



Deocha Pachami Coal Block | West Bengal | 06 Mar 2025

Why in News?

Fresh protests by local villagers have halted ongoing [basalt mining](#) at the [Deocha-Pachami-Dewanganj-Harisingha \(DPDH\) coal project](#) in West Bengal's Birbhum district.

Key Points

- **Mass Gathering at Project Site:**
 - **Around 300 villagers**, mostly women and tribals from Mathura Pahari, Sagarbandi, and Chanda villages, **gathered at the DPDH coal project site**.
 - They **demand a complete halt to mining work** in the area.
 - Villagers claim they were not informed before mining operations started.
- **Symbolic Protest and Demands:**
 - **Protesters planted a charka**, a tribal tradition of placing sticks in the soil, to symbolize a stoppage of work until the charka is removed.
 - They demanded a permanent halt to the coal project and improvements in civic amenities.
 - Villagers **rejected compensation**, stating they would not leave their land for the project.
- **Environmental and Social Concerns:**
 - Protesters raised **concerns over environmental damage** due to mining.
 - They highlighted that tribals face arrest for entering forests, while entire forests are being cleared for coal mining.
 - Dust from basalt mining is already **affecting the local environment and health**.

Deocha-Pachami-Dewanganj-Harisingha (DPDH)

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- Deaucha Panchami coal block of Birbhum Coalfield Area is World's Second Largest Coal Block situated in **West Bengal**.
- This coal mine is the **largest coal mine or coal block in Asia**, due to the number of coal reserves.
- It is the **newest coal mine in West Bengal**.
- The proposed mining project at **Birbhum coalfield Area** has been recently in the news due to expected environmental concerns and displacement of the people from the same area.

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