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**News:** Lithium Deal with Argentina

- The Ministry of Mines, Government of India through the state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), has entered into a draft exploration and development agreement with Argentinian miner CAMYEN for possible acquisition and development of five-odd lithium blocks

## Lithium

- Lithium is a chemical element with the symbol Li.
- It is a soft, silvery-white metal.
- Under standard conditions, it is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.
- It is highly reactive and flammable and must be stored in mineral oil.
- It is an alkali metal and a rare metal.
- Australia tops the production of Lithium with 42000 tonnes followed by Chila, China and Argentina.
- Lithium Triangle (Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile) countries has 54% of the Lithium reserves in the world.
- Chile individually holds the largest reserves of Lithium followed by Australia and Argentina.
- Recently, High-grade Lithium has been discovered in Nigeria.

## Uses of Lithium

- Lithium metal is **used to make useful alloys**.
- For example, with lead to make ‘white metal’ bearings for motor engines, with aluminium to make aircraft parts, and with magnesium to make armour plates.
- In Thermonuclear reactions.
- To make electrochemical cells. Lithium is an important component in Electric Vehicles, Laptops etc.

## Lithium in India

- India **currently imports all its lithium needs**.
- Recent surveys by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) have shown the **presence of lithium resources in Mandya district, Karnataka**.
- The **survey shows presence of 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources in the igneous rocks of the Marlagalla Allapatna region of Karnataka’s Mandya district**.
- Recently, **5.9 million tonnes of inferred Lithium reserves were found in the Salal –Haimana area of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir**, by the Geological Survey of India.