

Major eviction drive: 600 families now homeless

- 1,500 police personnel from Khammam and neighbouring districts deployed at the site
- Eviction drive was carried out in Velugumatla area
- 600 families had reportedly been residing on about 60 acres of Bhoodan land
- Authorities state land belongs to the govt
- They said notices had been issued on multiple occasions asking the occupants to vacate

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KHAMMAM

TENSION prevailed in Khammam town on Tuesday after revenue authorities, backed by a heavy police force, demolished huts erected on Bhoodan land in the outskirts of the town.

The eviction drive was carried out in Velugumatla area, where nearly 600 families had report-

TENSION IN KHAMMAM AS POLICE DEMOLISH HUTS ON BHOODAN LAND



edly been residing on about 60 acres of Bhoodan land for the past several years. According to official sources, around 1,500 police personnel from Khammam and neighbouring districts were deployed at the site in the early hours to prevent any law and order issues.

Earthmovers were pressed into service to clear the huts. Residents, including women and elderly persons, attempted

to resist the demolition, leading to tense scenes. Police, however, brought the situation under control and ensured that no major untoward incident occurred, officials added.

Authorities maintained that the land belongs to the government and that notices had been issued on multiple occasions asking the occupants to vacate. "As they allegedly failed to comply, the administration proceed-



ed with the eviction as per due process," they said.

The displaced families expressed anguish over the action, alleging that they were not provided alternative accommodation. They claimed to have been living there for nearly a decade and had even approached the courts seeking regularisation and house site pattas.

The district unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist)

demanding that the government immediately allot alternative house sites to the affected families.

Meanwhile, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi strongly condemned the demolition. BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader and Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra termed the action "unjust and inhuman" and alleged that poor families who had been seeking pattas were



rendered homeless.

In a statement, he urged the government to halt the demolitions and grant pattas to eligible beneficiaries. He further alleged that influential persons and real estate interests were eyeing the

land and that using police force against the poor reflected an "authoritarian approach".

Heavy police deployment continued in the area as a precautionary measure, officials said.

Lands taken over as per Board orders: AC

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THE district administration said that lands in Velugumatla were taken into government possession as per the directions of the Telangana Bhoodan Yagna Board, and clarified that only unauthorised constructions were removed.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy, along with Law and Order Additional DCP Prasad Rao, said the action was taken following due process and in compliance with the Board's orders.

The Additional Collector said that in 1953, Kalvala Raja Ramarao had donated 31 acres and 7 guntas of land in Survey Nos. 147, 148 and 149 under the Bhoodan movement. Over the years, the land had allegedly been encroached upon.

He said that notices were first issued in 2019 by the Khammam Urban Tahsildar asking encroachers to vacate the land. The notices were challenged in the High Court, which observed that the Tahsildar lacked

Temporary shelter arranged for displaced persons



jurisdiction in matters concerning Bhoodan lands and granted interim relief, while making it clear that the nature of Bhoodan land should not be altered.

"In 2023, certain petitioners approached the High Court seeking protection from demolition of structures constructed on the land. The court issued status quo orders with regard to specific constructions of

the petitioners and directed that no new constructions be taken up on the remaining land," he said.

Srinivasa Reddy said the Bhoodan Yagna Board conducted an inquiry and, on January 17, 2026, concluded that no allotments had been made to the petitioners.

He clarified that five acres each had been earmarked for a Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

and a Model School, and no other allocations were made.

According to the Additional Collector, the Board issued notices on January 17, 2026, directing 308 encroachers to vacate the land. He stated that claims circulating on social media that the government had allotted house sites to the occupants were not supported by official records.

The Additional Collector said the government had not made any allotments in the Velugumatla Bhoodan lands and that the land would be utilised for public purposes as per government directions in future.

He added that temporary shelter had been arranged for displaced persons at the Kammavari Sangham building and that belongings of the occupants were safely stored at Ambedkar Bhavan. The items would be handed over to the respective persons upon request.

Additional DCP Prasad Rao said cases had also been registered against individuals who allegedly collected money from people illegally in the name of land allotments.

BJP condemns demolition

"Where should they go without being shown alternative land or temporary shelter?"

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THE Bharatiya Janata Party condemned the demolition of huts belonging to poor families residing on Bhoodan land in Velugumatla area of Khammam, terming the action "unjust and inhuman". Bharatiya Janata Party state treasurer Devaki Vasudeva Rao said hundreds of poor families who had been living on the land for nearly a decade were evicted with heavy police deployment and their huts razed.

In a statement on Tuesday, he expressed anger over the authorities allegedly demolishing houses built by the poor "with their hard-earned money" without providing alternative accommodation. "Asking families who have been living there for ten years to vacate overnight is not justified. Where should they go without being shown alternative land or temporary shelter?" he asked.

Rao said that when a similar situation arose earlier in the Gollapadu channel area, the BJP had intervened and ensured that eligible families were provided alternative housing under the leadership of former National BC Com-



mission chairman Tallozu Achari.

He asserted that the BJP has always stood by the poor in safeguarding their housing rights.

Alleging that several double-bedroom houses constructed in the state were lying vacant, he said it was unfortunate that the government had failed to distribute them to eligible beneficiaries while demolishing huts of the poor. Rao demanded that the Congress government immediately change its approach towards the poor and allocate house sites to all eligible families. He also urged the authorities to provide temporary shelter, food and drinking water to those who had lost their homes.

The BJP leader called upon the government to act with humanity and address the concerns of the affected families without delay.

Self-Governance Day celebrated

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NAGARKURNOOL

SELF-Governance Day was celebrated in a grand manner at Sripuram Primary School in Nagarkurnool mandal. On this occasion, students took charge of school administration and showcased their leadership qualities.

According to Headmistress V. Sujatha, Saikiran served as DEO, Meenakshi as MEO, Oliva Grace as Complex HM, and Lasya as HM, taking up administrative responsibilities for the day.

MEO Bhaskar Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and appreciated the performance of the students. Along with HM Sujatha, teachers Chalapathi Rao, Prasanna Lakshmi, Praneetha, and the students actively participated and made the event successful.



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Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest said that such programmes help develop leadership, responsibility, self-confidence, and decision-making skills among students. He advised students to actively participate not only in academics but also

in co-curricular activities to become responsible citizens in the future.

As part of the programme, students conducted mock meetings, supervised classes, and shared their experiences in school administration. Teachers guided them and explained the importance of discipline, teamwork, and self-governance.

Advocates launch relay hunger strike

Demand ups for implementation of Advocates' Protection Act

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WANAPARTHY

THE Wanaparthi Bar Association launched a relay hunger strike at the District Court premises on Tuesday, demanding the enactment of the Advocates' Protection Act to curb attacks on members of the legal fraternity.

Speaking at the protest camp, Bar Association President D. Kiran Kumar said the agitation would be intensified until the Act is implemented. He urged the government to respond promptly to what he described as a legitimate and long-pending demand of advocates across the State.

Kiran Kumar recalled that advocates had earlier undertaken a padayatra from the Jogulamba Temple in Alampur, which was halted



at Bhoothpur due to unavoidable reasons. He said the march resumed on the 23rd of this month from Bhoothpur under the call of "Chalo Secretariat." In solidarity with the advocates participating in the padayatra, the Wanaparthi Bar Association has organised relay hunger

strikes that will continue until the 27th.

Expressing concern over recurring attacks on lawyers, he said the proposed Advocates' Protection Act would not create any difficulty for either the Central or State governments. However, he alleged that the government

has not taken concrete steps toward its enactment.

He appealed to the government to introduce and pass the Advocates' Protection Act in the forthcoming Assembly sessions. Failing this, he warned that advocates across the State would continue peaceful and united

protests until the legislation is achieved.

On the first day of the relay hunger strike, Bar Association President D. Kiran Kumar, Secretary Venkataramana, and advocates Brahman, Ashok Rao, Dhara Venkatesh, Shyam, Narendra Babu, Trinath, Raghuvaran, Rahul, and others participated.

Senior advocates Vanaganti Nageshwar, Mohan Goud, Mohan Kumar, Venkateshwar Reddy, Umamaheshwar Reddy, Tirupatayya Goud, Krishnavardhan Reddy, Chandrasekhar Rao, Manmohan Rao, Shashibhushan, Dinesh Reddy, Tirupatayya, along with women advocates Pushpa Latha, Kalyani, Renuka, Lakshmi, junior advocates, and others, were present.

Drainage works draw flak in Nizampet

Locals alleged that the drain was constructed at a higher level than the road surface, preventing rainwater from flowing into it and instead causing water to stagnate on the road

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RESIDENTS of Nizampet 42nd Division in Khammam have alleged official apathy over faulty side-drain construction that has led to severe waterlogging and traffic inconvenience on a key stretch of road in the locality. The problem has surfaced



on the busy road leading towards Rohith Test Tube Baby Hospital, where the municipality recently undertook side-drain works.

Locals alleged that the drain was constructed at a higher level than the road surface, preventing rainwater from flowing into it and in-

stead causing water to stagnate on the road.

As a result, even light showers have been leading to water accumulation, turning the road into a virtual pond and causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians. Residents said the stretch is frequently used as a diver-



sion route during protests or traffic disruptions on the main road, making it a crucial link for commuters.

They further alleged that the drain construction has reduced the effective width of the road, leading to increased congestion. Two-wheelers, autos and cars have report-

edly been skidding due to slippery conditions, raising safety concerns. With stagnant water remaining on the road, locals fear an increase in mosquito breeding and potential health issues in the area.

Residents claimed that complaints were earlier lodged through the municipal grievance mechanism, but no corrective action has been taken so far.

They demanded that authorities reconstruct the road in alignment with the drain's height and ensure proper levelling to facilitate smooth water flow. The residents urged municipal officials to intervene immediately and resolve the issue before the road becomes completely unusable.

Khammam girl selected for nat'l volleyball tourney

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GD Hansini, a resident of Guttala Bazar, Khammam, and a student of 12th grade at Harvest Public School, has been selected to participate in the 46th National Sub-Junior Volleyball Championship. The tournament, organized by the Volleyball Federation of India, will be held in Hooghly, West Bengal, from February 24 to March 1.

Hansini has been training in volleyball since her childhood under

coach Akbar Ali at Sardar Patel Stadium. Over the years, she has steadily showcased her talent and has participated in three consecutive national-level competitions, earning recognition as a promising national-level player.

Speaking on the occasion, Khammam District Youth Services and Sports Officer Tumburu Sunil Kumar, Harvest Public School Principal Parvathi Reddy, correspondent Ravi Marut, stadium coaches, and local dignitaries congratulated Hansini on her achievement.

