

# HOMELESS

Shelter is the only way to get rid of man's misery. Right to shelter towards a 'Fundamental Right' is the right to have a place to live. Hence, right to education, right to privacy more importantly and the right to personal liberty are of no use for those who do not have a place to live. Housing is nothing but a very elemental right.

# INDIAN TO HOME

Indian law doesn't explicitly guarantee housing rights, but it's interpreted to be included in the constitution, which protects the right to life. Indian courts have expanded the meaning of the concept of unenumerated rights, and housing is one of them. In 1950, the supreme court took a literal interpretation of Article 21, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. The court held that the right to live in a decent home is a fundamental right under Article 21. This decision has been followed by several other decisions of the supreme court, which have expanded the meaning of the right to life to include the right to a decent home.

However, starting around 1969, the government began to implement a policy of forced evictions and demolition of slums and informal settlements. This policy was justified on the grounds of urban planning and development, but it had a devastating impact on the lives of millions of people who lived in these settlements. The government argued that these settlements were illegal and that the people living there were squatters. This led to widespread human rights violations, including forced evictions, torture, and even deaths.

In response to these violations, several organizations and activists started to campaign for the rights of the poor and marginalized communities. One such organization is the National Campaign for Slum Dwellers (NCS), which was founded in 1984. NCS has been instrumental in advocating for the rights of slum dwellers and has won several legal battles against the government. In 1994, the supreme court ruled that the government cannot force evictions without providing alternative housing. This decision has been a major victory for the movement for housing rights in India.

Today, the struggle for housing rights continues in India. While the government has made some progress in providing affordable housing, there is still a long way to go. The movement for housing rights is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a holistic approach. It involves not only legal battles but also social mobilization, advocacy, and community organizing. The struggle for housing rights is a struggle for justice, equality, and dignity for all.

# PROBLEMS STATEMENT

*India faces a significant rural housing crisis, characterized by stark regional disparities. In some areas, there are high levels of rural households living in vacant houses, indicating a lack of basic infrastructure and services. This is compounded by a lack of availability and accessibility of suitable land for new housing developments, leading to severe housing shortages with minimal available options.*

# HOUSELESSNESS: CENSUS TER

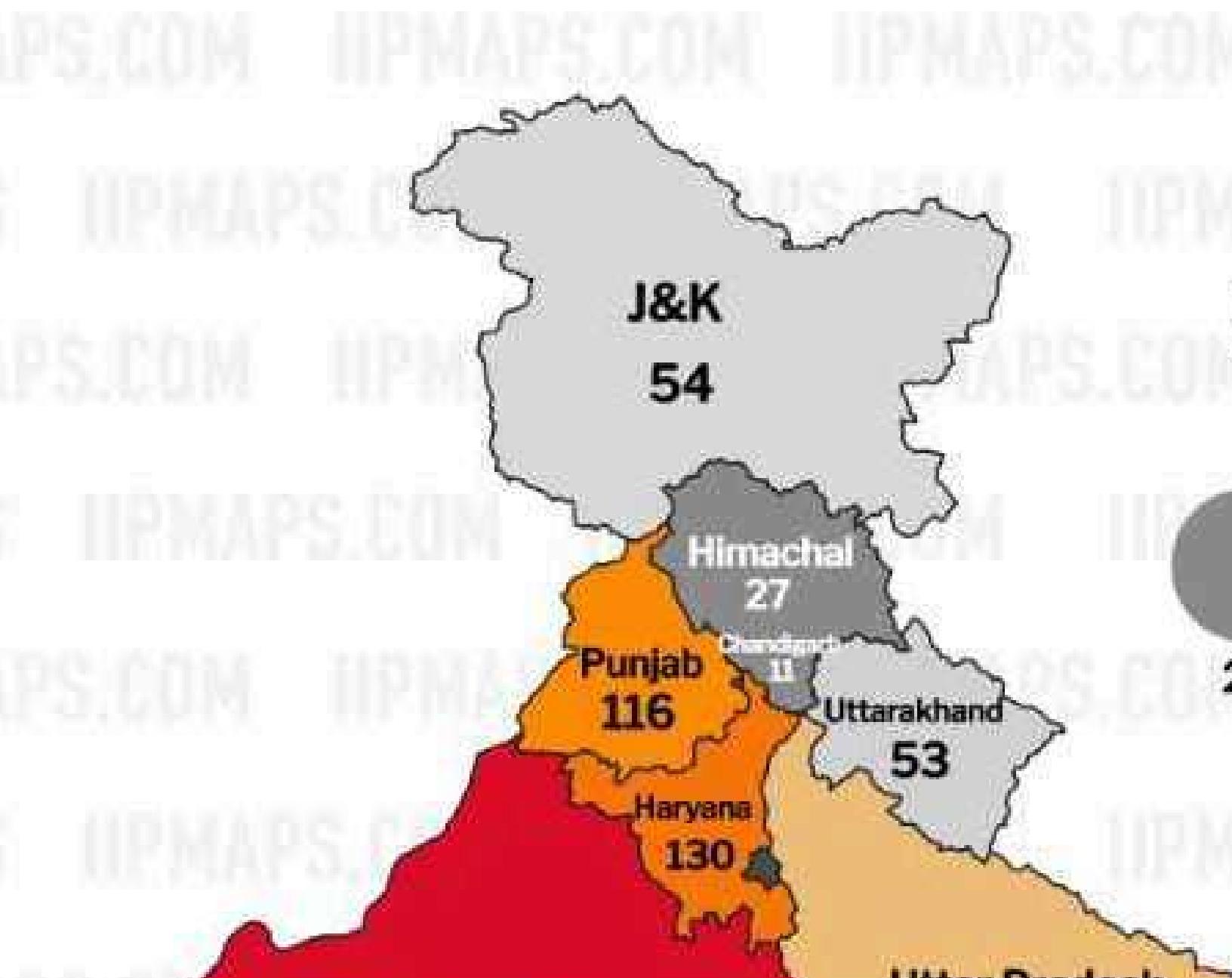
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*Type of Household*

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*Normal Household*

# MAPPING THE HOUSELESSNESS IN INDIA

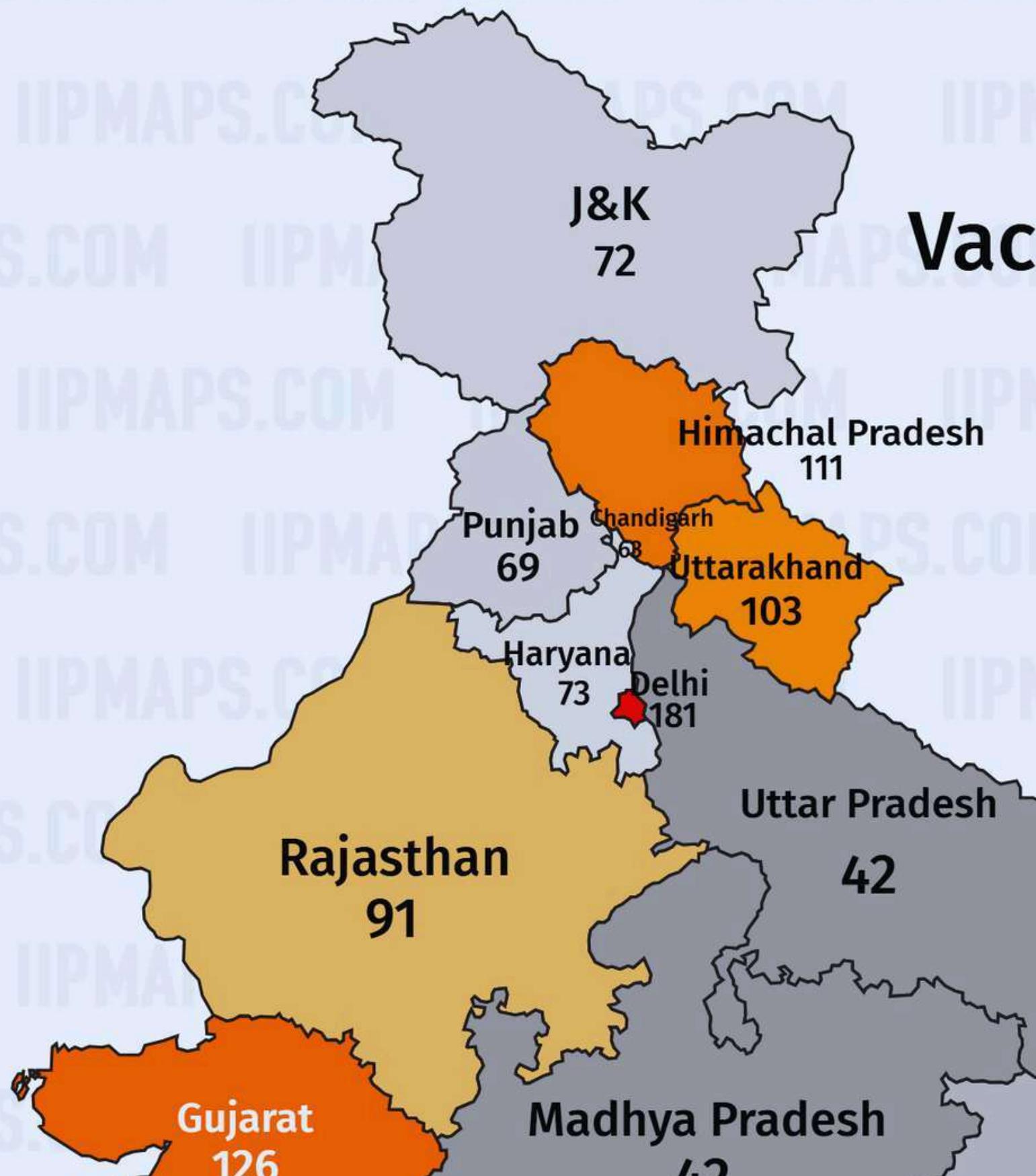


# RURAL HOUSEHOLD STATE WISE IN INDIA

The map 1 reveals rural homelessness rates across Indian states.

Western and central states have the highest rates of rural homelessness. Gujarat (139), and Madhya Pradesh (137) have the highest rates of rural homelessness.

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Map 2 reveals vacant houses in Indian states.

- Rajasthan (rural houselessness) has high rural houselessness with a high number of vacant houses (174).
- Goa (rural houselessness) has the highest rural houselessness with 174,000 units of vacant houses (174).
- Gujarat (rural houselessness) has a considerable rural houselessness with 174,000 units of vacant houses (174).

# **PMAY'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING RURAL HOUSELESSNESS AND VACANCY**

## **PMAY'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING RURAL HOUSELESSNESS AND VACANCY**

Rural houselessness and vacancy are significant challenges in India, particularly in rural areas. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has been instrumental in addressing these issues through its Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) and Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) verticals.

### **Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC)**

- Financial assistance for individual plots
- Targeted support is needed for states like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

### **Affordable Rental Housing (ARH)**

# The Challenge of Outda

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understand how PMAY

# POL RECOMMEN

**Repurpose Vacant Houses:** States with high numbers of vacant houses, such as Goa (174 vacant houses) and Bihar (159), should implement policies to repurpose these properties for populations in need. This could include rent properties at affordable rates, or the redistribution of unused housing stock.

**Affordable Housing Schemes:** States with high numbers of rural households in poverty, such as Rajasthan (158 rural households per 1000 in poverty) and Bihar (155), should prioritize affordable housing in rural areas. This should include ensuring basic amenities like water, electricity, and sanitation are available in homes livable and attractive to rural populations.

# CONCL

The analysis of rural housing conditions reveals significant disparities, with some regions facing homelessness and other areas experiencing housing shortages despite their proximity to urban centers.