

# NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS

Name of Newspaper: *Hindustan* .....

Dated : *31/5/10* .....

## Eleven names cleared for NAC

*Hindu  
31/05*

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:**The Prime Minister's Office on Sunday finalised the names of 11 members of the National Advisory Council, the consultative body chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi that is intended to serve as an interface between the government and civil society and as the laboratory for inclusive economic and social legislation and policy initiatives.

While economist-activist

Jean Dreze, Right to Information campaigner Aruna Roy, retired bureaucrat N.C. Saxena and economist A.K. Shiva Kumar have been renominated into the body, which has been defunct since 2008, seven key civil society personalities have been drafted for the first time.

These are the women's rights and minority rights activist Farah Naqvi, businesswoman and philanthropist Anu Agha, agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, Plan-

ning Commission member, the former Reserve Bank of India economist and noted Dalit writer Narendra Jadhav, social worker Deep Joshi, ecologist Madhav Gadgil and former bureaucrat-turned-rights activist Harsh Mander.

Rita Sharma, an IAS officer who retired as rural development secretary earlier this year, will be member-secretary.

A few more names will be finalised in the next few days,

senior officials say, but the NAC will remain a compact body that can help the government frame key laws like the proposed Food Security Act.

In UPA-I, the NAC played a signal role in pushing the Right to Information and National Rural Employment Guarantee Acts.

But its relevance waned when Ms. Gandhi quit the body in 2006, following the 'office of profit' controversy.

**NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS**

Name of Newspaper: *Times of India*

Dated : *31/5/10*

# Civil society stars to push Sonia's 'inclusive' agenda

## Food Security To Be Top Priority For New NAC

Nitin Sethi | TNN

*Tol 21/05*

New Delhi: UPA's 'Planning Commission' for its development agenda — the National Advisory Council — is in place. The Congress high command has chosen a constellation of individuals with formidable reputations to steer the social agenda in UPA's second term.

The council, to be headed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, will include Madhab Gadgil, Harsh Mander, M S Swaminathan, Aruna Roy, Jean Dreze, N C Saxena, Farha Naqvi, Anu Aga, Narendra Jadhav, Deep Joshi, A K Shivkumar and Mirla Chatterjee.

The civil society heavyweights are bound to push for an ambitious social sector agenda and bring to the fore several development issues that

### DYNAMIC DOZEN & THEIR DOMAINS

 <b>A K Shivkumar</b> SOCIAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT	 <b>Anu Aga</b> INDUSTRIALIST, ACTIVE IN SOCIAL CAUSES	 <b>Mirla Chatterjee</b> WOMEN & LIVELIHOOD ISSUES	 <b>Farha Naqvi</b> MINORITIES AND EDUCATION
 <b>Madhab Gadgil</b> ENVIRONMENT	 <b>N C Saxena</b> FOOD COMMISSIONER TO SUPREME COURT	 <b>Harsh Mander</b> PROPOSER OF BILL AGAINST COMMUNAL VIOLENCE	 <b>Deep Joshi</b> MAGSAYSAY AWARD WINNER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 <b>Jean Dreze</b> FOOD SECURITY	 <b>M S Swaminathan</b> AGRICULTURE	 <b>Narendra Jadhav</b> EDUCATION, DALIT WELFARE	 <b>Aruna Roy</b> RTI, NREGS

had receded to the backburner in the first year of UPA-2.

With several advocates for a more inclusive growth policy and a wider social security net on board the NAC, sources said issues like food security, communal harmony, education and public health would move centrestage.

In its last avatar, the NAC had ush-

ered in hugely successful social sector reforms such as introduction of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Right to Information Act.

In its second coming, the council is expected to take up the Food Security Act as its foremost priority.

► Food bill to cover more, P 10

## NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS

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### INTERVENTIONIST ROLE

# New hands aboard, NAC ready for biz



#### BACK ON THE JOB

There are 6 additions in the new-look NAC, which has retained four members

MS SWAMINATHAN  
V KRISHNAMURTHY

NC SAXENA

FARAH NAQVI

HARSH MANDER

AK SHIVA KUMAR

MIRAI CHATTERJEE



ARUNA ROY



JEAN DREZE



NARENDRA JADHAV

Bharti Jain  
NEW DELHI

THE National Advisory Council (NAC), led by Sonia Gandhi, will get down to business this week itself with the Congress leadership finalising a list of 10 members. While four members of the previous NAC—Aruna Roy, Jean Dreze, NC Saxena and AK Shiva Kumar—will be back in the panel's new avatar, there are six additions. These include MS Swaminathan, V Krishnamurthy, Narendra Jadhav, Mirai Chatterjee, Farah Naqvi and Harsh Mander.

The decision to revive the NAC came in the backdrop of signs of unease within the Congress over a drift in the implementation of social sector schemes and a demand for political oversight over the important vote-mopping programmes. Party leaders were of the view that the organisation should take charge of shaping legislations aimed at guaranteeing food security and health schemes.

The previous NAC, formed in 2004, had steered through the government's flagship schemes such as NREGS and RTI. But the panel lost its clout after Ms Gandhi quit the post of chairperson in March 2006 following the office of profit controversy.

The composition of the new NAC suggests the advisory panel will play an interventionist role. Members of the panel, such as Ms Naqvi and Mr Mander, have been critical of the Centre's handling of the Naxalite menace, particularly the Salwa Judum movement.