020



A man sleeps in a Shanty below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi



Residents of Sansi Camp Shanty next to a Railway track at Badarpur Border in Delhi on September 11, 2020



A family poses in their shanty below Safdarjung Airport Flyover at Jor Bagh in New Delhi on September 17, 2020



A father with his two daughters poses in their shanty below Safdarjung Airport Flyover.

The screeching sounds of the railway track fills these *jhuggies* just as uncertainty and hopelessness loom above these innocent lives. These are the worst affected communities by the pandemic who aren't left with much to hold on to in the first place. At such a time, destroying their homes is a severe blow to the faith these people put in the political parties that pander them for votes for a few days every five years.



PAIGAM (People's Association In Grassroots Action and Movement) is an aggregator of activists, researchers, practitioners and organisations that aims to bring together social efforts at the local, national and global levels through media advocacy and action research.

They wish to bring a seamless bridge between academia, activism, policy and public through our media, advocacy, research, grassroots fellowship and mobilization channels.

JIGNESH MISTRY is a Pune-based freelance photojournalist. He has been in the field for over 10 years. He started his career as a nightshift news photographer at a daily tabloid during his graduation. Since then, his work has been published at multiple magazines, wire agencies and national newspapers. He is also involved in undertaking photography workshops for students in academic institutions. Currently, he is engaged with the PAIGAM network and is a regular contributor at The Hindu, The Press Trust of India and the International Wire Agencies.



TEXT BY:

AMAN KHULLAR is a Research Analyst at the Centre for New Economics Studies.

