

Tamil Nadu's Mandatory Rainwater Harvesting Law — Building-Level Groundwater Recharge

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · India

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Tamil Nadu's 2003 ordinance made rooftop rainwater harvesting compulsory on every building; surveys recorded Chennai's groundwater table rising about 50% within five years, though the city's 2019 water crisis exposed the limits of a one-off mandate.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[Government of Tamil Nadu \(Municipal Administration & Water Supply Dept.\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[CSE India — Legislation on Rainwater Harvesting](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[IEEE — Rainwater Harvesting: The Success Story of Chennai](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[The News Minute — 16 yrs after landmark rainwater harvesting rule in TN, Chennai thirsts for water](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[The Hindu \(via PressReader\) — Chennai's groundwater table witnesses marginal increase](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

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