

Chennai water crisis worsens, residents shift home to avoid inconvenience

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The state government declared nearly 17 districts including Chennai and Kancheepuram as drought-hit earlier this month.



The four reservoirs supplying water to the city have nearly gone empty. (Representative image) | Photo Credit: Getty Images

Chennai: As the reservoirs supplying water to Chennai nearly go empty, the city residents have started to move out of the city or shifting to other locations hoping to get better water supply.

The failed monsoon in 2018 and insufficient rainfall in 2017 have led to depletion of ground water thereby causing severe water crisis in the city.

The state government declared nearly 17 districts including Chennai and Kancheepuram as drought-hit earlier this month.

According to a report in *Times of India*, these two districts reported insufficient rains between 19 percent and 59 percent last year.

A city resident said he moved to KK Nagar hoping to get steady supply of water.

We were getting water for just three hours a day. We couldn't handle it because we would sometimes not be at the homes," the report quoted 50-year-old Ashok Kumar.

The four reservoirs supplying water to the city have nearly gone empty. Chennai resident K Gopal left the city for a relative home in Kerala to evade water crisis. But he was again back to the city facing the crisis.

As the temperature rises across the country, Bengaluru also faces similar water crisis. According to reports, groundwater in Bengaluru will not be available by the year 2020. As the locals of Bengaluru are struggling to fight the dry spell, the administration seems to be inefficient in managing the water crisis. According to activists, the government needs to come up with a strong water policy.

Once known as the Garden City of India, Bengaluru is now struggling to provide water to its residents. TV Ramachandra, a professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), told Mirror Now that there is no way one can reach the groundwater resources. Ramachandra blamed 88 per cent reduction in green cover and 79 per cent reduction in water bodies to be the root cause of the ensuing water crisis.