2019 Chennai water crisis

The **2019** Chennai water crisis is an ongoing water crisis occurring in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), most notably in the city of [Chennai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai) in [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu). On 19 June 2019, Chennai city officials declared that "Day Zero", or the day when almost no water is left, had been reached, as all the four main reservoirs supplying water to the city had run dry.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-2) Two years of deficient monsoon rainfall, particularly in late 2017 and throughout much of 2018 had led to this crisis.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-3)

Because tap water has stopped running, some families have been relying on alternative water sources such as distant, unreliable public water pumps, and costly private water tankers.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-washPo-4)

Background[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2019_Chennai_water_crisis&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Background)]

*Main article:*[*Water management in Chennai*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_management_in_Chennai)

Chennai has historically relied on annual monsoon rains to replenish its water reservoirs since the rivers are polluted with sewage.

There are four reservoirs in the city, namely, Red Hills, Cholavaram, Poondi and Chembarambakkam, with a combined capacity of 11,057 mcft.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-Hindu_RainsReplenishReservoirs-5)

**Extreme drought**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2019_Chennai_water_crisis&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Extreme drought)]

Three years of failed monsoon from 2016,2017,2018.The 2018 northeast monsoon season was one of the driest ever recorded in Chennai, as only 343.7 mm of rain had fallen compared to an average of 757.6 mm, which was a 55% rainfall deficit. Additionally, the entire state of Tamil Nadu had recorded a 23% rainfall deficit in that season.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-6) A [major heat wave in India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_heat_wave_in_India_and_Pakistan) from May to June 2019 further exacerbated the problem by evaporating any water still left in reservoirs.

**Government mismanagement**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2019_Chennai_water_crisis&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Government mismanagement)]

Government mismanagement and unplanned construction has also been a factor to blame for this crisis.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-7)

Impact[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2019_Chennai_water_crisis&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Impact)]

Millions of people are without consistent access to water. A lack of rainwater and groundwater has left four of the [reservoirs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reservoirs) that supply the city completely dry. The inability to meet demand for water has forced businesses like hotels and restaurants to close. Water tankers from areas of [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu) unaffected by drought have been bringing water into some areas of the city. However, government tankers can take up to a month to appear after requested, so some families, wealthy residents, and business owners have opted to pay for costly private water tankers. The poor who live in [slums](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slums) do not have this option; a family in Chennai's slums may receive as little as 30 litres (7.9 US gallons) of water every day compared to an average American household which uses 1,150 litres (300 US gallons) of water a day.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-cnnChennai1-8)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Chennai_water_crisis#cite_note-washPo-4)

Many fights over water have also broken out as a result of the conflict. In one such conflict that occurred on 15 June 2019, a woman was stabbed and the perpetrator was turned in to the police