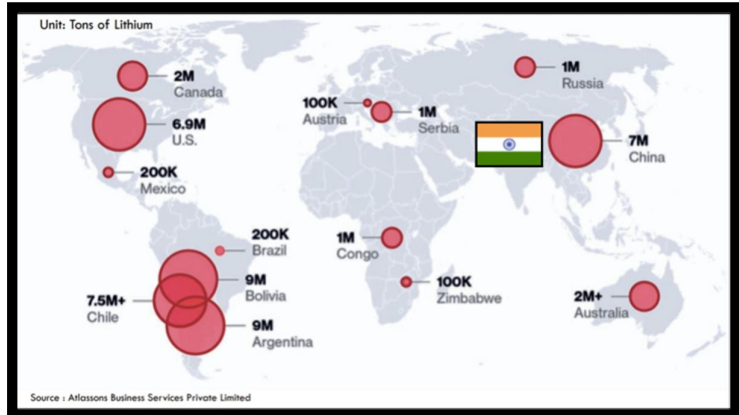


## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1. New Lithium deposits discovered in Rajasthan after J&K -

- Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.



- The newly discovered reserves in Degana are believed to be larger than those found in Jammu and Kashmir and officials claim that they could meet up to 80% of India's demand for lithium. This is the first time that lithium reserves have been found in Degana.
- Previously, only a minor lithium reserve had been discovered in Karnataka, making this the first significant mineral discovery of its kind in India. The discovery has been attributed to the mines ministry's renewed focus on rare earth metals, as lithium is a crucial component of batteries used in electric vehicles.
- The government is actively searching for rare metal reserves both domestically and internationally. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is not the only organization involved in this effort.
- A consortium of three Public-sector Undertaking companies, including National Aluminium Company, Hindustan Copper, and Mineral Exploration Corp, is also involved in research and development of lithium-ion batteries through recycling, acquisition, and joint manufacturing efforts.
- The majority of the world's lithium reserves are concentrated in the "lithium triangle" of Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, with half of the deposits located in these regions.
- China is the dominant player in the lithium refining industry, controlling 75% of global refining capacity. India's goal to



increase electric vehicle (EV) adoption by 30% by 2030 relies heavily on lithium, as currently, only slightly more than 1% of all vehicle sales in the country are electric. Lithium batteries are the only viable option for EVs due to their high power-to-weight ratio, which allows for a large charge while keeping the vehicle's weight low.

## 2. India operationalized Sittwe port in Myanmar , with the first shipment departing from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata -

- The Sittwe Port in Myanmar has been put into operation by India, with the first shipment departing from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata. The project is a part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport initiative. The inaugural shipment, carrying 20,000 bags of cement weighing 1,000 metric tonnes, is expected to arrive at the Sittwe Port.
- Constructed with grant aid from the Indian government, the port has been established based on a framework agreement between India and Myanmar for building and running a multimodal transit transport facility on the Kaladan river. Once the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) is fully operational, it will provide an alternative route for connectivity from India's eastern coast to the northeastern states through the Sittwe port. The port links to Paletwa in Myanmar via an inland waterway and from Paletwa to Zorinpui in Mizoram via a road segment.
- In a ceremony held in Kolkata, the Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur, launched the MV-ITT





LION (V-273). The port's establishment is anticipated to enhance trade and commerce between India, Myanmar, and the surrounding regions.

### 3. Russia stages the 78th Victory Day parade at Red Square, Moscow -

- Russia held the 78th Victory Day parade anniversary on May 9th, at Red Square in Moscow to celebrate the historic victory of the Soviet Union in 1945, when they defeated Nazi Germany in World War II, also known as the Great Patriotic War.



- This year's parade featured more than 10,000 individuals and 125 pieces of weaponry, which were all showcased by the Russian Defense Minister, Sergey Shoigu.
- The anniversary is particularly poignant this year as the country mourns the thousands of soldiers who have lost their lives in the 15-month war in Ukraine, which shows no signs of ending anytime soon.
- In the face of this tragedy, President Vladimir Putin delivered a speech on May 9th amidst tight security following a series of drone attacks, some of which targeted the Kremlin citadel itself, all of which Moscow has alleged to be the work of Kyiv.
- Victory Day is an important public holiday in Russia as it commemorates the tremendous sacrifices made by the Soviet Union during WWII, where approximately 27 million citizens perished.
- President Putin has consistently framed the war as a battle against "Nazi"-inspired nationalists, comparing the challenge the

Soviet Union faced when Hitler invaded in 1941 to the contemporary issues that Russia faces today.

- All in all, the 78th Victory Day parade anniversary was a powerful symbol of Russian pride and patriotism.
- In conclusion, the Soviet Union was a significant player on the world stage for much of the 20th century, but its collapse in 1991 led to a new era in Russian history.
- Since then, Russia has faced its own set of challenges, but it has also undergone significant changes and has re-emerged as a powerful player in global politics. The legacy of the Soviet Union continues to influence Russian society and politics to this day.

#### 4. Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Heritage Centre in Chandigarh -

- India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opened the country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh on 8 May, under a memorandum of understanding between the Indian Air Force and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.



- The centre spreads over 17,000 square feet and celebrates the Indian Air Force's role in previous conflicts such as the 1965, 1971, and Kargil Wars, as well as the Balakot air strike, through murals and memorabilia.
- Last year, the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the Indian Air Force entered into a memorandum of understanding to establish the Centre.
- The inauguration event was attended by Chandigarh's administrator and governor Banwarilal Purohit, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, and the city's MP Kirron Kher.





## 5. Ban on Diesel Four-Wheelers -

- India is set to ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers in cities with over 10 lakh population by 2027, according to a report commissioned by the oil ministry. It recommended a gradual elimination of motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers that are powered by internal combustion engines by the year 2035.
- To prepare for the phasing out of internal combustion engine two/three-wheel vehicles by 2035, EVs need to be promoted.
- During transitional period, there should be policies supporting the use of ethanol-blended fuel with a gradually increasing blend ratio. Four-wheelers, including passenger cars and taxis, must be substituted with electric and partially to ethanol-blended petrol with almost 50% share in each category.
- To boost electric vehicle use in India, a “targeted extension” of incentives must be given under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles scheme (FAME) to beyond March 31.
- Natural gas usage must be boosted in industries and automobiles since it is a greener alternative than liquid fuels like diesel. India aims to raise the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from 6.7% now.
- By 2040, there is an anticipated peak in petrol and diesel demand in India, followed by a reduction due to the increasing use of electric vehicles. Additionally, LPG demand is predicted to decrease after 2030 as electrification of cooking is expected to increase, leading to complete electrification by 2070.
- The rate of transition in fossil fuel consumption is mainly dependent on the shift in the auto sector to EVs. If there is an





active shift to EVs because of policy mandates, refineries may be repurposed or closed down rapidly to generate renewable energy or biofuel and reduce the carbon footprint.

## Map

