

India's first lithium reserves found in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 9 February

The government on Thursday said lithium reserves have been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is one of the key components in electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

"For the first time, lithium reserves have been discovered and that too in Jammu and Kashmir," Mines Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj said.

Upon exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), lithium reserves have been found in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the mines ministry had said that to strengthen the critical mineral supply chain for emerging technologies, the government was taking several proactive measures to secure minerals, including lithium, from Australia and Argentina.

Currently, India is import-dependent for many minerals like lithium, nickel and cobalt.

Speaking at the 62nd Central Geological Programming board meeting here, Bharadwaj said that whether it is a mobile phone or a solar panel, critical minerals are required everywhere.

In order to become self-reliant, it is very important for the country to find out critical minerals and also process it, Bharadwaj said.

He also said that if gold imports were reduced, then "we will become *aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant)".

Ola Electric unveils five e-motorcycles; launch next year



PEERZADA ABRAR
Bengaluru, 9 February

Ola Electric on Thursday teased five new electric motorcycles that the SoftBank-backed company is working on, announcing the range after selling electric scooters.

The products are labelled cafe racer, an adventure tourer, a scrambler and a naked motorcycle. The motorcycles are expected to be launched next year and would include premium and mass-market versions, said sources.

Last August, Ola Electric said it plans to launch an electric sports car in 2024. That will put the company in competition with Tata group and Mahindra & Mahindra and global giants Tesla and Hyundai. The company expanded its scooter range, the Ola S1 portfolio, and launched Ola S1 Air. Ola's S1 portfolio gets a new 2kWh battery pack variant. The Ola S1 Air, too, has been announced in three

new variants, powered by 2KWh, 3KWh and 4KWh battery packs respectively.

"The uptick in EVs has been quick once world-class alternatives to ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles were made available for the Indian customers. With the dominance of Ola S1 and Ola S1 Pro in the premium scooter segment, India is already one of the biggest EV markets," said Bhavish Aggarwal, Ola's founder and CEO.

Ola said the success of the S1 Pro and S1 had cemented its market leadership. The firm went past the 25,000-unit sales mark in January, while clocking its best monthly performance.

Ola's new S1 variant is powered by a 2kWh battery, 8.5 kW motor, and packs in better acceleration and performance. Priced at ₹99,999, the scooter offers an IDC (Indian driving conditions) range of 91 km and a top speed of 90 km/hour.