Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Vibrant Villages Programme

Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs provided valuable insights into the **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)** during a written reply in the **Rajya Sabha.**

- VVP is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** approved on 15th February 2023 and **officially launched on 10th April 2023**. focusing on the comprehensive development of select villages in **46 blocks across 19 districts abutting the northern border in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and UT of Ladakh.**
- The program aims to create **livelihood opportunities** through **tourism promotion, cultural heritage preservation, skill development, entrepreneurship, and development of cooperative societies,** including agriculture and cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs.
- Interventions under the program include road connectivity, housing, village infrastructure, renewable energy, television & telecom connectivity, and more, with the objective of providing sufficient incentives for people to stay in the selected villages.
- Additionally, under the **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**, essential infrastructure projects have been approved in census villages/towns, semi-urban, and urban areas **located within 0-10 km** distance from the **first habitation at the** International Boundary (IB) in 16 states and 2 UTs abutting land borders.
- Specific villages in Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh, as well as Chamoli, Uttarkashi, and Rudraprayag districts, have been selected for the **VVP.**

Read more: Vibrant Villages Programme

Lithium Ore in Jammu and Kashmir

Recently, the Ministry of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs provided important details regarding the Geological Survey of India**'s G3 stage mineral exploration project** and the significant **discovery of lithium ore in the Salal-Haimna areas of Reasi District, Jammu & Kashmir.**

- An inferred resource (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium ore **has been confirmed in the region.**
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** is a **geo-scientific organisation that was established in 1851 to find coal deposits** and now provides **national geo-science information and mineral resource assessment.**
- The GSI is an attached office to the **Ministry of Mines** and has its **headquarters in Kolkata** and has six regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata. Every state has a state unit.
- The decision regarding auctioning of the Lithium mineral block in Jammu & Kashmir will be taken up by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Read more: GSI Discovers Lithium Resources in J&K

Indian Army Inaugurates First PAEC for Aadhaar Services

- **Indian Army** inaugurated its inaugural **Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre (PAEC)** recently, at the **1 Central Base Post Office (CBPO)** in New Delhi.

- The establishment of the PAEC marks a crucial milestone for the tri-services personnel and their dependents, as it will **offer Aadhaar-related services, including enrolment and updation, at 48 identified locations across the country through the Field Post Offices (FPOs).**
- The PAEC's comprehensive coverage, including both **Field and Peace locations,** ensures that all army personnel, including those stationed in remote areas, can **conveniently avail themselves of the Aadhaar services.**

Read more: Aadhar and its Voluntary Use**,** Indian Army

National Coal Index (NCI) Shows Significant Decline

- The **National Coal Index (NCI)** has shown a significant decline of **33.8% in May 2023** compared to May 2022. This decline is an indication of a robust supply of **coal** in the market.
- **NCI is a price index that combines coal prices from all sales channels**, including notified prices, auction prices and import prices.
    - **Established with the base year as fiscal year 2017-18,** it serves as a reliable indicator of market dynamics, providing valuable insights into coal price fluctuations.

Read more: National Coal Index

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