# Water crisis: a case of Chennai

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**Abstract**

The increasing demand for water supply, coupled with an ever-increasing population, rapid urbanization, and unplanned measures, put excessive pressure on the water resources. water scarcity is expected to become a major source of national political conflict in the future. The Chennai metropolitan area (CMA) comprising Chennai city, with a population of 4.9 million is the fourth-largest urban agglomeration in India. Frequent water supply crises and unreliable water supply are common phenomena in Chennai city. The 2019 Chennai water crisis in India resulted in severe disruptions to social order and daily life. This water crisis is attributed to rapid land-use change and consequent loss of water bodies, not having a proper water management system and irregularities in monsoon. In this research, an in-depth examination of the water policy of 1994 in light of the provisions in the National Water Policy of 2012 has been carried out which revealed that several important features of the National Water Policy of 2012 are lacking in Tamil Nadu's policy. For example, it makes no mention of ecological water needs, managing water requirements through cropping patterns changes, and so on.

## I. Introduction

The 2030 Development Agenda of the United Nations is a compilation of globally accepted goals that include a holistic strategy for direct actions and policies toward sustainable development (United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, 2015). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted as a framework for accomplishing an enriched as well as sustainable future. Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to improve the quality, availability, and management of freshwater resources in order to facilitate long-term water and sanitation access.

The increasing demand for water supply, coupled with an ever-increasing population, rapid urbanization, and unplanned measures, put excessive pressure on the water resources. At present, the process of urbanization, in less developed countries is faster than the developed countries. Water resource which is one of the main components of livelihood is predicted to face severe stress on account of this growing population in India. Therefore, water scarcity is expected to become a major source of national political conflict in the future (UN-Water, 2022). Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and 17 other cities in India are quickly moving to achieve zero groundwater levels as revealed in the Niti Aayog's 2018 Composite Water

Management Index (CWMI) report. This will threaten access for 100 million people.

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