



Indian Army Launches First FM Radio Station in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

The [Indian Army](#) has launched its **first FM radio station**, named '**Panchshul Pulse**,' in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

- It was inaugurated by **Anindya Sengupta**, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's Central Command.

Key Points

- **About the Radio Station:**
 - The station has been named 'Panchshul Pulse' to **reflect its association with the local Panchshul Brigade of the Indian Army**.
 - It is operated as part of [Operation Sadbhavana](#), a long-standing Army initiative to build constructive relationships with civilians in strategically important areas.
 - Operation Sadbhavana is a **humanitarian initiative launched by the Indian Army in the 1990s** to support communities affected by [terrorism](#) in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
 - It aligns with the [Vibrant Villages Programme](#), which emphasises development, connectivity, and awareness in India's border areas.
 - The station broadcasts on **88.4 FM** and can be received within a **12-kilometer radius**.
- **Objectives of the Initiative:**
 - It aims to **enhance civil-military cooperation** by serving as a platform for cultural, historical, and social exchange.
 - The station also seeks to **raise awareness** about the contributions and sacrifices of individuals from the border region.
- **Highlights of the Radio Programming:**
 - The programming places special emphasis on **local history, culture, and societal practices**.
 - It includes content on **agriculture and horticulture**, which are key occupations in the region.
 - The station features stories that celebrate the **achievements of martyrs and brave soldiers** from the area.
 - It also highlights the accomplishments of **local sportspersons and individuals working in social and cultural sectors**.

Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)

- **About:** The programme was approved on **15th February 2023** as a [Centrally Sponsored Scheme](#) for the holistic development of villages along India's northern border in 19 districts across 46 blocks in **states including Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh (UT)**.
- **Focus Areas:** Livelihood generation will be promoted through tourism, cultural promotion, skill development, entrepreneurship, as well as agriculture, horticulture, and the cultivation of

medicinal plants and herbs.

- The programme **will focus on improving infrastructure through road connectivity**, housing, **renewable energy**, etc. along with providing basic amenities such as healthcare, **education**, sanitation, and community centres.
- **Objective:** To encourage residents to **remain in border villages** by providing better infrastructure and livelihood opportunities, enhancing **border security** and **sustainable local development**.
 - The programme complements the **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**, which fills infrastructure gaps in border villages within 0-10 km of the international boundary in 16 states and 2 UTs.
- **Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II):**
 - The **VVP-II** has been launched for **FY 2024-25 to 2028-29** with a budget of **₹6,839 crore** to develop villages along international land borders (excluding the northern border).

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