

24th October 2024

India's First Mine Closure Certificates Issued in Madhya Pradesh

The Ministry of Coal issued final mine closure certificates for three mines in Madhya Pradesh's Betul District.



Key Points

- ❖ This marks the first time such certificates have been granted in the history of Indian coal mining.
- ❖ Certificates were presented to Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) for the Pathakhera Area, encompassing Pathakhera Mine No-II UG, Pathakhera Mine No- I UG, and Satpura II UG Mine. The closures were necessitated by the exhaustion of coal reserves in the respective mines.
- ❖ The Coal Controller Organisation, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Coal, issued the certificates after verifying that the mine owner had completed all protective, reclamation, and rehabilitation works as per the approved mining plan.
- ❖ This significant step underscores the commitment of the coal sector to responsible and environmentally friendly mining practices.

- ❖ The closure certificates not only signify the successful completion of mining operations but also highlight the potential for revitalizing landscapes and generating employment opportunities through sustainable practices.

1st Namo Bharat Diwas

The Namo Bharat Diwas was observed in New Delhi on **21 October 2024** to mark the anniversary of the operation of the Namo Bharat Trains.



Key Points

- ❖ On 20 October 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 17-kilometer section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot section of the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
- ❖ The first Regional Rapid Transit System of the country is the 82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad -Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System, being implemented and operated by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
- ❖ The high-speed self-propelled trains running on the Regional Rapid Transit System are referred to as the Namo Bharat trains.

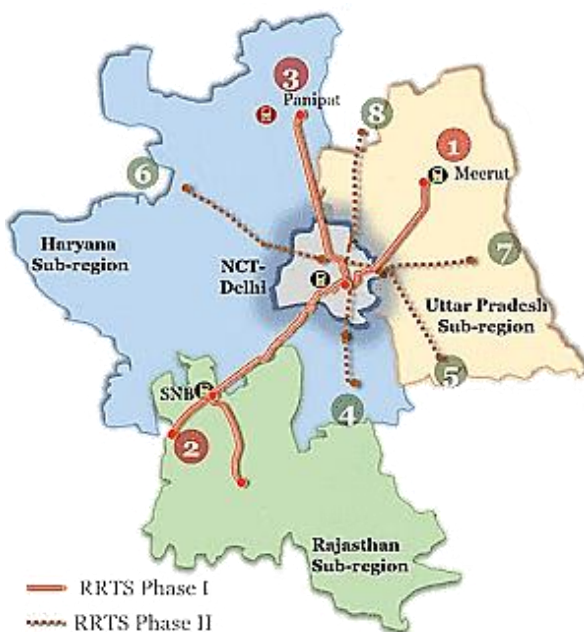
- ❖ The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) organised the Namo Bharat Diwas function in New Delhi.

Phases of the RRTS

- ❖ The RRTS is being developed in phases by the NCRTC. Three corridors are being developed in the first phase
 - Delhi – Ghaziabad – Meerut (82 km)
 - Delhi – Gurugram – SNB – Alwar (164 km)
 - Delhi – Panipat Corridor (103 km)

Other proposed corridors are

- ❖ Delhi – Faridabad – Ballabgarh – Palwal
- ❖ Ghaziabad – Khurja
- ❖ Delhi – Bahadurgarh – Rohtak
- ❖ Ghaziabad – Hapur
- ❖ Delhi – Shahdara – Baraut



Women staff in Odisha to get one day of menstrual leave per month

The Odisha government has announced that women employees will receive one day of paid menstrual leave each month.



Key Points

- ❖ In addition to the menstrual leave, women staff will now also receive an additional 12 days of casual leave (CL) annually, bringing their total to 27 days of casual leave, compared to 15 days for male employees.
- ❖ The government aims to support women in managing family responsibilities and address various challenges they face, recognizing the need for additional leave provisions.
- ❖ Prior to this announcement, women had already been granted 10 additional days of CL since March, reflecting a commitment to enhance employee welfare.

Paytm receives approval from NPCI to onboard new UPI users

Paytm received permission from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to accept new UPI customers, lifting a nine-month moratorium imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



Key Points

- ❖ Due to regulatory concerns, the RBI stopped Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from accepting new UPI users in January 2024.
- ❖ The company's UPI market share has fallen from 13% to 7%.
- ❖ Due to regulatory concerns, the RBI stopped Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from accepting new UPI users in January 2024. The company's UPI market share has plummeted from 13% to 7%.
- ❖ On October 22, 2024, the NPCI gave Paytm authorization to onboard new users, under to procedural restrictions and agreements with its Payment Service Provider (PSP) banks.

IMF retains India's GDP growth forecast at 7% for FY25

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its growth projections for India, forecasting the economy to expand by 7% in FY25 and 6.5% in FY26.



Key Points

- ❖ The RBI also maintained its FY24 growth projection at 7.2%, citing strong consumption and investment momentum.
- ❖ Global growth for 2024 and 2025 is expected to be 3.2%, slightly revised downward by 10 basis points (bps) from July's projection of 3.3%.

- ❖ Global headline inflation is expected to decline from 6.7% in 2023 to 5.8% in 2024, and further to 4.3% in 2025.
- ❖ The IMF projects India's headline inflation at 4.4% for FY25 and 4.1% for FY26.

India's growth projection by different Organizations(year 2024)

- ❖ IMF – 7.0
- ❖ S & P – 6.8
- ❖ World Bank – 7.0
- ❖ Moody's – 7.1
- ❖ RBI – 7.2

Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cooperation, Amit Shah, presided over the diamond jubilee celebration of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and also the birth anniversary of Tribhuvandas Patel in Anand, Gujarat, on 22 October 2024.



Key Points

- ❖ **Diamond Jubilee** refers to the 60th anniversary of an organisation.
- ❖ Anand is the headquarters of the NDDB.
- ❖ Tribhuvandas Patel paved the way for the establishment of the **National Dairy Development Board** and the initiation of Operation Flood.
- ❖ The success of the **Operation Flood** has made India the largest producer of the milk in the world since 1998.
- ❖ The success of the **operation flood** has increased the per capita availability of milk in the country from 40 kilograms per person per year in 1970 to 167 kilograms per person per year in 2023.

India's first dairy cooperative, Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited was formed in 1946 by farmers of Anand, Gujarat inspired by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. Tribhuvandas Patel was the founder Chairman of the Cooperatives, which later became famous as Amul dairy.

Egypt becomes 2nd country in 2024 to be declared 'malaria-free'

Egypt was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) on October 20, 2024, becoming the second country globally to achieve this status in 2024, following Cabo Verde.

WHO declares Egypt as malaria free nation after 100 year-effort



An achievement hailed by the UN public health agency as "truly historic"

Key Points

- ❖ This certification marks Egypt as the fifth African nation to receive malaria-free certification from the WHO, contributing to a total of 44 certified malaria-free countries and territories worldwide.
- ❖ Egypt is the third country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to be certified malaria-free, following the United Arab Emirates in 2007 and Morocco in 2010.
- ❖ A country is declared 'malaria-free' when it can provide evidence that the transmission of native malaria has been interrupted for at least three years, alongside demonstrating the ability to prevent re-establishment of the disease.

About Malaria:

- ❖ Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by **Plasmodium** parasites, transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female **Anopheles** mosquitoes.

- Five species of Plasmodium can cause malaria in humans:
- Falciparum (most severe form)
- Vivax
- Ovale
- Malariae
- Knowlesi

Kartarpur corridor deal extended until Oct 2029

India and Pakistan have renewed the Kartarpur Corridor agreement, allowing pilgrims from India to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan until 2029.



Key Points

- ❖ This agreement, initially signed on October 24, 2019, was part of a Confidence Building Measure during Imran Khan's tenure as Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- ❖ India has urged Pakistan to waive the \$20 (approx. ₹1,680) service charge imposed on each pilgrim, which Pakistan defends by citing the costs incurred for refurbishing the Gurudwara and related infrastructure.
- ❖ The Kartarpur Corridor links the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, established by Guru Nanak Dev in 1522, to Dera Baba Nanak in India.

- ❖ This corridor allows Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the site without needing a visa, addressing spiritual journeys that were complicated by the 1947 partition.
- ❖ Inaugurated on November 9, 2019, to coincide with Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary, the corridor has become a powerful symbol of hope and peace between India and Pakistan.

News Shorts

- ❖ Vietnam's parliament elected army general **Luong Cuong** as the new state president
- ❖ The **COP16** biodiversity conference held in **Cali, Colombia**, with a focus on urgent action and funding to combat species extinction and protect nature.
- ❖ India dispatched its first tranche of humanitarian aid to Palestine amid its ongoing conflict with Israel, consisting of 30 tons of medicines, surgical supplies, and high-energy biscuits.
- ❖ **Harmanpreet Kaur** was the only Indian player named in the ICC's team of the tournament for the Women's T20 World Cup 2024.
- ❖ The **2026 Commonwealth Games** will be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

❖ The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the development of a new missile testing range in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh.

❖ India launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), codenamed S4*, at the Ship Building Center in Visakhapatnam.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. In which Indian state were the first Mine Closure Certificates issued in India?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer-(c)

2. Who was recently elected as the President of Vietnam?

- (a) Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- (b) Luong Cuong
- (c) Tran Dai Quang
- (d) Vo Van Thuong

Answer-(b)