



# 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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