

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 02-09-2020

CSIR-CMERI Developed & Installed the World's Largest Solar Tree in Durgapur

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR – CMERI)



developed the world largest Solar Tree with customisable features for application in different locations and installed it in the residential colony of CMERI at Durgapur, West Bengal.

About the Solar Tree:

Capacity:

- i. The total installed capacity of the solar tree is more than 11.5 kilowatts peak (kWp).
- ii. The annual capacity of the tree to generate clean and green power is around 12000 to 14000 units.

Design:

- i. The tree holds a total of 35 solar photo-voltaic (PV) panels with a capacity of 330-watt peak (Wp) each.
- ii. The design of the solar tree ensures maximum exposure of the sunlight to each solar PV panel.
- iii. These panels can be adjusted according to the requirements (this feature is not available in the Roof-mounted solar facilities).
- iv. The design ensures the **least amount of shadow area** below the tree which enables a widespread use in **agricultural activities**.

Former President & Bharat Ratna Awardee Pranab Mukherjee passes away



On 31 August, 2020 Former President and One of the Country's Senior Most Politicians Pranab Kumar Mukherjee passed away after developing a lung infection at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, where he was admitted for a Brain Surgery. He had also tested Positive for Coronavirus.

Pranab Mukherjee served as the 13th President of India from 2012-2017. He was India's only non-Prime Minister who was the leader of the Lok Sabha.

The Government of India declared seven-day national mourning till September 6 as a mark of respect to the Former President.

About Pranab Mukherjee:

- i. Fondly called as 'Pranabda', he was born in 1935 in Mirati, West Bengal.
- ii. He was part of the Congress party for five decades and was considered as a formidable political strategist, draftsman and parliamentarian with an astute legal mind.
- iii. Before taking his first step as a politician, he worked as a teacher and as a Journalist with Desher Dak (Call of Motherland) and also as Assistant Professor.
- iv. He earned an MA degree in Political Science & History and LLB degree both from the University of Calcutta.

Political Life:

- i. He remained with the Congress Party for five-decades, he was a member of the Congress Working Committee, the highest policy making body of the Party for a period of 23 years.
- ii. He was elected to Rajya Sabha for five times (1969, 1975, 1981, 1993, 1999) representing various constituencies.
- iii. He was elected twice to Lok Sabha (2004, 2009-12) from Bengal's Jangipur constituency.
- iv. Pranab has served as Leader of Rajya Sabha from 1980-85 & as Leader of Lok Sabha from 2004-12.
- v. From 1973-2012, Mukherjee held various Portfolios such as External affairs, Defence and Finance for various Prime Ministers.

Highlights:

- i. In 2006 during his second term as Minister of External Affairs, he oversaw the successful signing of the United States (US)-India Civil Nuclear Agreement with the US.
- ii. He successfully oversaw the signing of India with Nuclear Suppliers Group, which allowed India to participate in civilian nuclear trade, in spite of not being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- iii. During the period 2004-2012 he was instrumental in shaping several critical decisions of Government on various issues such as Right to Information, setting up of UIDAI, Right to Employment through Chairmanship of over 95 Groups of Ministers constituted for the purpose.
- iv. Pranab Mukherjee played a vital role in setting up the Regional Rural Banks (1975) and the EXIM Bank of India as well as National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (1981-82).

v. He was the author of the Gadgil – Mukherjee formula, a modified formula for resource sharing between the Centre and State in 1991.

vi. He was the first Bengali to hold the post of President of India.



Bollywood Filmmaker Karan Johar Authored a Children’s Book “The Big Thoughts of Little Luv”

Bollywood Filmmaker Karan Johar authored a children’s picture book titled “**The Big Thoughts of Little Luv**” inspired by his Twins Yash and Roohi. The book will be published by **Juggernaut Books**.

The book narrates the story of the twins **Luv and Kusha** and features the challenges faced by the parents and the difference imposed between the boys and girls by the parents while raising them.

National Nutrition Week 2020- 1st September to 7th September



National Nutrition Week (NNW) is an annual nutrition event observed in India during the **First week** of September from 1st September to 7th September. The events of NNW are organised by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Government of India to educate the importance and role of nutrition in the human body.

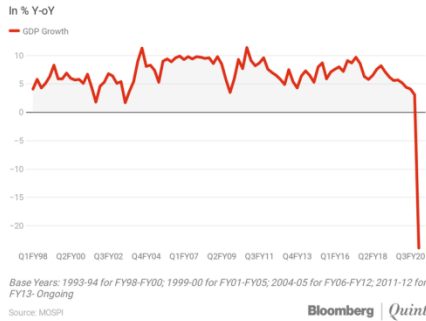
i. The Food and Nutrition board of the Ministry of WCD launched the National Nutrition Week in 1982.

ii. The objective of the National Nutrition Week is to create awareness on the importance of nutrition which is the focal point of health and well-being which is directly linked to human resource development, productivity and national growth.

India’s GDP growth contract by 23.9% in April-June quarter: MOSPI

In accordance with the official data released by the **National Statistical Office** (NSO), Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation (Mospi) on August 31, 2020, India’s gross domestic product (GDP) contract by 23.9% (-23.9%) in April-June period quarter of 2020 due to downfall in businesses and livelihood amid COVID-19 pandemic induced nationwide lockdown restrictions.

India Real GDP Contracts By 23.9% In Q1FY21



• This data states slowing of consumer spending, private investments and contraction in exports in the March quarter. The growth of Indian economy in Q4 FY20 (January-March) quarter was also at the slowest pace in eight years at 3.1%.

- India's real GDP fell to 26.9 lakh crore in constant terms, 23.9% lower than a year ago.
- Nominal GDP fell to Rs 38.08 lakh crore, 22.6% lower than the same period last year.
- In gross value added terms, the economy contracted 22.8%

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