

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

P. Mahesh
12/9/17
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

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12/9/2017

Director (T.D.)

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12/9

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Khabar
Kai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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India must tackle floods better

SHREYA CHALLAGALLA

Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, floods in Nepal, Bangladesh and India are wreaking havoc. In the past few months, five Indian states experienced flooding - Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar and Assam. While the exact number is unknown, the death toll is expected to have easily crossed 1,000. It's important to note that of the five states, Bihar and Assam are flood prone, while Rajasthan and Gujarat, although dry states, have experienced inundation in recent years. Despite a clear history of flooding, why is India so under-prepared? While there's nothing we can do about excessive rain, we can certainly mitigate flooding to a large extent.

A good place to look to understand the problem is the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) Report 10 of 2017 that examines the effectiveness of flood control and flood forecast performance of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR). The report examined Flood Management Programme projects, flood forecasting stations, River Management Activities and large dams across 17 States and Union Territories in India. Thus, the report is clearly not reflective of India as a whole, but certainly sheds light on the status of flood control management in the country.

A couple of observations from the report were striking. Firstly, of 517 works approved between 2007-2016, only 57 per cent were completed. The non-completion could be due to multiple reasons - delay in release or shortfall of sanctioned funds, or delays in submitting project proposals. In addition, in some cases funds were diverted towards works that were not approved. For example, in the three states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu alone, Rs 36.50 crore was diverted towards works that lacked approval.

Secondly, projects such as the canalisation of Sakki Nallah in Punjab and the embankment of Adyar River near Nandambakkam in Tamil Nadu were delayed, implying that the states are now less likely to be able to effectively cope with flooding. In Bihar for example, 10 of the 24 projects scrutinised by the CAG, 10 were delayed by 10-75 months. Moreover, as river topography constantly changes it is important for projects to be completed in time for the fear of them becoming redundant otherwise.

Lastly, it was found that project objectives were not met due to inadequate



quate planning. The report highlights examples of projects such as the strengthening of embankments of Longai river in Assam and bank protection along Bhagirathi river in West Bengal, where despite completion of projects, flooding was still a common phenomenon as the developers did not account for prevention of backflow of the river, "non-establishment of embankment near the sluice gate of the river" and errors in the benefit-cost ratio. What is even more striking is that majority of Indian dams lack Emergency Action Plans. Has India not learnt from the horrible 1979 Morbi dam disaster in Gujarat?

These are serious problems that need to be looked into. Obviously, the first step is to complete sanctioned projects on time, but more importantly, there should be no scope of errors in project planning, especially in data collection. The CAG report points to instances where data was based on "probable damage" and not actual damage, where data was considered for one year instead of a longer range of say 10 or more years and where only a single survey was used rather than multiple surveys for a more accurate picture.

Flood control in India is complicated and to a large extent neglected for the simple reason that "flood control" as a subject is absent from the Union, State and Concurrent Lists of the Constitution of India. This is surprising considering the fact that flooding is a periodic event in India and the resulting death toll has increased from 3300 in 2007 to 6500 in 2013 according to a UN report "The Human Cost of Weather Related Disasters". The same report reveals that children in rural households exposed to recurrent flooding are more stunted and underweight than those in non-flood villages. The only mention of any subject related to flood control is drainage, water and embankment, all of which fall under the State List. We can infer from this that the onus of flood control largely falls on the state government, while the role of the central government, according to the CAG report, is limited to providing assistance in the form of technical, advisory,

policy formulation, scrutiny, clearance and monitoring of flood control to state governments.

So, what is the way forward? To begin with, both prevention and emergency preparedness along with recovery should be emphasized. This includes, but is not limited to upgrading drainage systems and improving surface water drainage, putting into place superior flood warning systems and focusing on wetlands, greening of embankments and other greening measures along with the construction of reservoirs and floodways. Furthermore, buildings should be constructed above prescribed flood levels, and flood control projects need to be built in such a way that they can be easily upgraded later at low cost. Moreover, timely completion of projects will not only avoid cost escalation due to delays but will also prevent flooding to a large extent.

It is however unfair and incorrect to always blame the state. The role of the citizen must be recognised especially in urban flooding. Improper disposal of garbage leads to the clogging of drainage systems, flooding roads even with the slightest of rain. Moreover, due to urbanisation, concrete has rapidly replaced permeable soil which cannot absorb excess water. Illegal construction in low lying and flood prone areas also adds to the problem. Besides, despite the civic authorities issuing notices to residents in dilapidated buildings in Mumbai, they refuse to vacate, perhaps due to the measly rent they currently pay. What does one do in such a situation?

India can learn from The Netherlands, a country that is prone to flooding and one that has effectively managed its water. Through a complex system of dikes, dams, dunes, canals, tough land use laws, seawalls and sluices it has managed to keep unwanted water out. Moreover, the country gives its four major rivers enough room to flow and drain, even increasing the depth of flood channels and desilting when needed. While such a system is definitely expensive and time-consuming, India can benefit from improved systems and technology in place as it will be better geared to combat flooding, eventually saving the lives and homes of thousands. This is not to say that India lacks flood control systems - they exist but need to be improved. The much talked about mammoth river linking project is a good and welcome step in this direction.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12/9/12 in the

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Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

Residents, activists raise alarm over landfill in Ghonda Gujran

Vibha Sharma / Joydeep Thakur

■ reporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Sitting and chatting with three other neighbours in a cowshed, Raj Choudhury a resident of Garhi Mandu village on the eastern banks of the Yamuna, was apparently tense.

"Ever since we heard that the civic authorities are planning to come up with a new dumping site at Ghonda Gujran, people are spending sleepless nights thinking about the future of our children. We won't allow any waste management site here at any cost," he said.

After the Ghazipur landfill site accident last week, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation has become active on its demand to provide new land for establishing a new site.

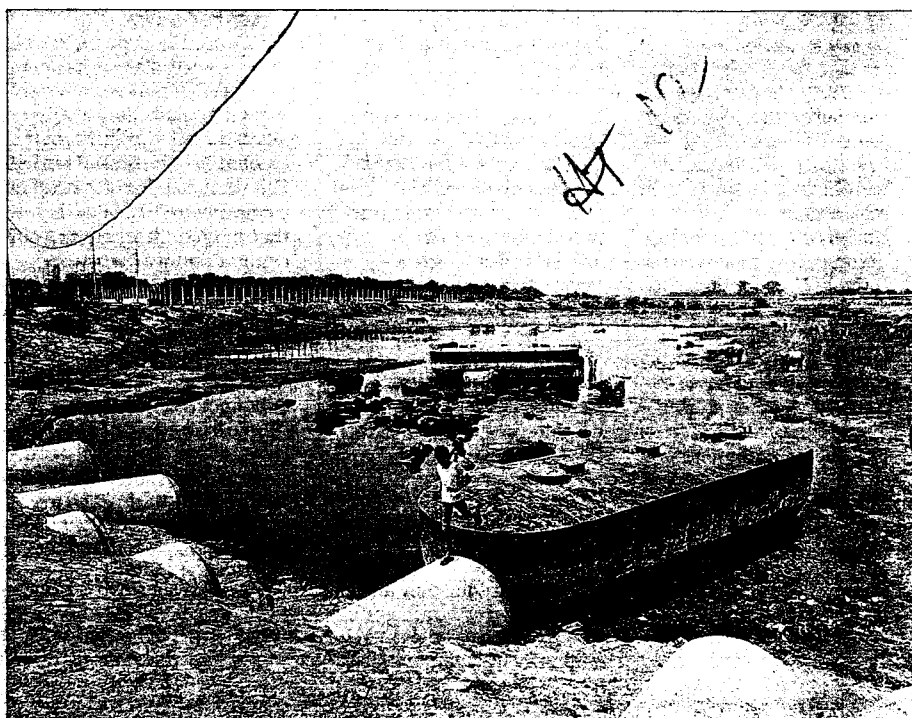
The proposed site at Ghonda Gujran is located off the Pushta Road between Shastri Park and Wazirabad and is barely two kilometres from the banks of the river Yamuna. The bowl-shaped site is more than 10 feet below the road level and retains flood and rain water for days. It is now used for cattle grazing.

Even though the civic officials refused to divulge any details about the new landfill site, the project seems to have already run into rough weather. Thousand of locals had staged a protest on Thursday vowing not to allow the area turn into a dumping yard.

"Earlier the authorities had stopped farming in these areas claiming that the fertilisers were adding to the river's pollution. Will not the dumping yard cause more pollution and contaminate the river water?" said Rekha Rani former local councillor.

A section of the locals who live in shanties at flood banks are also apprehensive that they would be evicted.

"We are poor people. Someone told us that we would be evicted very soon. Where are we supposed to go?" said Regina Bibi a



■ The EDMC proposes to set up a new landfill in Ghonda Gujran after L-G ordered ban on dumping of waste at Ghazipur landfill. Local residents and experts are protesting the move.

ARUN SHARMA/HT PHOTO

local resident.

EDMC officials however said that they have not asked any resident to vacate the land. "There is no question of eviction as the project is still in planning stage," said EDMC official.

River expert Manoj Mishra has also shot a letter to the chief minister and Lieutenant governor requesting them not to allow any dumping yard on the Yamuna floodplains. Other experts have also raised concerns.

"A dumping site on the flood plains would be catastrophic. It would not just play havoc with the ground water recharging process but the leachate could also contaminate the river water," said ecologist CR Babu.

Sources said that the project had earlier been denied permission by an NGT-appointed com-

RIVER EXPERT MANOJ MISHRA HAS ALSO SHOT A LETTER TO THE CM AND L-G NOT TO ALLOW A DUMPING YARD ON THE YAMUNA FLOODPLAINS

mittee.

On the contrary, civic officials claimed that the plant would be developed with modern technology and all precautionary measures would be taken to ensure it doesn't affect the ecosystem as well as floodplains.

"Our plan is to come up with an integrated solid waste management plant where waste would be segregated and treated with minimum emission and residue. There will be no garbage mountain unlike Ghazipur," said Ran-

bir Singh, commissioner, EDMC.

The officials also added that most of the houses constructed on floodplain were illegal and if timely action is not taken the encroachment would expand to take over the entire 150 acres of vacant land on the flood plain.

"At present, two villages exist here and despite allotting them land at new Usampur area and new Garhi Mandu years ago, people have not shifted. The encroachment is increasing," said a senior official.

Earlier when the civic authorities had attempted to shift the dumping to a site at Rani Khera in northwest Delhi, villagers were up in arms. Irrate residents had even deflated the tyres of the vehicles.

The civic authorities said that the National Green Tribunal will now decide the fate of the project.

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IIT quake warning system for N India

Move Will Alert People In Seismic Cities

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New Delhi: IIT-Roorkee, is looking to deploy an early earthquake warning system across all cities and towns in seismic-prone, north India where people can be alerted about impending powerful tremors a few seconds in advance through sirens.

The institute has already started installing sirens in select cities in earthquake-prone Uttarakhand after successfully completing its pilot project. About 100 sirens will be installed at public places in Dehradun and Haldwani.

"The institute has now been in touch with the Uttar Pradesh government for setting up required sensors and sirens in different towns/cities of the state," said ML Sharma of department of earthquake engineering, IIT Roorkee.

As part of its pilot project, which was started in 2015, IIT-Roorkee had deployed 84 sensors in seismic region of Garhwal Himalayas with the help of ministry of earth sciences (MoES). These on-site sensors stream data in real-time to a computer server at the Institute using the networks of BSNL and statewide area network of Uttarakhand.

TREMOR WARNING THROUGH SIRENS

- Sensors to be installed at various locations to detect **primary waves** (or initial tremors)
- **Primary waves travel much faster** and reach the target much ahead of the damaging seismic waves, giving a lead time
- An **on-site seismic monitor can quickly detect such waves** and transmit information to processing centres
- **Processing centres, in turn, can issue an earthquake warning** in real-time by sounding sirens
- Alerts can also be sent out through **mobile phones, TV and radio** to help prevent loss of life
- **Lead time of a few seconds to a minute can help take remedial actions** like vacating buildings and shutting down critical operations



Sirens, connected to the server, have been fitted within the campus of IIT-Roorkee to warn of an impending high magnitude earthquake in the region.

"The pilot was successfully completed (in March) and we have a working system within the IIT-Roorkee campus with sirens. Now, we are deploying the same for the first time for public use in Dehradun and Haldwani," said Sharma who is also the principal investigator of the project.

He noted that though predicting earthquakes is impossible, it is possible to save people living in distant cities through a sim-

ple warning system which will give them enough lead time to reach a safe open place in case of an impending earthquake.

"We are ready with the system. Any government in northern India, including Delhi, can approach us for setting up sirens to alert people about impending earthquake," he said, adding that researchers have also been working on a model to alert people through their mobile phones. As many as 29 cities and towns, including Delhi and capitals of nine north and north-eastern states, fall under "severe" to "very severe" seismic zones.

दिनांक 11.02.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindu Jan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Lakes overflow; many areas inundated in city

Rain misery continues; engineers asked to act fast

BENGALURU: Bengaluru on Sunday continued to reel under problems due to the incessant rain that has lashed the city over the past few days.

The city received 66 mm of rainfall on Saturday midnight, which resulted in waterlogging at several areas, including Kengeri, Mysore-Bangalore Road, HSR Layout, BTM Layout, Madiwala and Electronic City.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Kengeri received the highest rainfall, measuring 167 mm.

As *DH* had reported on Saturday, three persons died near Minerva Circle. Another youth was washed away in a drain near Seshadripuram.

Area like Jayanagar, JP Nagar, Koramangala, Gottigere, HSR Layout and Thanisandra were frequently flooded. Waterlogging on Mysore Road and the collapsing of a part of the Infosys compound wall in Electronic City following heavy rain have worsened the situation.

A few lakes, including the



A number of vehicles were stranded on the busy Mysuru Road near the Kengeri bus stand on Sunday, following heavy rain on Saturday night. *DH* PHOTO/RANJUP

ones at Madiwala, Dubasipalya, Yentaganahalli and Binnamangala, were overflowing, leading to flooding in nearby areas.

The breaching of the Dubasipalya lake left the KSRTC bus stand in Kengeri inundated, and Mysore Road flooded early in the morning. No casualties were reported. About 60 people stranded in a bus on Mysore Road were rescued

by fire personnel.

Commuting around Kengeri, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Nyanadanahalli, Nagarbhavi and surrounding areas was near impossible on Sunday morning.

"The rainfall is quite unusual this time as it is bringing the city to a standstill at certain places. This is certainly a cause of worry for us. We do not know whether to live

in this place or move to another house," said Preethi, a resident of Madiwala, whose house was flooded three times in a month.

Meanwhile, several lakes, including the ones at Lalbagh, Madiwala, Bellandur and Varthur, breached on Sunday. Visitors to Lalbagh were disappointed as they could not go on their morning walks.

» Rains, Page 3A

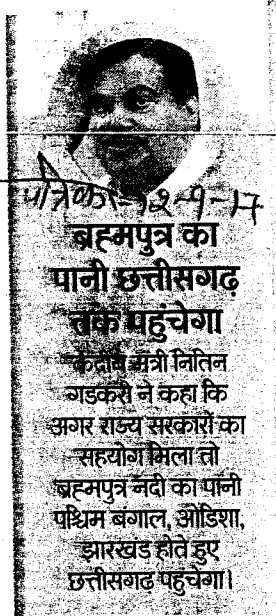
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बीसलपुर बांध की भराव क्षमता बढ़ाने

का निर्णय

बधेरा पत्रिका बीसलपुर
बांध की भराव क्षमता 315.5
से एक मीटर और बढ़ाकर
316.5 करने के सुकारी
प्रस्ताव का क्षेत्र में विरोध शुरू
हो गया है। ग्रामीणों के अनुसार
भराव क्षमता बढ़ाने से बधेरा की
कृषि भूमि सहित निचला
आवासीय इलाका डूब जाएगा।
बीसलपुर बांध का भराव क्षेत्र
बढ़ाने की बजाए नहर के जरिए
चम्बल नदी से छोड़ दिया जाए।
ऐसे में बीसलपुर बांध का वाटर
लेवल भी 315.5 मीटर हमेशा
बना रह सकता है। साथ में डूब
क्षेत्र भी नहीं बढ़ेगा। प्रदेश में
पेयजल आपूर्ति के लिए भी
पानी की कमी नहीं आएगी।

पत्रिका-12-9-17

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खूबसूरत बनाने से पहले अफसरों ने देखी डर्टी पिक्चर...

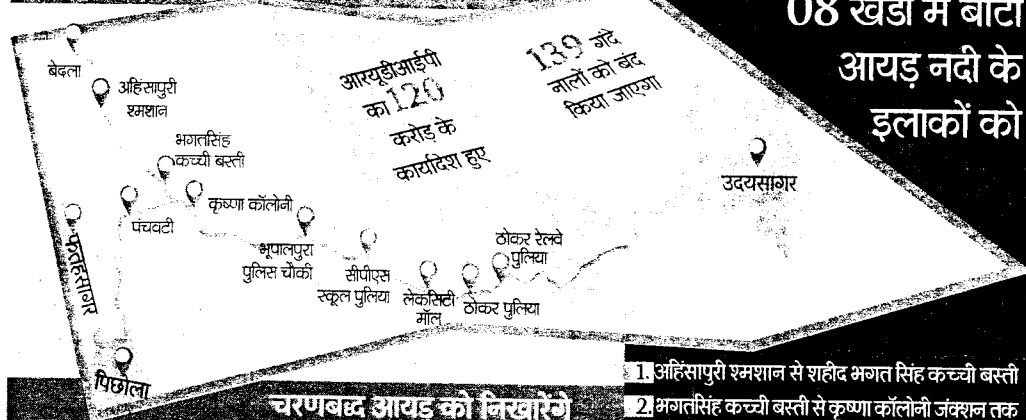
आयड़ को निखारने का रोड मैप तैयार

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

उदयपुर : शहर के बीच से गुजरने वाली आयड़ नदी के कायाकल्प पर अब काम शुरू किया जा रहा है। नदी के अभी क्या हाल है और इस कैसे खूबसूरत बना सकते हैं, इसके लिए रविवार को अधिकारियों ने आयड़ की डर्टी पिक्चर देखी तो बहुत बुरा लगा लेकिन उन्होंने संकल्प दोहराया कि सब मिलकर आयड़ को सुंदर और स्वच्छ बना देंगे।

इधर, राजस्थान अरबन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डवलपमेंट प्रोजेक्ट (आरयूआईडीपी) ने इसके लिए 120 करोड़ रुपये के कार्यदेश जारी कर दिए हैं। संभावना है कि गांधी जयंती से पहले कार्य शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। जिला कलक्टर बिष्णुचरण मल्लिक के नेतृत्व में अधिकारियों ने रविवार को आयड़ की बदहाली देखी और इस स्थिति में सुधार पर चर्चा करते हुए कार्ययोजना बनाई।

युं हीगे आयड़ को स्वच्छ और सुंदर बनाने का काम



08 खंडों में बांटा
आयड़ नदी के
इलाकों को

चरणबद्ध आयड़ को निखारेंगे

नदी में झाड़ियों और मलबे की सफाई।

नदी पेटे से गंदगी निकाली जाएगी।

नदी पेटे में गिर रहे 139 गंदे नालों को बंद किया जाएगा और एसटीपी से जोड़ा जाएगा।

जाएगा।

नदी पेटे में चिह्नित अतिक्रमण हटाने पर कार्य होगा।

दोनों किनारों पर पार्क एवं पाथ-वे बनाए जाएंगे।

1. अहिंसापुरी श्मशान से शहीद भगत सिंह कच्ची बस्ती
2. भगतसिंह कच्ची बस्ती से कृष्णा कॉलोनी जंक्शन तक
3. कृष्णा कॉलोनी से गुमानिया वाळा जंक्शन
4. गुमानिया जंक्शन से भूपालपुर पुलिस चौकी तक
5. पुलिस चौकी से सीपीएस स्कूल पुलिया तक
6. सीपीएस पुलिया से लेकसिटी मॉल पुलिया तक
7. मॉल से ठोकर पुलिया तक
8. ठोकर पुलिया से ठोकर रेलवे पुलिया

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मानसून की बेरुखी सूखे का खौफ, टेंशन में सरकार नए सूखा मैनुअल में उलझी कलेक्टर्स

कम बारिश वाले जिलों
में बिगड़ने लगे हाल

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

भोपाल. प्रदेश में सूखे के बादल मंडरा रहे हैं। जिलों में मानसून की बेरुखी से घटते पानी और बिगड़ते हालात ने सरकार की परेशानी और बढ़ा दी है। सूखा मैनुअल में कलेक्टर्स नए नियमों में उलझ गए हैं, क्योंकि इस बार जिलों में सूखा इन्ही नए नियमों के तहत घोषित होगा। बारिश नहीं होने के कारण अधिकतर जिले इस दायरे में हैं, लेकिन केंद्र से मदद लाना टेढ़ी खीर साबित हो रहा है।

33 जिलों में कम बारिश

केंद्र सरकार ने दिसंबर 2016 में सूखे का नया मैनुअल भेजा है। इसके हिसाब से ही अब सूखा राहत व मुआवजा को लेकर केंद्र सरकार राज्यों को मदद देगी। इस समझने के लिए हाल ही में कांफ्रेंसिंग भी हुई। कलेक्टर्स की परेशानी यह किसान सूखे के हालात के कारण बढ़-चढ़कर मुआवजा मांगते हैं, जबकि केंद्र के स्तर पर नियमों में लगातार कसावट आ रही है। बीते सालों में केंद्र से मदद मिलना मुश्किल है। ऐसे में पेयजल प्रबंधन की स्थिति को भी संभालना है। सूबे के 33 जिलों में कम बारिश के कारण सूखे के चपेट में आने के हालात बन गए हैं। इस कारण अधिकतर जिलों में कलेक्टर्स को पेयजल प्रबंधन की पूरी रिपोर्ट बनाकर भेजने के लिए कहा गया है।
तकरार के हालात : ग्वालियर संभाग में सबसे अधिक संकट है। यहाँ महज 90 दिन का पानी बचा है। सरकार ने आस-पास के बांधों से पानी लेकर ग्वालियर में आपूर्ति करना तय किया है, लेकिन इसे लेकर भी बजट व अमले की कमी है।