

HERE'S HOW THE WATER IN CHENNAI'S RESERVOIRS HAS SHRUNK OVER THE YEARS

Relevant for: Geography | Topic: Distribution of key natural resources - Water Resources incl. Rivers & related issues in world & India

Dry earth: A view of the bone-dry Chembarambakkam reservoir.

Satellite images indicate an alarming level of loss of water extent in lakes in and around Chennai. Dry conditions apart, the crisis has been exacerbated by a lack of proper management.

Instead of ad hoc measures such as ferrying water from distant watersheds to the city, what is needed are sustainable solutions to make it water secure.

Here's a look at how the water in some of Chennai's major reservoirs has shrunk over the recent years.

The satellite images show the water extent in select lakes in 2016 and then in 2019. In 2016, the lakes peaked in storage due to floods the previous year. Chembarambakkam, which overflowed in 2015, is dry with less than 1 mcft of water remaining as of June 2019. Puzhal has gone bone dry, the Poondi reservoir has barely any water left.

Chembarambakkam

Puzhal

Poondi

Thenneri

(Source: Raj Bhagat Palanichamy, WRI India; Satellite images from Copernicus Sentinel, LandSat (USGS/NASA), EC-JRC)

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New find is bigger in size than one discovered in 2016, also in Arunachal Pradesh

The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) has lost one of its beloved members — 41-year-old Orangutan, an extant species of great apes. According to NZP,

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