ANDHRA CEMENTS LIMITED

Ref. ACL.SEC:2021

30th September, 2021

The Manager Listing Department

Listing Department National Stock Exchan

National Stock Exchange of India Ltd

Exchange Plaza, C-1, G-Block Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400051

Fax No. 022-26598237/38/8347/48

The Manager **BSE Limited**

Listing Department

Listing Department 25th Floor, New Trading Ring, P J Towers, Dalal Street, Fort

Mumbai – 400 001 **Fax No.** 022-

22723121/2037/2039/41

Dear Sirs,

Sub: Intimation under Reg, 30 of LODR - Reg

We inform you that our Lenders Edelweiss ARC informed today to the Company that the earlier EOI Process has been closed by the consortium of lenders due to non-receipt of acceptable offer from the bidders.

E-Auction Notice for assignment of debt held by EARC (in its capacity as trustee of EARC Trust SC 244 and 427) and Karur Vysya Bank under Swiss Challenge Method at a Reserve Price of Rs. 434.6 Cr. has been published on 29th September 2021. Published Notice attached for your kind reference.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,
For ANDHRA CEMENTS LTD

Sd/-G. TIRUPATI RAO COMPANY SECRETARY Mobile - 9989773421



Website: www.andhracements.com.E.mail: investorcell@andhracements.com CIN: L26942AP1936PLC002379

El Salvador's crypto lessons

The Central American nation's experience of bitcoin as legal tender offers a cautionary tale for other large countries

DEVANGSHU DATTA New Delhi, 28 September

he tiny Central American nation of El Salvador has embarked on an interesting experiment by recognising bitcoin as legal tender. This is proving painful for many of its citizens but it's a useful "pilot" project for larger economies that are contemplating the peculiarities of this new asset class.

El Salvador has a population of 6.5 million and GDP of about \$27 billion. At a nominal per capita of less than \$4,200, it is not a rich country. In 2001, it "dollarised", which is a traditional Latin remedy for high inflation. It replaced its currency, then the colon, with the USD. This month, at the urging of its President, Nayib Bukele, who is a crypto-enthusiast, it adopted bitcoin as legal tender as well. This means it now has two parallel legal currencies, USD and bitcoin.

It created a government wallet for bitcoin, called Chivo. Every citizen was given a grant of \$30 worth of bitcoin, which they could download from Chivo to their wallets to encourage adoption. Some 200 new ATMs are being installed to enable dollars to be converted into bitcoin. The new law means every business must accept bitcoin as legal tender for goods or services, unless it is unable to provide the the transaction.

mal transactions. They are America) and remit \$4 billion- tice for this task.



What El Salvador did ■ Created a government wallet for bitcoin called Chivo

■ Gave every citizen a grant of \$30 worth of bitcoin, which they could download from Chivo to their wallets ■ Installed 200 ATMs to convert dollars to bitcoins

■ Passed a law requiring every business to accept bitcoin as legal tender unless it is unable to provide the technology needed to process the transaction

■ McDonald's, local groceries, taxi services, etc., have started accepting bitcoin in El Salvador, and around 10 per cent of daily transactions by value are now being done in bitcoin

Nature-based, people-centred

The second in a series of weekly articles on the new National Water Policy

understandably wary of holding plus annually. an asset, which often swings 10 per cent in value on an average bitcoin remittances could save blockchain-watchers. day and 25-30 per cent on the country \$400 million a year "swing sessions".

market and doesn't seem to the bitcoin plan was announced coin's levels of volatility. have been well-received in El in July. The logic for adopting

solutions for water

transaction fees.

What happened

demonstrations in

cryptocurrency markets

■ Spread on the interest

El Salvador pays on its

national debt over US

treasury rates widened

Ratings agencies

downgraded El

Salvador

■ Turmoil in

■ Riots and

El Salvador

The spread on the interest El Independent estimates suggest another is lack of technology. In technology needed to process Salvador pays on its national that this would be closer to a local survey, less than 5 per debt over US treasury rates has somewhere between \$150-200 cent of Salvadoreans claimed to The adoption has led to widened. Ratings agencies million. All these estimates understand how bitcoin works, turmoil in the cryptocurrency downgraded El Salvador once have big error factors given bit-

Bitcoins are created by solv-Salvador itself. The value of bitcoin, according to Bukele, is ing complicated mathematical smartphone penetration is less bitcoin crashed by 19 per cent that it could help to give puzzles ("mining" in crypto jar- than 40 per cent. Local businesson September 7, the first day unbanked residents better gon) and verifying transactions es are citing this as a reason for of adoption. Chivo was o- access to financial services. made in the currency on an avoiding bitcoin adoption. verwhelmed by users trying Crucially, it may also lower trans-open electronic ledger called action costs for small cross-bor- the blockchain. While this is, in how this experiment plays out There have been riots and der remittances, which consti-theory, something anybody in practice and central bankers demonstrations against the new tute 20 per cent of El Salvador's could do, it needs huge everywhere will be able to gauge currency. Most citizens don't GDP. Some 2 million citizens live amounts of power to run the what difficulties arise in practice want to accept the crypto in nor- abroad (mostly in North specialised servers used in prac- if bitcoin is used for a high vol-

Bitcoin mining consumes more power than Belgium on a daily basis. So this is not environmentally friendly. That's one of the reasons China has offered for cracking down on cryptocurrency. However, various bitcoin mining consortiums are trying to set up operations using renewables or geothermal power, which could make mining greener.

Another issue is that the money supply increases at a fixed rate, and every transaction recorded on the blockchain involves a unique bitcoin. This makes it hard to carry out norlending operations. Fractional reserve banking is difficult, except by converting every transaction to a fiat currency before lending, and converting back when servicing the loan. This means accepting massive risks on the exchange rate. This process will be doubly tricky in El Salvador, which relies on the US Federal Reserve for money supply changes on its "other" currency. The Fed is very unlikely to tinker with its monetary policy for the sake of the tiny Central American republic.

On the flip side, we will get a sense of how crypto works as it's used in normal daily transactions. McDonald's, local groceries, taxi services, etc., have started accepting bitcoin in El Salvador, and it's estimated that around 10 per cent of daily transactions by value are now being done in hitcoin

It's not a problem doing tiny transactions because every bitcoin can be split into one hundred million equal, unique pieces of code (each called a Satoshi, after the mysterious creator of the algorithm). But it can take a long time for any transaction to be registered and verified on the blockchain since this The government estimates must be confirmed by multiple

One of the barriers to adoption is lack of understanding and and 68 per cent were against adoption. Transactions are hard without a smartphone, and

It will be fascinating to see ume of micro-transactions.

Some NE states lagging in **Covid vaccination**

At current pace, some states in the region will take two years to vaccinate their entire eligible population

ISHAAN GERA

New Delhi, 28 September

Covid vaccine doses on a mission mode 1.000 doses in the last seven days. At on September 17, but five states admin-this pace, it would cover the entire popistered 55 per cent of those doses.

5.6 million doses daily, the administra- Manipur was over 21,000. Meghalaya tion of vaccines is inequitable. At the and Nagaland would only be able to current pace, India will be able to com- administer the first dose for all by 2023. pletely vaccinate its adult

Countries like

the USA are

vaccine

population by April 2022 assuming there is a hiatus of four months to administer experiencing the second dose of Covishield. But state-wide hesitancy, and variations show that if atten- some Indian tion is not paid to the lagging states are also states, it may take another **exhibiting this** two years to vaccinate the **trend** entire country.

Smaller states like Goa and Himachal tancy, and some Indian states are also Pradesh have been able to administer exhibiting this trend. the first dose to their entire population. Larger states like Uttar Pradesh. Tamil cent of the population receiving the Nadu, Jharkhand and West Bengal may first dose, not only did the proportion only be able to cover the eligible popu- of first doses to the overall daily vaccilation with the first dose (above 18 years nations reduce from 70 per cent to 63 of age) by February next year.

ing 723,514 first doses daily, and on doses administered also reduced from September 20, it had covered just 50 per 410,000 to 380,000. cent of its eligible population. Tamil daily. It would take 77 days to cover its from 835,975 to 723,514.

less than a month away from adminis- When will states vaccinate their eligible population tering first doses to its eligible population. Maharashtra, which has administered the first dose to 61 per cent of the people, will take 65 days to partially vaccinate all 18+ adults in the state.

Northeastern states are the worst performers. Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur are slowest with vaccinations. Manipur has covered 61 per cent of its population with India was able to administer 22 million the first dose but it administered under ulation with a first dose by January 2024. Although the country is averaging The peak daily first dose vaccination for

The reasons for the slow pace are not clear, as the latest figures on vaccine allocation and availability with the states are not available.

Whether the states will be able to administer the doses to the entire population is also suspect. Countries like the US are experiencing vaccine hesi-

In West Bengal, despite only 50 per

per cent between September 5 and Uttar Pradesh has been administer- September 20, but the number of first

Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, a 4.1 per Nadu has been able to administer the cent decline in the proportion of first first dose to 58 per cent and vaccinates doses has been accompanied by a 0.55 per cent of its eligible population decrease in first dose administration

entire population. Madhya Pradesh is VACCINATION CAN TAKE TWO YEARS

First dose **Fully vaccinated** Manipur 29-Dec-23 27-Apr-24 14-Jul-23 11-Nov-23 Meghalaya 06-Jun-23 06-Feb-23 10-May-22 07-Sep-22 Arunachal Pradesh 13-Apr-22 11-Aug-22 Uttar Pradesh 06-Feb-22 06-Jun-22 Jharkhand 03-Feb-22 03-Jun-22 28-Jan-22 28-May-22 06-May-22 Tamil Nadu 06-Jan-22 03-Jan-22 03-May-22 24-Dec-21 23-Apr-22 Punjab 18-Apr-22 19-Dec-21 Maharashtra 15-Dec-21 14-Apr-22 06-Dec-21 05-Apr-22 24-Nov-21 24-Mar-22 Bihar Madhya Pradesh 29-0ct-21 26-Feb-22 24-0ct-21 21-Feb-22 22-0ct-21 Kerala 19-Feb-22 Gujarat 18-0ct-21 15-Feb-22 15-Feb-22 Haryana 18-0ct-21

Eligible population translates into 18+ people Source: CoWIN dashboard, covid19india.org

FIRST DOSE ADMINISTRATION SLOWS (First doses as a proportion of total doses)

(instables as a proportion to tall aboves) (in 70)						
	20 Aug '21	05 Sep'21	20 Sep ' 21			
West Bengal	78.8	69.7	63			
Uttar Pradesh	74	69.9	65.8			
Nagaland	42.9	24	14.2			
Jharkhand	74.1	75.9	66.7			
Telangana	75.1	57.7	69.1			
Bihar	82.2	77.4	65.3			
Tamil Nadu	77.5	78.7	63.7			
Meghalaya	58.1	41.7	22.8			
Punjab	67.9	72.6	66			
Maharashtra	68	67.9	61.4			
Manipur	30.1	24.4	20.9			
Odisha	67.5	70.2	57.6			
Andhra Pradesh	68.5	52.3	52.2			
Chhattisgarh	52.3	57.7	55			
States which still have 35 per cent population or more population						

States which still have 35 per cent population or more popula unvaccinated; Source: covid19india.org

NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATION OF A.P. LTD

Mandapam Road, Tadepalli, Guntur District Tel:08645-797162/797163

Email: pdwe@nredcap.in, we@nredcap.in Website: www.nredcap.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tenders are invited for "Installation, Testing & Commissioning, Operation

and Maintenance (10 Years) of 500 KWp Floating Solar Power Plant a

Sangam Jagarlamudi Summer Storage Tank belongs to Guntur Municipa

Corporation, Guntur District" in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Please visit the

VC & Managing Director

Ref: NREDCAP/SE/FLOATING SOLAR/42-252/2021-22.

ploaded on 30.09.2021.

KVB) Karur Vysya Bank

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED Registered & Central Office, No. 20, Erode Road Vadivel Nagar, L.N.S., Karur - 639002 [CIN No: L65110TN1916PLC001295 [e-Mail:kvb_sig@kvbmail.com][Website: www.kvb.co.in

[Tel No: 04324-269441] [Fax No: 04324-225700

NOTICE

Pursuant to Bank's Internal Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading read with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Inside Trading) Regulations, 2015, and any amendments thereto, the Trading Window for dealing in securities of the Bank shall remain closed from Friday, October 01, 2021 till the declaration of financial results of the Bank for the quarter ended September 30, 2021 and two days thereafter. During this period, no trading shall be made in the Bank's securities by the Directors, Promoters and Promoters Group, Designated Persons, all Connected Persons and their Immediate Relatives as defined in the "Code of Conduct".

The date of meeting of the Board to consider and take on record the un-audited financial results of the Bank for the quarter ended September 30, 2021 will be informed in due course.

For further information/updates on this, the investors may visit the Bank's website www.kvb.co.in and Stock Exchange's website www.nseindia.com.

For The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

Place: Karur Date: 27.09.2021

Srinivasarao M Company Secretary

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RUNNING THE HOSPITAL - RAIHAN HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED AT ERATTUPETTA, KOTTAYAM (IN LIQUIDATION)

l**ator :** CA Mahalingam Suresh Kuma Liquidator Address: SPP & Co., No.27/9, NivedhVikas

Pankaia Mill Road, Pulivakulam, Coimbatore - 641 045

Email: msureshkumar@icai.org Contact No: 73730-52341

M/s Raihan Healthcare Private Limited [Corporate Debtor], Erattupetta Kottayam is under liquidation vide the order no.MA/30/KOB/2019 &

IA/71/KOB/2019 IN IBA/240/2019 dated 16.12.2019 passed by Hon'ble NCLT, Kochi Bench and appointed CA.Mahalingam Suresh Kumar as the Liquidator of the CD w.e.f. 07.02.2020. As the CD is pending for sale under IBC, 2016 and in the meanwhile to continue the CD as a going concern I am inviting EOI from the interested applicants to run the hospital on revenue sharing basis for a Shorter period of 4-6 months for the COVID care & other treatment purpose. Interested parties can contact the Liquidator for seeking the Terms & Condition for applying and submit the same

Last date for submission of EOI documents: 5th October 2021, 5:00 PM

Date: 28/09/2021 Place: Coimbatore

CA Mahalingam Suresh Kumar, Liquidator. IP Reg.No:IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00110/2017-2018/10217 Ph.no:73730-52341/ mail: msureshkumar@icai.org

Note: Liquidator shall have right to reject any EoI without giving any reason for the same. All matters are subject to the jurisdiction of NCLT,

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. * Edelweis CIN - U67100MH2007PLC174759 ss House, Off C.S.T Road, Kalina, Mumbai - 400 098

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF DEBT "Party" or "Parties") under the extant Reserve Bank of India guidelines for sale of the

as on 31.03.2021 (Rs. Crore)

ollowing Non-Performing Asset under Swiss Challenge Process. Detailed Terms and Conditions of the process are captured in the Process Document, which can be downloaded by the prospective Party from the link provided herein

ttps://www.edelweissarc.in/PropertySale.aspx. Outstanding

Andhra Cements Limited	1,012.3	434.6				
That, the loan account of the Borrower together with underlying securities mortgaged/charged/						
created by Borrower and Guarantors was assigned in favour of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction						
Company Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of EARC Trust SC 244 and SC 427						
(hereinafter referred as "EARC"/secured creditor) vide various Assignment Agreements under						
the provision of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of						
Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002. Pursuant to the said assignment, EARC stepped into						
the shoes of the Assignor Banks and therefore, exercises its rights as the secured creditor.						
Sale will be on 100% cash basis for assignment of debt of the borrower held by EARC and						
Karur Vysya Bank and the auction	shall be through "Swiss Challen	ge Method", under				
SARFAESI Act, 2002 and as per the extant Reserve Bank Guidelines on "as is, where is",						

hatever there is" and without recourse basis based on an existing offer Earnest Money Deposit Last date of submission of Date & time of e-auction (Rs. Crore) EMD and bid 18-10-2021 25.0 20-10-2021 Time - 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM n case of any query or any clarification, you may contact the following dealing officer at our end Sr. No. Name of the Official Contact Details Mobile- +91 88282 19649 Mr. Harshit Changoiwala Email- Harshit.changoiwala@edelweissfin.com

Ms. Shivangi Varma Mobile- +91 98190 99457 Email- Shivangi.Varma@edelweissfin.com Date: 29.09.2021 **Authorised Signatory** For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limit

		TION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
	Regula	vency Resolution Process of Corporate Persons) ations, 2016
		ARTICULARS
1	Name of the Corporate Debtor	Digicable Network (India) Limited
2	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	01 June 2007
3	Authority under which corporate debtor is	Registrar of Companies, Mumbai (Maharashtra) under
4	incorporated / registered	the Companies Act, 1956 U74999MH2007PLC171246
4	Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	0/4999MH200/PLC1/1246
5	Address of the registered office and	A-Wing, 602, Everest Grande Building, Opp. Ahura
	principal office (if any) of corporate	Centre, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East)
	debtor	Mumbai – 400093
6	Insolvency commencement date of the	04 December 2020 (Vide order dated 04 December
	corporate debtor	2020 passed by Hon'ble NCLT – Mumbai Bench)
		(Order for appointment of IRP was passed on
		23 February 2021 and the same was uploaded on the
7	Data of invitation of assessment of invitation of	NCLT website on 18 March 2021)
7	Date of invitation of expression of interest Eligibility for resolution applicants under	29 September 2021 (Original date: 13 September 2021)
0	section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	The interested parties/ prospective Resolution Applicant shall submit Expression of Interest as per the details
	Section 20(2)(II) of the Code is available at:	mentioned in the Detailed Invitation of Expression of
		Interest ('IEOI') to submit Resolution Plan, the copy of
		the detailed IEOI is available at the website
		https://rbsa.in/announcements.html,
		http://www.digicable.in/index.php/news-desk/press-
		release.
		The same can also be obtained via email at-
		ip.digicable@rbsa.in
9	Norms of ineligibility applicable under	The Resolution Applicant shall be compliant with the
	section 29A are available at:	eligibility norms provided under Section 29A as
		mentioned in the detailed Invitation of Expression of
		Interest ("IEOI")
10		14 October 2021 (Original date: 28 September 2021)
11		21 October 2021 (Original date: 08 October 2021)
	prospective resolution applicants	
12		28 October 2021 (Original date: 13 October 2021)
40	to provisional list	00 November 2004 (Original Lists 20 October 2007)
13		03 November 2021 (Original date: 23 October 2021)
4.4	resolution applicants	24 October 2024 (Original data: 00 October 2024)
14		21 October 2021 (Original date: 08 October 2021)
	evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	
15		The Request for Resolution Plan (RFRP), Evaluation
ı	resolution plan, evaluation matrix,	Matrix, Information Memorandum (IM) and format of
	information memorandum and further	Confidentiality Undertaking shall be sent on request
	information	addressed to - ip.digicable@rbsa.in,
	- Institution	IM and access to data room will be provided on
		submission of executed Confidentiality Undertaking as
		per Section 29 (2) of IBC and sub regulation 7 (g) of
		Regulation 36A of CIRP Regulations at the sole
		discretion of the Resolution Professional/ Committee of
		creditors.
16	Last date for submission of resolution plans	22 November 2021 (Original date: 08 November 2021)
17		The Resolution Plan along with all supporting
	resolution professional	information, documents as mentioned in RFRP shall be
	,	submitted to the Resolution professional at the following
		address:
		1121, Building No. 11, 2nd Floor, Solitaire Corporate
		Park, Chakala, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri (E),
	1	I

18 Estimated date for submission of

Authority for approva Name and registration number of the

esolution plan to the Adjudicating

esolution professional, as registered

correspondence with the Resolution

Reserve Price

(Rs. Crore)

provided to the shortlisted parties in accordance of the provisions of the IB Code, 2016

Mumbai - 400 093

Mr. Anil Mehta

The same shall also be submitted in an electronic

format by enclosing a password protected pen drive or password protected PDF document and email to

ip.digicable@rbsa.in, rp.anilmehta.1960@gmail.con

Exchange, Sion East, Mumbai City, Maharashtra 400022. rp.anilmehta 1960@gmail.com 1121, Building No. 11, 2nd Floor, Solitaire Corporat Park, Chakala, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri (E),

Mumbai - 400 093 E-mail: ip.digicable@rbsa.ir It can be sought by email at ip.digicable@rbsa.ir

The Resolution Professional / Committee of creditors shall have the discretion to change the criteria for The Resolution Treasonian Committee of careful states are a learning and the careful and the submission of Expression of Interest at any point of time.

The Resolution Professional / Committee of creditors reserve the right to cancel or modify the process/application without assigning any reason and without any liability whatsoever.

The above timelines are subject to the exclusion of time/extension of the CIRP period by the Hon'ble

National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai, Anil Mehta

IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00749/2017-2018/11282 501, Dosti Elite, Tower A, Near Sion Telephone Exchange, Sion East, Mumbai City, Maharashtra-400022 For Digicable Network (India) Limited Date: 29 September 202

Since Independence, water policv in India has focused primarily on construction of large dams and extraction of groundwater. The new National Water Policy (NWP), drafted for the first time by a committee of independent experts, argues that definite limits are becoming evident in further adopting this strategy in different parts of India. The country is running out of sites for building large dams, while the water table and groundwater quality are falling in many areas. Hence, without ruling out the construction of

more dams or the sustainable

use of groundwater, the new

NWP urges a shift in focus

towards management and dis-

MIHIR SHAH

tribution of water. The policy draws attention to NITI Aayog's estimate of the growing gap between the Irrigation Potential Created (IPC) and the Irrigation Potential Utilised (IPU). This has meant that trillions of litres of water, stored at huge cost to the national exchequer and the environment, has not been reaching the farmers for whom it is meant. Bridging the IPC-IPU gap can add millions of hectares to irrigated area at very low cost, even without building a single new dam. To make this happen, the management of the command areas has to be handed over to the farmers themselves. All successful command area projects in several states show that once farmers themselves feel a sense of ownership. the process of operating and managing irrigation systems

undergoes a profound transfor-

mation. Farmers willingly pay Irrigation Service Fees (determined in a transparent and participatory manner) to their Water Users Associations (WUAs). This enables WUAs to repair and maintain distribution systems and ensure that water reaches each farm. This kind of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) implies that state irrigation departments concentrate on technically and financially complex structures. such as main systems and secondary canals. The tertiary-level canals, minor structures and field channels are handed over to WUAs to ensure that water reaches farmers even at the tailend of the command. Many states have innovated by deploying pressurised closed conveyance pipelines, combined with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and pres-

surised micro-irrigation. This enables multiple win-wins: review of safety lower cost of land and siltation of acquisition, faster all dams and implementation, higher water-use older than efficiency and 50 years

greater accountability and transparency, with time- old public sector buildings ly information, assurance and

diversion weirs

distribution of water to farmers. There is mounting evidence across the globe in favour of "nature-based solutions" for water storage and supply. Thus, the NWP places major emphasis on supply of water through reiuvenation of catchment areas. Neglect and destruction of these areas has meant annual soil loss of about 15.35 tonnes per hectare, which causes siltation of reservoirs and reduces their capacity by 1-2 per cent per annum. The NWP proposes a comprehensive review of safety and siltation of all dams and diversion weirs older than 50 years, and suggests that those deemed unsafe and/or silted up to more than 80 per cent of their decommissioned in a phased services provided by groundwa-

manner, after building a consensus among all stakeholders. The NWP recommends that

rejuvenation of river catchment areas be incentivised through compensation for ecosystem services, especially to vulnerable communities in the upstream, mountainous regions. Renewed thrust on local rainwater harvesting to catch the rain where it falls, when it falls must be combined with demarcation, notification. protection and revival of traditional local water bodies in both rural and urban areas. This would form part of urban blueinfrastructure for improved water levels and quality, as also flood mitigation, through specifically curated infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioswales, restored rivers with wet meadows (where they can meander), wetlands

constructed for bio-The NWP proposes remediation, urban a comprehensive parks, permeable pavements, sustainable natural drainage systems, green roofs and green walls. All government buildings, it recommends,

would be built (and

retrofitted) in accordance with sustainable building codes, adopting water management with recycling, reuse and closed circuit technologies.

Recognising that groundwater is the lifeline of India's economy and society, the NWP gives highest priority to its governance and management. Drilling to greater depths and pumping at higher rates have caused a precipitous fall in both the water table and water quality in a very large number of districts. This is a direct consequence of atomistic, competitive extraction of what is a shared, common pool resource (CPR), without taking into account the enormous diversity in the nature of India's storage capacity could be aquifers. The vital ecosystem

ter have also been endangered. The most striking manifestation of this is the drying up of rivers, which depend on base-flows from groundwater during the post-monsoon period. Given that groundwater is a

CPR and considering the large

number of groundwater sources over 40 million wells and tubewells and 4-5 million springs — spread across diverse socio-ecologies, the NWP suggests that effective management of groundwater cannot be positioned on a centralised, licence-based bureaucratic approach. Rather, Participatory Groundwater Management (PGWM), being pioneered through the Atal Bhujal Yojana, must form the backbone of groundwater programmes in both rural and urban areas. Information on aquifer boundaries, water storage capacity and flows in aquifers should be provided in an accessible, userfriendly manner to primary stakeholders, designated as the custodians of their own aquifers, to enable them to develop protocols for sustainable and equitable management of groundwater. PGWM must be implemented in a location-specific manner that takes into account the diversity of India's hydrogeological settings. The NWP also proposes that the National Aquifer Management Programme (NAQUIM) adopt a bottom-up approach and provide maps at a scale of 1:10,000. Only by going down to this scale will the information provided by NAQUIM be in a form that is usable for the main stakeholders engaged in aligning their cropping patterns to the availability of groundwater, without which, as I will explain next week, India's water problem cannot be solved.

The writer is Distinguished Professor, Shiv Nadar University. He chaired the Committee to draft the new National Water Policy set up by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019