



BASAI News Updates

August 31, 2022

Abhijit Sen (NOVEMBER 26, 1950 – AUGUST 30, 2022)

Economist who made strong case for public distribution system

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

ABHIJIT SEN, with his flowing beard and shoulder length hair, who enthralled generations of students at JNU's Centre for Economics and Planning and built the edifice on which the Swaminathan Commission on minimum support prices (MSP) was based, passed away here on Tuesday after a heart attack.



Sen was 72 and is survived by his economist wife Jayati Ghosh and a journalist daughter. His brother, Pronab Sen, was the chairman of the National Statistical Commission and Chief Statistician of India.

Belonging to a rapidly diminishing circle of Marxist-leaning economists, Sen rubbed shoulders with the doyens of developmental economists in India such as Jean Dreze, Jayati Ghosh, Pranab Bardhan, Pulin Nayak, Partha Mukhopadhyay, Shubhashis Gangopadhyay and Dipa Sinha.

His brand of economics was utilised by the Left-supported United Front and UPA governments as well as briefly by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee rule. But the Modi dispensation disbanded the Planning Commission as well as

relegated Sen, who was a member, and his ideological compatriots to the sidelines.

Sen's 10-year stint at the Planning Commission from 2004 to 2014 was preceded by his stewardship of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) spanning the Communists'-supported United Front and then the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government from 1997 to 2000.

It was a CACP report that wanted minimum support prices to be fixed based on the 'C2' cost of production (all cultivation expenses and imputed value of unpaid family labour—that led to the "Swaminathan formula" with some modifications. He also declared that the "below poverty line" approach to subsidised foodgrain distribution was a failure and proposed a universal public distribution system. This was incorporated in the UPA government's National Food Security Act under which a third of the country's population gets wheat and rice at Rs 2 and Rs 3 per kg, respectively.

Beginning with a PhD from Oxford, the bulk of Sen's teaching career beginning from 1985 was at JNU where he rubbed shoulders with other Marxist-leaning economists who were also appointed there in copious numbers.

PDS, MSP backer Abhijit Sen dies

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Economist Abhijit Sen, who died on Monday night, was a strong advocate of the public distribution system of foodgrains and a leading expert on rural economy.

He was 72.

A member of the erstwhile Planning Commission, Sen was the author of the landmark report that recommended making the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) a statutory body and said its fixation of minimum support prices, which the government was bound to accept, should be based on the cost of production.

Born in Jamshedpur on November 18, 1950, Sen, whose father Samar Sen worked as an economist for the World Bank, was schooled at Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in New Delhi before studying physics at St Stephen's College in Delhi University.

Switching to economics, Sen

earned his PhD from Cambridge University for his thesis, 'The agrarian constraint to economic development: The case of India' under the supervision of Suzy Paine. He taught economics at Sussex, Oxford, Cambridge and Essex before joining the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1985.

In 1997, he was appointed chairman of CACP and tasked to recommend support prices for agri commodities.

He authored the report of the High-Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy in July 2000, that recommended fixation of MSP based on all paid-out cultivation expenses in cash and in kind, plus the imputed value of unpaid family labour and rent/interest forgone on owned land and fixed capital assets.

In 2010, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan for public service. His wife Jayati Ghosh is a prominent economist and his daughter Jahnavi is a journalist.

A first: Farmers to grow 'makhana' in waterlogged fields

Agriculture experts from Chhattisgarh impart training on cultivation techniques

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, AUGUST 30

Local farmers who have been deprived of cultivating crops due to waterlogged fields will now be able to take up 'makhana' (fox nuts) farming to get attractive earnings.

A team of agriculture experts from Chhattisgarh is imparting special training to local farmers on the techniques.

Significantly, the local office of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department has also started noting down the names of such farmers so that they can be assisted in cultivation and harvesting of the 'makhana' crop by providing them seeds and other vital

information about it. This farming is done once a year.

It is for the first time in the state, when 'makhana' farming will be done in waterlogged fields to earn attractive income. The cultivation cost of 'makhana' was quite low, while it fetches a price between Rs 400 and Rs 1,000 per kg in the market, said Dr Ishwar Singh Jakhar, technical officer, Agriculture Department, Jhajjar.

"The recent survey has disclosed that around 20,000 acres of land in the district is affected by waterlogging. Following which the cultivation is done once a year in some areas while in others, it is not done at all. Hence, the owners



A waterlogged field at a village in Jhajjar district. TRIBUNE PHOTO

of these lands have to depend upon other sources of income to make both ends meet. In this situation, 'makhana' cultivation is suitable for them. It is purely organic as pesticides and urea, etc are not used in it," Jakhar added.

He further said around 25 vil-

lages, including Dighal, Dhandhlan, Malikpur, Teth, Paharipur, Godhri, Safipur, Ladayan, Akheri Madanpur, Amadal Shahpur, Dhana, Chadhwana, Chhara and Mandothi, in the district were badly affected by waterlogging. The water table in many villages had also

come up considerably due to paddy farming, he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Capt Shakti Singh said the training aims to start a new experiment of 'makhana' cultivation in the district on a pilot basis. "If the experiment is successful then the waterlogged land would prove to be a boon for local farmers."

"In traditional crops, the price of the produce is given on a quintal basis, whereas the average cost of 'makhana' in the market is Rs 1,000 per kg. It has a huge demand in the market due its high nutritional value and the price depends upon the quality of the produce," he added.

Centre sets target for rice stocks in food security review meet

Zia Haq

zia.haq@htlvt.com

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday reviewed food security and procurement of summer-sown rice with 24 state governments amid an anticipated lower output of the staple due to a patchy monsoon, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

The meet was aimed at ensuring that the Centre is able to buy sufficient rice stocks for the country's public distribution system. Securing food supplies is critical this year as domestic cereal prices have risen and the world battles one of the gravest food crises in decades. The food ministry recently asked major rice-growing states to come up with projections of production, the person said. The Centre sought the estimates so that it could determine how much of the staple will be available for procurement, which refers to the government's purchase of grains from farmers for state-held reserves.

An official statement after the meeting said the Centre had set a target to purchase 51.8 million tonne of summer rice, higher than last year's 50 million tonne.

In the review chaired by Union food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey, the Centre proposed states to "focus" on purchasing a higher quantity of millets to strengthen food security and also because of the International Year of Millets, the statement said.




As per govt estimates, the area under rice shrunk nearly 6% as rains skipped many states.

The Centre was able to procure far less winter-sown wheat this year than it had hoped to, as farmers preferred to sell to private traders than to the government because rates had jumped above federally-determined floor prices on the back of a smaller crop.

The meeting was attended by food secretaries of key paddy-growing states, officials of the India Meteorological Department and the state-run Food Corporation of India, the Centre's main-grain handling agency.

Pandey referred to increasing climate risks to food output in the meet. "Climate changes have been adversely affecting wheat and rice and resulting in reduction in their production," the statement said.

According to the farm ministry's estimates, the area under rice shrunk nearly 6% as rains skipped many rice-growing states. The deficit in the rice area has improved from 8% earlier.



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT
NATIONAL AUTHORITY CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (NACWC)
(1st Floor, Chanakya Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021)**

Dated: 31st August 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

The requirements to submit Declarations to the National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) are mandated under section 12 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Act 2000.

In exercise of extant provisions of the CWC Act 2000, it is notified that all the persons and facilities dealing with the chemicals belonging to Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 categories, including those entities who have filed Annual Declaration of Past Activities (ADPA) for the calendar year 2021 and Annual Declaration of Anticipated Activities (ADAA) for the calendar year 2022, are hereby publically notified to file Annual Declaration of Anticipated Activities (ADAA) for the calendar year 2023 on or before 15th September 2022.

The ADAA of 2023 can be filed online using authenticated Digital Signature Certification (DSC)/ e-sign through the URL (<https://cwc.nacwc.nic.in>) from 1100 Hrs of 1st September 2022 and online window will remain open till 1100 Hrs of 15th September 2022.

Failure to furnish correct and complete information, with respect to declarations is a punishable offence under the CWC Act 2000.

All necessary information including detailed instructions, prescribed forms, related links, etc.. are available on the NACWC website (www.nacwc.nic.in). Clarifications, if any, can also be sought from NACWC office by Telephone (011-24675694/24675465/24675690/24675524) FAX (011-24675767) or E-mail (efilehelp.nacwc@nic.in or nacwc@nic.in).

**Sudhanshu Gupta
Director, NACWC**

**No. M-18016/2/2022-TECH
CBC 58101/11/0011/2223**

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

\$20 trillion economy in 25 yrs, EAC lays road map for country

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on Tuesday released "The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100" which charts out a road map for India to become an upper-middle-income country by 2047, the centenary year of its Independence.

India can achieve this if it manages to achieve a sustained growth rate of 7-7.5 per cent for the next 25 years, EAC-PM Chairman Bibek Debroy said.

TARGET: ₹7.9 LAKH PER CAPITA INCOME		
\$5 trillion GDP BY FY29	₹2.7 lakh cr GDP IN 1947	₹1.5 lakh PER CAPITA INCOME
7-7.5% GROWTH RATE	₹150 lakh cr CURRENT GDP	₹7.9 lakh PER CAPITA BY 2047
STATES MUST PLAY PART TO SPUR GROWTH		
“India is aggregate of what happens to states. It is must for all states to jack up growth. Bibek Debroy, HEAD, EAC-PM		

The country can become a \$20 trillion economy by 2047 at this growth rate, he added.

India, the world's sixth largest economy with a GDP of \$2.7 trillion, is currently classified

as a developing nation.

"Even if you have relatively conservative real rates of growth of 7-7.5 per cent, we will get to a per capita income of about \$10,000. And you will get to a total size of the economy of a little less than \$20 trillion in 2047," Debroy said, while releasing the document.

As per the World Bank, a country with a per capita annual income of over \$12,000 is considered as a higher-income nation.

The road map is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute

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\$20 trillion economy in 25 yrs, EAC...

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for Competitiveness with inputs from Professors Michael Porter and Christian Ketels from the Harvard Business School. "Its basic postulation is that productivity is a driver of sustained prosperity. The emphasis is not just on attaining the ambitions, but also on how the country gets there," said Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa.

PM Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target of making India a developed nation

by 2047. Noting that because what happens to India is an aggregate of what happens to the states, Debroy said, "Unless the states jack up their growth records, the overall growth records for India is not going to be that high either."

According to the International Monetary Fund, the Indian economy is forecast to expand by 7.4% in 2022-23, making it one of the world's fastest-growing economies. A

developed country is typically characterised by a relatively high level of economic growth, a general standard of living, and higher per capita income as well as performing well on the Human Development Index (HDI).

India was classified as a "third-world" country at the time of Independence in 1947. But over the past seven decades, its GDP has grown from just Rs 2.7 lakh crore to Rs 150 lakh crore.

Arhtiyas' commission on cotton down to 1%

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

To give direct benefit to the farmers, the Punjab Government will reduce the commission to arhtiyas for cotton crop from 2.5 per cent to 1 per cent. A decision to this effect was taken by the government today, announced Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal.

This, however, has not gone down well with the powerful arhtiya lobby in the agrarian state. Seeing this a direct attack by the government, the commission agents have threatened to protest and close down the mandis in the state.

Vijay Kalra, president of Federation of Arhtiya Association of Punjab, said the AAP government seemed to be following the diktats of the BJP-led Centre. "Is it fair that the MSP on crops increases, but our commission decreases? We will be convening a meeting of all commission agents and hold a state-wide protest," he said.

The minister, however, said that commission to arhtiyas could not be given on cotton according to the ratio on wheat and paddy because

expenses on paddy and wheat crops include cleaning, filling, weighing and transporting etc., but as per the information given by farmers there are no such expenses on cotton in the grain markets. He said as a result of this, the government has already reduced the market fee on cotton from 2 per cent to 0.5 per cent.

He said the farmers of cotton belt had been facing a lot of problems due to natural calamities such as bad weather and crop diseases, this decision would give some relief to the cotton farmers.

Apart from this, the Punjab Cotton Factories and Ginners Association, whose representatives met Dhaliwal here, brought to his notice that for the last few years the cotton crop had been facing various diseases and the farmers of the cotton belt had shifted from cotton to paddy. They further said many cotton factories in the state were on the brink of closure or have closed due to losses.

The association appealed to the Agriculture Minister to take more farmer-friendly decisions to encourage cotton crop in the state.