

February 21, 2022

To, Manager - Listing Operations BSE Limited Dalal Street, Mumbai - 400 001	To, Manager - Listing Compliance National Stock Exchange of India Limited 'Exchange Plaza'. C-1, Block G, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051
---	---

Dear Sirs,

Sub.: Proposed Rights Issue of Equity Shares of Som Distilleries and Breweries Limited (the "Company").

Sub: ISSUE OF UPTO 49,99,058 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE ₹ 5/- EACH ("RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES") OF SOM DISTILLERIES AND BREWERIES LIMITED FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ 35/- EACH INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ 30/- PER RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE (THE "ISSUE PRICE"), AGGREGATING UPTO ₹ 1,749.67 LAKHS ON A RIGHTS BASIS TO THE EXISTING EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF OUR COMPANY IN THE RATIO OF 1:13 I.E. ONE RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE FOR EVERY THIRTEEN FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES HELD BY THE EXISTING EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS.

Please see enclosed herewith soft copy of Basis of Allotment Advertisement published on February 19, 2022 for the Rights Issue of the Company.

Business Standard	English (National Daily)	All Editions
Business Standard	Hindi (National Daily)	All Editions

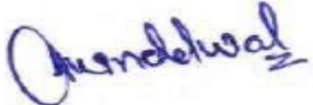

In case you require any information or clarification the under-signed may be contacted:

Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Gaurav Khandelwal Vice President	Mobile: 09769340475	rights.issue@saffronadvisor.com

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of Saffron Capital Advisors Private Limited

Authorized Signatory
Name: Gaurav Khandelwal
Designation: Vice President- ECM

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
 Central Office: Chandermukhi, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.
NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDERS
 Central Bank of India invites tenders from eligible bidders for "RENEWAL OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT INSURANCE POLICY OF THE BANK COVERING ATM/CDM/CASH ACCEPTORS/SSPBK/DIGITAL SIGNAGE AND POS TERMINALS". For complete details, visit our Bank's website www.centralbankofindia.co.in under Live Tenders. Last date for Submission of Tenders is 11/03/2022 up to 03.00 PM
 Place: Mumbai Asst. General Manager
 Date: 18/02/2022 BSD (Insurance)

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD
 VIDYUTH SOUDHA: VIJAYAWADA
NIT No. 61000937 /APGENCO/2022
 APGENCO invites tenders for the work of "Engineering Consultancy Services for Installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) Systems for Dr.NITPS Stage-IV Unit-7 (1x500 MW) & RTPPS-Stage-IV Unit-6 (1x600 MW)" through APGENCO e-procurement platform.
Estimated value of Work : Rs. 1.40 Crores (Excluding taxes)
 Bid Schedule available Date & Time : From 17:00 Hrs on 18.02.2022 on onwards
 Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : up to 15:00 Hrs on 14.03.2022
 For further details visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in or <https://tender.apgenco.gov.in/ir/portal>

E-Auction Sale Notice
ATHENA CHHATTISGARH POWER LTD - IN LIQUIDATION
 CIN: U31908TG2007PLC058993
NOTICE FOR SALE OF
ATHENA CHHATTISGARH POWER LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION UNDER INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE 2016
Date and Time of Auction:
03.03.2022 from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Block	Assets	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)
Block -1	Sale of corporate debtor as a going concern in its totality (Under Regulation 32(e) of Liquidation Regulations)	739.63 Crores	25.00 Crores

E Auction Sale Notice under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
KSS PETRON PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation)
 CIN: U45400MH2007PTC234297
 Regd. Off: Swastik Chambers, 6th Floor, 5th Cross, Trombay Road, Chembur, Mumbai MH 400071
 Date & Time of Auction: 14.03.2022 from 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM.
 (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Assets	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	EMD Amount (In Rs.) & its submission timeline	Incremental Bid Amount (In Rs.)
Assets of the Corporate Debtor located within the premises of JBF Industries Ltd, PTA Plant Project site, IP No.9, Village - Baipre, Mangalore SEZ, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore, Karnataka - 574142. (The Auction Site)	14,00,425/-	1,40,040/- During: 19.02.2022 to 28.02.2022	20,000/- Or above

For inclusions and exclusions of assets, please refer e-auction process document of Athena Chhattisgarh Power Limited dated 28.01.2022
Terms and Condition of the E-auction are as under:
 1. Bidders cannot bid for value below reserve price. The bidders can increase their bid by a minimum incremental amount of Rs. 10 Lakh or in multiples of this amount.
 2. E-auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS" through approved service provider M/s e-procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) <https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net>.
 3. The Complete E-Auction process document containing details of the Assets, online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration and Undertaking Form, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available on website <https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net>. Contact: Mr. Praveenkumar Thevar at +91-9722778828/ 6351896834/ 079 6813 6855/854 E-mail: praveen.thevar@actiontiger.net, nclt@actiontiger.net / support@actiontiger.net
Last Date to submit Bid Application Form is 28.02.2022 and Earnest Money Deposit is 02.03.2022.
 Please visit <https://rbsa.in/ibc-cases> or email at Lp.acpl@rbsa.in for access to E-Auction Process Document and other relevant information required for participation in the E-Auction. For further information, please contact: 079-40506007/08041528593.
 Sd/-
Kumar Rajan
Liquidator for Athena Chhattisgarh Power Ltd
IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00658/2018-2019/12116
Date: Bangalore 19.02.2022
Date: 19.02.2022
Place: New Delhi

Sale of Assets of KSS Petron Private Limited (Corporate Debtor) which are part of the Liquidation Estate formed by the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench vide order dated 27.12.2019. The sale of assets will take place through the e-auction platform <https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net>. The details of the assets to be auctioned, their Reserve Price, EMD Amount & Incremental Bid is given in the below table:
 For KSS Petron Private Limited (In Liquidation)
 Sd/-
CS Vineet K Chaudhary
Liquidator
In the matter of KSS Petron Private Limited
IBBI Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00103/2017-18/10246
liquidatorksspetron@vsnl.com (process specific)
ip.vineetkchaudhary@gmail.com (registered with IBBI)
Address of the Liquidator registered with IBBI:
D-38, LGF (L/S), South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi-110049
Date: 19.02.2022
Place: New Delhi

This is only an advertisement for information purpose and not an offer document announcement. Not for publication, distribution, or release, directly or indirectly into the United States of America or otherwise outside India. All Capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the letter of offer dated December 27, 2021 (the "Letter of Offer" or "LOF") filed with the Stock Exchanges, namely BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") (NSE together with BSE hereinafter referred to as the "Stock Exchanges") and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI").

SOM DISTILLERIES AND BREWERIES LIMITED
 Som Distilleries and Breweries Limited ("Company" or "Issuer") was incorporated on March 26, 1993 as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956 with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi & Haryana at Delhi.
Registered Office: 1A, Zee Plaza, Arjun Nagar, S.J. Enclave, Kamal Cinema Road, New Delhi - 110 029, India;
Corporate Office: 23, Zone-II, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal - 462 011, Madhya Pradesh, India; Tel: +91 755 4271 271 / + 91 755 4278 827
Contact Person: Om Prakash, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer. E-mail: compliance@somindia.com; Website: www.somindia.com;
Corporate Identification Number: L74899DL1933PLC052787

OUR PROMOTERS: JAGDISH KUMAR ARORA, AJAY KUMAR ARORA, SUNITA ARORA, NATASHA ARORA, SWEENA ARORA, DEEPAK ARORA, SURJEET LAL, AALOK DEEP FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED AND SOM DISTILLERIES PRIVATE LIMITED
ISSUE OF UPTO 49,99,058 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE ₹ 5 EACH ("RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES") OF OUR COMPANY FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ 35 EACH INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ 30 PER RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE (THE "ISSUE PRICE"), AGGREGATING UPTO ₹ 1,749.67 LAKHS ON A FULLY BASIS TO THE EXISTING EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF OUR COMPANY IN THE RATIO OF 1:13 I.E. ONE RIGHTS EQUITY SHARE FOR EVERY THIRTEEN FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES HELD BY THE EXISTING EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS ON THE RECORD DATE, THAT IS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 03, 2022 (THE "ISSUE"). THE ISSUE PRICE FOR THE RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES IS SEVEN (7) TIMES THE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE REFER TO THE CHAPTER TITLED "TERMS OF THE ISSUE" ON PAGE 117 OF THE LETTER OF OFFER.

BASIS OF ALLOTMENT
 The Board of Directors of Som Distilleries and Breweries Limited wishes to thank all its members and investors for the overwhelming response to the Company's Rights Issue of Equity Shares, which opened for subscription on Monday, January 17, 2022 and closed on Monday, February 07, 2022* and the last date for market renunciation of Rights Entitlements was Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Out of the total 4124 Applications for 8733839 Equity Shares (including 1517 applications for 454806 Equity Shares through the optional mechanism i.e. R-WAP and 2607 applications for 8279033 Equity Shares through Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA"). Applications for 232540 Equity Shares were rejected due to technical reasons as disclosed in the LOF. The total number of valid applications received were 3,608 for 85,01,299 Equity Shares, which aggregates to 170.06% of the total number of Equity Shares allotted under the Issue. In accordance with the LOF and on the basis of allotment finalized on February 14, 2022 in consultation with the Lead Manager, the Registrar to the Issue and BSE, the Designated Stock Exchange for the Issue, the Company has on February 14, 2022 allotted 49,99,058 Equity Shares to the successful applicants. We hereby confirm that all the valid applications have been considered for Allotment.
 *The Actual Closing date was January 31, 2022, however the revised date of closing due to issue extension was February 07, 2022.
1. Information regarding total Applications received (i.e. Application through both ASBA process and R-WAP facility):

Category	Applications Received		Equity Shares Applied for		Equity Shares allotted	
	Number	%	Number	Value (Rs.)	Number	Value (Rs.)
Shareholders	3345	92.71%	7996731	279885585	94.06	45,28,255
Renouncees	263	7.29%	504568	17659880	5.94	4,70,803
Total	3608	100.00%	8501299	297545465	100.00	49,99,058

2. Basis of Allotment

Category	No. of valid CAFs (including ASBA applications) received	No. of Equity Shares accepted and allotted against Entitlement (A)	No. of Equity Shares accepted and allotted against Additional applied (B)	Total Equity Shares accepted and allotted (A+B)
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Shareholders	3,345	12,78,669	32,49,586*	45,28,255
Renouncees	263	4,70,803	0	4,70,803
Total	3,608#	17,49,472	32,49,586	49,99,058

*Includes Partial acceptance cases.
 #Including 101 shares allotted to 101 shares holders who have applied and having zero entitlement as on record date.
Intimations for Allotment/refund/rejection cases: The dispatch of allotment advice cum refund intimation and question for rejection, as applicable, to the investors has been completed on 16/02/2022. The instructions to (i) ICICI Bank Limited ("Bankers to the Issue") for processing refund through NACH/NEFT/RTGS/direct credit for Applications using R-WAP facility was given on 15/02/2022 and (ii) SCSBs for unblocking funds in case of ASBA Applications were given on 15/02/2022. The Listing application was executed with BSE and NSE on 15/02/2022 & 15/02/2022 respectively. The credit of Equity Shares in dematerialized form to respective demat accounts of allottees was completed with NSDL and CDSL on 17/02/2022 & 16/02/2022 respectively. No physical shares were tendered in the Rights Issue. Pursuant to the listing and trading approvals granted by BSE and NSE, the Rights Equity Shares Allotted in the issue is expected to commence trading on BSE and NSE on or about 18/02/2022. In accordance with the SEBI circular dated 22/01/2020, the request for extinguishment of rights entitlement has been sent to NSDL and CDSL on 16/02/2022.
INVESTORS MAY PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EQUITY SHARES CAN BE TRADED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES ONLY IN DEMATERIALIZED FORM
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (DESIGNATED STOCK EXCHANGE): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not, in any way, be deemed or construed that the LOF has been cleared or approved by the BSE, nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the LOF. The investors are advised to refer to the LOF in the full text of the "Disclaimer clause of BSE" on page 112 of the "LOF".
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not, in any way, be deemed or construed that the LOF has been cleared or approved by NSE, nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of LOF. The investors are advised to refer to the LOF for the full text of the "Disclaimer Clause of NSE" on page 112 of the "LOF".

SOLE LEAD MANAGER TO THE ISSUE	REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE	COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SAFFRON SAFFRON CAPITAL ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED 605, Center Point, 6 th floor, Andheri Kuria Road, J. B. Nagar, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 059, Maharashtra, India. Telephone: +91 22 4082 0914/915 Facsimile: +91 22 4082 0999 E-mail: rights.issue@saffronadvisor.com Website: www.saffronadvisor.com Investor grievance: investorgrievance@saffronadvisor.com Contact Person: Gaurav Khandelwal / Varsha Gandhi SEBI Registration No.: INM 000011211 Validity of Registration: Permanent	MAS MAS SERVICES LIMITED T-34, 2 nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - II, New Delhi - 110 020, India Telephone: +91 11 2638 7281 / 82 / 83 Facsimile: +91 11 2638 7384 E-mail: sm@masserv.com Website: www.masserv.com Investor grievance: investor@masserv.com Contact Person: Shrawan Mangla SEBI Registration No.: INR000000049 Validity of Registration: Permanent	SOM SOM DISTILLERIES AND BREWERIES LIMITED Registered Office: 1A, Zee Plaza, Arjun Nagar, S.J. Enclave, Kamal Cinema Road, New Delhi - 110 029, India; Corporate Office: 23, Zone-II, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal - 462 011, Madhya Pradesh, India; Telephone: +91 755 4271 271 / 755 4278 827 Contact Person: Om Prakash, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer. E-mail: compliance@somindia.com ; Website: www.somindia.com ; Investors may contact the Registrar to Issue / Compliance Officer in case of any Pre-Issue/ Post Issue related problems such as non-receipt of Allotment advice/demat credit etc.

Investors may contact the Registrar or the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer for any pre issue or post issue related matter. All grievances relating the ASBA process or the optional mechanism i.e. R-WAP process may be addressed the Registrar, with a copy to the SCSBs (in case of ASBA process), giving folio details such as name, address of the Applicant contact numbers, e-mail address of the sole/first holder, folio number or demat account number, number of Rights Equity Shares applied for, amount blocked (in case of ASBA process) or amount debited (in case of the R-WAP process) ASBA Account number, and the Designated Branch of the SCSBs where the Application Form or the plain paper applications as the case may be, was submitted by the Investors along with a photocopy of the acknowledgement slip (in case of ASBA process) and copy of the e-acknowledgement (in case of the R-WAP process).
THE LEVEL OF SUBSCRIPTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO BE INDICATIVE OF EITHER THE MARKET PRICE OF THE EQUITYSHARES OR THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS OF THE COMPANY.
 For Som Distilleries and Breweries Limited Sd/-
Om Prakash
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
 The LOF is shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in; the Stock Exchanges at www.nseindia.com; www.bseindia.com; and the website of the Lead Manager, www.saffronadvisor.com; and on the optional mechanism R-WAP accessible at www.masserv.com. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to the same, please see the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 20 of the "LOF".
 The Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "US Securities Act") or under any securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States and may not be offered, sold, resold, allotted, taken up, exercised, renounced, pledged, transferred or delivered, directly or indirectly within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. Persons (as defined in Regulations except for these purposes, U.S. Persons include persons who would otherwise have been excluded from such term solely by virtue of Rule 902(K)(1)(VIII)(B) or Rule 902(K)(2)(ii)), except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the US Securities Act and in compliance with any applicable securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States. Accordingly, the Rights Entitlements and Rights Equity Shares were offered and sold (i) in offshore transactions outside the United States to non-U.S. Persons in compliance with Regulation S to existing shareholders located in jurisdictions where such offer and sale of the Rights Equity Shares is permitted under laws of such jurisdictions, and (ii) in the United States to U.S. Persons who are U.S. QIBs and are also Qualified Purchasers pursuant to applicable exemptions under the US Securities Act and the Investment Company Act. There will be no public offering in the United States. The Rights Equity Shares and Rights Entitlements are not transferable except in accordance with the restrictions.
 Sujnet Comm.

38 get death sentence for Ahmedabad blasts in '08


PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 Ahmedabad, 18 February

A special court here on Friday awarded death penalty to 38 convicts and sentenced 11 others to life imprisonment in the case of 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts, which had claimed 56 lives and left over 200 injured.
 This is for the first time that so many convicts have been handed down death sentence by any court at one go. In January 1998, a TADA court in Tamil Nadu had awarded capital punishment to all 26 convicts in the case of assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.
 The pronouncement of the quantum of punishment by judge A R Patel came nearly 14 years after the deadly blasts.
 The court had convicted 49 persons and acquitted 28 others in the case on February 8. As many as 21 explosions had ripped

through the city on July 26, 2008 within a span of 70 minutes.
 In the over 7,000-page judgement, the court termed the case as the rarest of rare and ordered that 38 convicts in the case be hanged till death, while 11 others were awarded life imprisonment till death, public prosecutor Amit Patel told reporters.
 These 38 persons were convicted under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Eleven others were held guilty for criminal conspiracy and under various sections of the UAPA, he said.
 The special court imposed a fine of ₹2.85 lakh on 48 convicts and of ₹2.88 lakh on another one. It also awarded compensation of ₹1 lakh to the kin of those who died in the blasts, ₹50,000 to those who were seriously injured and ₹25,000 to those who received minor injuries.

KEY FACTS

- 21 EXPLOSIONS HAD RIPPED THROUGH THE CITY ON JULY 26, 2008
- 56 died, over 200 injured in the blasts
- 38 convicts get death sentence
- 11 awarded life sentence
- 28 others acquitted in the case



BJP's poll mantra is age-old 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' slogan

NTIN KUMAR
 Mainpuri, 18 February

The ruling BJP has brought back the 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' slogan in its campaign for the ongoing UP polls. However, a large section of the state's youth is not convinced.
 "Paanch saal mein Army ka ek hi baar recruitment hui hai. Hum toh border pe khada hoo ke liye tayyar hain, par khet ke beech hi fasay hue hain. (There has just been one recruitment drive for positions in the Army in the past five years. We are ready to stand guard at the border, but are stranded in the fields instead)," says 26-year-old Rajdeep Kumar. He has been working on his exercise regimen at Ratibhanpur village in Mainpuri district.



Army aspirants in Mainpuri, which is among the rural districts in UP that gives thousands of soldiers every year PHOTO: NTIN KUMAR

But for the past two years, the district has not seen even a hundred people get recruited into the Indian Army. The reason: Hold on recruitment since the pandemic in January 2022. Also, delay in completion of the recruitment process is another reason. This is for vacancies for which physical and medical tests have taken place before Covid. This has not only increased the number of unemployed in the state but also made many overage for government jobs.
 Naresh Maurya, a 26-year-old army aspirant, who is preparing for the territorial army exam, after crossing the age limit for other government jobs, feels that the Centre should increase the age limit for army and other exams.
 "I have been trying for the past five years to get a government job. For the majority of jobs, I am overage. If the government doesn't increase the age limit, my future will be under wraps."
 The age limit for general duty soldiers, tradesmen, and the territorial army is 21 years, 23 years, and 42 years, respectively. Majority of the youth that Business Standard spoke

BJP drops 1/3rd of sitting MLAs
 The BJP has dropped a third of its sitting MLAs in UP to overcome anti-incumbency. Of the declared 376 candidates, the BJP has introduced 130 new faces. Ministers such as Chaudhary Uday Bhan and Mukut Bihari Verma have not made the cut. **BS REPORTER**
 to had crossed the age limit for the entrance exams.
 Shyam Singh, a Class 12 student, says "I have been preparing for the past six months. There are people who have been practising for six years. How will I compete with them?"
 Those who have either cleared or not cleared the physical exams are waiting for the government's decision on unfreezing recruitment drives.
 Meanwhile, Akhilesh Yadav, Samajwadi Party chief, has promised to send a special request to the army to increase the age limit for recruitments.

Farmers gaining from paddy buy up 80% in 6 yrs, but Punjab needs more

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
 New Delhi, 18 February

As Punjab goes to the polls on February 20, how the rural parts of the state vote will be watched because the election comes against the backdrop of one of the biggest farmers' agitations (against the three farm laws).
 Annual procurement of rice and wheat is a big farming issue in Punjab, which was voiced during the year-long agitation.
 Earlier this month Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while delivering her Budget speech for FY23, had said the procurement of wheat and paddy in India in the 2021-22 rabi and kharif marketing seasons was expected to total around 121 million tonnes, benefiting around 16.3 million farmers.
 She also said minimum support prices of around ₹2.37 trillion would be transferred to the bank accounts of farmers.
 An analysis of the data on the website of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Centre's nodal agency responsible for procuring wheat and rice, shows between 2015-16 and 2020-21, the number of farmers benefiting from paddy procurement has risen by almost 80 per cent while those gaining from wheat procurement has grown even higher by almost 140.37 per cent.
 Not only this, a report by the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP), the government's main farm price-setting panel, shows in the rabi season of 2019-20 around 436,858 oilseeds farmers benefited from procurement operations, which went up to over 1.11 million farmers in the rabi season of 2020-21.

STATE-WISE BREAK-UP

States	Paddy procurement beneficiaries			Wheat procurement beneficiaries		
	2015-16	2020-21	% chng	RMS 2016-17	RMS 2021-22	% chng
AP	276,699	803,945	190.5	0	0	0
Telangana	535,007	2,164,354	304.5	0	0	0
Assam	7,288	20,401	179.9	0	0	0
Bihar	275,484	497,097	80.4	0	96,701	
Chhattisgarh	1,110,163	2,053,490	85.0	0	0	0
Haryana	212,351	549,466	158.8	472,313	760,636	61.04
Jharkhand	53,945	104,092	93.0	0	0	0
MP	199,984	587,223	193.6	532,907	1,725,133	223.72
Odisha	1,078,596	1,394,647	29.3	0	0	0
Punjab	1,206,216	1,057,674	-12.3	843,446	887,521	5.23
Rajasthan	0	0	0.0	110,338	227,090	105.81
Tamil Nadu	850,640	852,152	0.2	0	0	0
UP	433,556	1,022,286	135.8	166,073	1,152,311	593.86
West Bengal	721,273	959,362	33.0	0	0	0
All India	7,308,416	13,112,282	79.4	2,046,766	4,919,891	140.37

NOTE: Total might not match as all states have not been included. RMS stands for rabi marketing season; Source: FCI

tially in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan but in Punjab, it rose by just 5.3 per cent during this period (see chart attached).
 Some experts say the transformation in procurement is part of an attempt to broad-base wheat and rice procurement in the country and it should not be limited to a few pockets and regions.
Need to diversify
 The Budget and multiple reports and recommendations before that have called for diversifying from wheat and rice production in states like Punjab to more high-value and lucrative crops either by incentivising farmers adequately or by disincentivising open-ended procurement. The Budget has talked about starting a programme for promoting domestic oilseeds production, for which ₹600 crore was allocated in FY23 under the broader umbrella programme of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
 The programme aims to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds in the next five years starting from 2020-21 till 2025-26 from 36.10 million tonnes to 54.10 million tonnes.
 All the parties in the fray in the current elections have promised minimum support prices for crops other than wheat and rice and have assured procurement for oilseeds, pulses, and corn to promote diversification.
Pitfall of open-ended procurement
 With the Centre sitting on huge stocks of wheat and rice, which is far more than what is required annually for distribution under the public distribution system (PDS), the CACP has repeatedly recommended reviewing the open-ended procurement policy to bring down the financial and logistical burden on the government.
 Rough estimates show due to the open-ended procurement policy, by which the government buys wheat and rice from farmers in mandis, India annually ends up purchasing around 80 million tonnes of wheat and rice, while its requirement is around 55 million tonnes.
 It said this led to mounting food stocks and adversely affected crop diversification. "These excess stocks create storage problems and also high storage and financing costs, leading to high food subsidy burden and therefore the Commission recommends that open-ended procurement policy should be reviewed," the report said.
 The excess stock is due to a big mismatch between foodgrains required to run the Public Distribution System and the quantity of grain procured, officials said. Data shows that annually 78-80 million tonnes of wheat and rice is procured for the central pool, against a requirement of 50-54 million tonnes for PDS, leaving the rest in excess.