

## Sijimali Bauxite Mining Project

*Prelims: Current events of national importance | Growth & Development*

### Why in News?

Recently, Clashes between police and tribal villagers in Rayagada district, Odisha over the construction of an approach road to the Sijimali bauxite mine.

### Bauxite

- Bauxite is the **primary ore** used worldwide to produce aluminum.
- It mainly consists of hydrated aluminum oxides, aluminum hydroxides, iron hydroxides, and silica.
- It is a **reddish-brown, soft, sedimentary rock** found largely in tropical regions.
- It is refined and smelted to produce aluminum metal through the Bayer process.
- **Over 90%** of bauxite is refined into alumina, then into aluminium metal.
- **Other Uses** - Beyond aluminum production, it is used in refractories, chemicals, cement, and abrasives.
- **Key Locations** - Major deposits are located in Australia, Guinea, Brazil, and India.



### Sijimali Bauxite Mining Project

- **Location** - Rayagada & Kalahandi districts, Odisha (Eastern Ghats hill ranges).
- **Led by** - Vedanta Limited to fuel aluminum production.
- **Reserve Size** - 311 million tonnes of high-grade bauxite.

- **Production** - The project aims for 6 to 9 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of bauxite over a 50-year lease, with estimated reserves of 220-311 million tonnes.
- **Clearances** - Stage-1 forest clearance obtained; Stage-2 pending.



*Odisha accounts for 41% of India's bauxite resources and 73% of the total national output. Odisha also rich in iron ore, coal, nickel, gemstones, graphite (17% of India's mineral reserves).*

## Reference

[Indian Express | Bauxite Mining](#)

