

# Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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- 5.9M Tonnes of Lithium Reserves Found in Reasi Distt
- Erudition of Kashmiri Pandits Benefits Several Disciplines
- Bilquis Mir, India's Only Woman Judge at Asian Games

**More News and Analyses**



# DEVELOPMENT SECTION

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## 5.9M TONNES OF LITHIUM RESERVES FOUND IN REASI DISTT

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### LITHIUM: THE NEW PETROLEUM



On 9 February 2023, the central government announced its discovery of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium reserves in the Salal-Haimana area (Reasi district) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). This has been the first such discovery in India. It is a critical and rare component required for manufacturing rechargeable batteries which power electric vehicles, smartphones, and laptops. It has been suggested by expert observers that this discovery will prove to a critical component for India's success in its drive to achieve reduced carbon emissions and address challenges brought about by climate change. Furthermore, it will contribute to the national agenda of increasing the producing electric cars to 30 per cent by 2030.

The Indian government had indicated earlier that it intends to boost its supply of rare earth materials by sourcing them from within country and abroad. In 2021, lithium was uncovered in comparatively smaller amounts in Karnataka.

The presence of lithium in J&K instills optimism that India can soon move away from its reliance on Argentina and Australia for importing this component. Lithium has emerged as a sought-after component worldwide as states have demonstrated interest in pursuing alternative and green technology to counter climate change. – BBC News, Hindustan Times

The lithium reserves in J&K were discovered last month during exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI). Be it a smartphone, electric car or even a normal car or any other battery operated product, they are all run by lithium-ion batteries. As all countries around the world are reducing their dependence on petroleum, lithium is becoming a major energy resource.

Currently, India now imports most of its minerals – including lithium, nickel, and cobalt. With 50% of the deposits concentrated in Argentina, Bolivia, and Chili, the *lithium triangle* is where the majority of the world's lithium reserves are located. China, on the other hand, has an advantage over other nations and is in charge of 75% of the world's lithium refining. — [Livemint](#)





# COMMUNITY SECTION

## ERUDITION OF KASHMIRI PANDITS BENEFITS SEVERAL DISCIPLINES

Recalling the immense contribution of Kashmiri Pandits in the fields of education, healthcare, art, and culture over decades, senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana has said that despite having undergone a most traumatic phase of terrorism, “Kashmiri Pandits have left an indelible mark on the social landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, which cannot be erased”.

Speaking at the first-ever Herath Mahotsav, organised by the Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj and Global Solace at the Community Hall at Jagati Township on 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Mr. Rana recalled how generations from the Valley and in Jammu still acknowledge with pride the contribution of Kashmiri Pandits in their lives as teachers, guides, philosophers and doctors.

“This acknowledgment of the people holds promise and hope for tomorrow,” Mr. Rana affirmed. With their sense of service and spirit of self-sacrifice, Kashmiri Pandits excel as professionals in all areas and promise for tomorrow. The BJP leader lauded Kashmiri Pandits by saying that “the community has demonstrated inspirational resilience and fortitude during their forced exodus from homes and hearths by weathering all storms of life. In their most gloomy days of wilderness, they did not forget their roots and ethos, which is hugely reflected in their successful effort of ornamenting their children with education. This has fructified in young Kashmiri Pandit boys and girls making their mark in all the walks of life across the globe,” he said. – [Dailyexcelsior.com](http://Dailyexcelsior.com)

## 3 KASHMIRI PANDITS WIN IN BEATBOXING TOURNAMENT



Three Kashmiri Pandits – Rajat Sapuro, Ankit Sharma, and Ayush Sharma – emerged victorious as National Champions in the beatboxing tournament.

The residents of Durganagar, Jammu, gave them an electrifying welcome after they brought their laurels home. These individuals participated in the tag, crew, and solo categories. –

[Dailyexcelsior.com](http://Dailyexcelsior.com)



Bilquis Mir photographs From Facebook, Twitter

Bilquis Mir, the first Olympic-level women’s kayaking and canoeing athlete from J&K is now the only Indian woman and the first from Jammu and Kashmir to be appointed as the judge at the Asian Games.

Mir’s journey is inspiring because of her success stories. She represented J&K for over a decade professionally and trained despite facing harsh opposition and rebuke from her family and community. She is also the first individual to be appointed as a water sports coach from Srinagar.

In 2022, she added another feather to her cap after she was appointed as a judge at the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games held in China. However, it was the second time she assumed a judge’s responsibility at an international water sports event.

She has expressed her appreciation and pride in female athletes taking up this sport – “It’s sending a positive message because there were very few girls in sports when I started, and now I see that is changing.

Girls should have trust and have faith in themselves. They always face more hurdles in their careers, but my message would be that talent will never die. Keep working hard; where there is a will, there’s a way.” – [WION News](#), [Outlook India](#)

## WOMEN’S SECTION

BILQUIS MIR,  
INDIA’S ONLY  
WOMAN  
JUDGE AT  
ASIAN GAMES

JASIA NO.1 IN ONE-DAY CRICKET

### SHOPIAN GIRL CHOSEN IN OPENING WOMEN’S IPL



Jasia Akhter, a star cricketer from the Shopian district, has been selected to participate in the inaugural Women’s Premier League. This event will be organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

She will play for the Delhi Capitals, who brought her into the fold at an auction for Rs. 20 lakhs on 13 February 2023. Among her several accolades, she is renowned as being number one in One Day Cricket format and number two in the T20 format among the female cricketers in India. – [Dailyexcelsior.com](#)