



VIHANGAM

Why in News

Recently, an **internet-based platform called 'VIHANGAM'** integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was inaugurated.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

- It is **one of the major coal producing companies** of India. It is one of the eight subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.
- MCL was the **first coal company** to introduce environment-friendly Surface Mining technology in 1999.
- The biggest fleet of 66 Surface Miners is contributing 95% of the total coal production of the company.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The system consists of a **Ground Control Station (GCS)**, an RPAS, internet lease line of 40 Mbps and VIHANGAM portal.
- The system **enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities** from mines to internet platforms which can be accessed through VIHANGAM portal by authorized personnel only having ID and password.

▪ Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS):

- RPAS is one subset of the [Unmanned Aircraft System \(UAS\)](#).
- There are **three subsets of Unmanned Aircraft-** Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Autonomous Aircraft and Model Aircraft.
 - Drone is a layman terminology for Unmanned Aircraft (UA).
- Remotely piloted aircraft have been divided into five categories based on their weight (existing rules).
 - **Nano** : Less than or equal to 250 grams.
 - **Micro** : From 250 grams to 2kg.
 - **Small** : From 2 kg to 25kg.
 - **Medium** : From 25kg to 150kg.
 - **Large** : Greater than 150kg
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft consists of remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other components, as specified in the type design.

▪ Other Initiatives Using UAVs:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a Drone-Based vaccine delivery model named, [Drone Response and Outreach in North East \(i-Drone\)](#).
- Telangana government has selected 16 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) for pilot testing the ambitious **'Medicine from the sky', the first-of- its-kind project**.
- The [International Crops Research Institute \(ICRISAT\)](#) was permitted to deploy drones for agricultural research activities, apart from some agriculture universities and educational

institutions.

Source: PIB

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