

news about the evictions in Tamil Nadu

Officials begin demolishing encroachments on Porur lake

IN DEEP WATER: Schoolchildren return home on Thursday afternoon in the middle of an eviction drive being conducted by the collectorates of Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur and the PWD, in the Porur Lake. —

CHENNAI : More than 5,000 people are likely to be displaced by an eviction drive launched by the Kancheepuram Collectorate and the Public Works Department at the Porur Lake on Thursday morning.

With the lake lying on the border between Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram, officials said that eviction operations on the Thiruvallur side would begin when Kancheepuram was done.

Fifteen earthmovers and tracked excavators were pressed into service to demolish more than 100 houses and several hundred hutments that lie just within the banks of the lake. Officials said that there was no count of the number of houses being demolished. (...)

The Hindu, 26 november 2006, J. Malarvizh

>>> [Schoolchildren return to find homes gone](#)

3-year-old drownings; boats sought to retrieve belongings

Officials continue with demolitions in Porur

CHENNAI/TAMBARAM: Officials continued to bring down huts, houses, prayer halls and commercial establishments that had encroached on the Porur lake for about two decades for the second successive day on Friday.

On Friday, hundreds of huts on either sides of the lake — split into two halves after the construction of Chennai Bypass — were pulled down by giant earthmovers. (...)

The Hindu, 25 november 2006, Staff Reporter

>>> [Officials continue with demolitions in Porur](#)

BULLDOZING THE POOR? People are worried that Chennai authorities may bulldoze petty shops in a show of obeying court orders.

Chennai has become unliveable: SC

Chennai: "Where am I supposed to go? I had built a house, not a hut in a slum. I had put all my life's earnings into this house and now all is lost."

The lament comes from Velli, whose house in Porur has been razed down by Corporation officials in their fresh drive to remove encroachments.

The bulldozing began after the Supreme Court upheld the Madras High Court's order to remove 32,000 illegal and unauthorised constructions in the city. The Supreme Court had said: "The whole city of Chennai is now unliveable because you allowed unauthorised constructions to flourish in violation of all building Laws. Let the people live in peace. Let there be some discipline." Unauthorised buildings started springing up everywhere in Chennai as they were routinely regularised by the local administration.

With the regularisation law declared unconstitutional by the court, an estimated Rs 800 crore of regularisation fee collected till now is to be refunded. (...)

CNN-IBN, November 27, 2006 Rohini Mohan

>>> [Chennai has become unliveable: SC](#)

Officials say not less than 15,000 people are affected

WAITING FOR RELIEF: Those evicted from the Porur lake with their belongings on their way to rehabilitation sites on Saturday.

CHENNAI: The drive against encroachments on the Porur lake entered the third day on Saturday. Families evicted from huts and houses began shifting, believed to be the largest displacement in the Chennai region in recent years.

While officials were not in a position to confirm the number of houses brought down and the families forced to evacuate, a modest estimate said that not less than 15,000 people were affected. They were quick to add that all the displaced families would be provided free housing sites at Nalloor village near Kunrathur in Kancheepuram district and Thervaaai Kandigai village near Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district.

A majority of the families whose huts and houses were brought down managed to retrieve whatever they could and transported them in trucks, tempos and motorised rickshaws. (...)

The Hindu, 26 november 2006, K. Manikandan

>>> Encroachment drive enters third day

All-out drive against encroachments along Adyar, Cooum and Buckingham Canal

Three lakh people to be evicted

CHENNAI: Houses of about three lakh people living along the city's waterways are facing demolition.

Authorities are preparing for an all-out eviction drive against encroachers along the Adyar and Cooum rivers and Buckingham Canal under the Chennai City River Conservation Project (CCRCP).

The official estimate of the number of families facing eviction is 33,313. Of these, residents of 8,164 tenements — nearly 40,000 people — who live in areas that hinder the ongoing desilting efforts will be evicted and resettled on the city outskirts. (...)

The Hindu - Friday, Dec 22, 2006

>>> Three lakh people to be evicted