

## **Quadrant IV- Notes (Module- wise)**

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Unit	: Natural Resources
Module Name	: Indian Distribution and development of Bauxite
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### **Quadrants(notes)**

#### **Production and Distribution of Bauxite in India**

Bauxite is an important ore which is used for making aluminium. It is an oxide of aluminium (name derived after Le Beaux in France). It is not a specific mineral but a rock consisting mainly of hydrated aluminium oxides. It is a clay-like substance which is pinkish, whitish or reddish in colour depending on the amount of iron content.

#### **Production and Distribution:**

The total in situ reserves are 3,076 million tonnes as on 1 April, 2000. These deposits are mainly associated with laterites and occur as blankets or cappings on hills and plateaus except in coastal areas of Gujarat and Goa. The major occurrences have been reported from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, M.P., Orissa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, U.P. and Rajasthan are also reported to have some bauxite deposits. The production of bauxite has increased rather out of proportion from a mere 68 thousand tonnes in 1950-51 to a staggering quantity of 9,777 thousand tonnes in 2002-03 recording an increase of over 140 times in a span of about half a century.

Orissa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh are the main bauxite producing states in India.

### **1. Orissa:**

Orissa is the largest bauxite producing state accounting for more than half of the total production of India. The total recoverable reserves in the state are estimated at 1,370.5 million tonnes. The main bauxite belt is in Kalahandi and Koraput districts and extends further into Andhra Pradesh.

This 300 km long, 40 to 100 km wide and 950 to 1300 metre thick belt is the largest bauxite bearing region of the country. The main deposits occur in Kalahandi, Koraput, Sundargarh, Bolangir and Sambalpur districts.

The important mining areas include Chandgiri, Baphalimoli Parbat, Kathakal, Manjimali, Pasenmali, Kunnumali, Kodingandi, Pottangi and Karalput in Kalahandi and Koraput districts. The new aluminium plant at Damanjoli provides ready market for bauxite of this area. The proposed aluminium plant at Doragurha will provide further impetus.

### **2. Gujarat:**

Gujarat is the second largest producer and produces over 15 per cent of the total bauxite of India. The total reserves are estimated at 87.5 million tonnes mainly found in Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kheda, Kutchh, Sabarkantha, Amreli and Bhavnagar. The most important deposits occur in a belt which is 48 km long and 3 to 4.5 km wide lying between the Gulf of Kachchh and the Arabian Sea through Bhavnagar, Junagadh and Amreli districts.

### **3. Jharkhand:**

The reserves of all grades of recoverable bauxite in Jharkhand have been estimated at 63.5 million tonnes. These reserves are found in extensive areas of Ranchi, Lohardaga, Palamu and Gumla districts. Some bauxite is also found in Dumka and Munger districts. High grade ore occurs in Lohardaga and adjoining areas.

### **4. Maharashtra:**

Maharashtra accounts for about 10 per cent of the total bauxite produced in India. The total recoverable reserves in the state have been estimated to be of the order of 87.7 million tonnes. The

largest deposits occur in Kolhapur district capping the plateau basalts. Udgeri, Dhangarwadi, Radhanagari and Inderganj in Kolhapur district contain rich deposits with alumina content 52 to 89 per cent. The other districts with considerable deposits are Thane, Ratnagiri, Satara and Pune.

**Table 25.13 Production of Bauxite in India (2002-03):**

State	Production (‘000 tonnes)	Percentage of all India	Value in Rs. lakh
1. Orissa	4,904	50.16	8,454.54
2. Gujarat	1,547	15.82	3,360.73
3. Jharkhand	1,161	11.87	3,011.39
4. Maharashtra	964	9.87	1,648.91
5. Chhattisgarh	604	6.18	4,129.57
6. Tamil Nadu	268	2.74	273.22
7. Madhya Pradesh	230	2.35	509.18
Others	99	1.01	177.99
All India	9,777	10000	21,565.53

#### **5. Chhattisgarh:**

Chhattisgarh produces more than 6 per cent bauxite of India. The Maikala range in Bilaspur, Durg districts and the Amarkantak plateau regions of Surguja, Raigarh and Bilaspur are some of the areas having rich deposits of bauxite.

## **6. Tamil Nadu:**

The total reserves of bauxite in Tamil Nadu are estimated at 17.2 million tonnes mainly found in Nilgiri, Salem and Madurai districts. Nilgiri and Salem are the main bauxite producing districts enabling Tamil Nadu to contribute slightly more than 2 per cent of the India's bauxite.

## **7. Madhya Pradesh:**

Amarkantak plateau area, the Maikala range in Shahdol, Mandla and Balaghat districts and the Kotni area of Jabalpur district are the main producers.

Some bauxite is also found in Andhra Pradesh, (Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari and West Godavari), Kerala (Kannur, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram), Rajasthan (Kota), Uttar Pradesh (Banda, Lalitpur and Varanasi), Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu, Poonch, Udhampur) and Goa.

## **Trade:**

As much as 80 per cent of the bauxite is used for producing aluminium. India's exports of bauxite have been reduced considerably due to increasing demand in the home market. Still India manages to export small quantities of bauxite. The main buyers of Indian bauxite are Italy (60%), U.K. (25%), Germany (9%) and Japan (4%).

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