



Coal India Limited's First Commercial Extraction of Coal Bed Methane

Why in News

- On September 20, 2021, a contract was signed between Bharat Coking Coal Limited (**BCCL**), a subsidiary of Coal India and Prabha Energy Pvt Ltd (**PEPL**) in Dhanbad, Jharkhand for the extraction of the first commercial coal bed methane.

Key Points

- Under the contract, **PEPL** will act as the developer of Jharia Coal Bed Methane Block-1 of Jharia Coal Fields.
- Central Mine Planning Design Institute (**CMPDI**) is the lead implementing agency (**PIA**) for the implementation of this project.
- This extraction is part of **Coal India's efforts to reduce methane emissions**. In addition, CBM (coal bed methane) extraction prior to coal mining will reduce the incidence of explosions and arson during mining in coal mines, thereby increasing the **safety of workers working in underground coal mines**.
- In addition, the extraction of CBM will also enable the use of energy, which is **wasted during mining**.
- It is noteworthy that **CBM is a form of natural gas**, which is obtained from coal deposits. It is a **non-conventional source of energy**, which is being used in various countries in industries like **cement, rolling mills, steel plants etc.**

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