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

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