



Dima: Hi, welcome to this edition of 6 Minute English with me, Dima Kostenko

Kate: and me, Kate Colin. I am going to be your language guide over the next 6 minutes, and we're talking about a protest by an Indian tribe whose historical land - the Niyamgiri Mountain range - is about to be used for industrial mining. But before we look at the story, I thought it might be a good idea to go through some of today's vocabulary.

Dima: *OK, shall we do it now?*

Kate: *Yeah, sure.* First, the adjective 'indigenous'. We use this word when we talk about people or sometimes things that have always naturally lived in a place, rather than arriving from elsewhere. Secondly, the verb 'to displace', meaning to force people to leave the place where they normally live. And finally, another verb: 'to worship' - that's to have deep faith in someone or something, to be fully devoted to them and to treat them as divine.

Dima: That's 'to worship', 'to displace' and 'indigenous'. Well, the latest protest by the indigenous tribal people in India, known as the Kondh, was given a fresh start last week. It was then that demonstrators in London protested outside the headquarters of Vedanta, a company that looks set to mine around 250 square kilometres of the Kondh land for the bauxite.

Kate: Bauxite, that's another name for the world's main type of aluminium ore. And aluminium of course is a light metal which is silver in colour and is used in many different ways, especially for making cooking equipment and aircraft parts.

Dima: In a moment we'll hear from Dr Bratindi Jenna, an activist who works with the community. Dr Jenna says the 8,000 people who live in the mountains completely rely on their surroundings for everything: food, water, livelihood and, importantly, faith. And here comes this week's question for you Kate. What or who do you think many indigenous people in the world often worship? Is it their tribal chief (because of his position)? Is it church? Or is it nature?

Kate: *Answers*

Dima: You'll hear the answer in Dr Bratindi Jenna's words - let's listen and check if you got it right:

Clip 1 **0'22"**

Indigenous people across the world worship nature. They worship something which has contributed to their existence for generations. That's their lifeline. It has river, it has food, it has everything. Indigenous people are the owner of the land - and first of all we displace them and we give them some job which has no meaning for them.

Kate: Dr Jenna says indigenous people across the world worship nature. *Which means I was right/wrong with my earlier guess...*

Dima: And how does she explain this devotion to nature Kate?

Kate: Well she says that's because nature has given them the land they live and feed on for many generations, from parents to children. Dr Jenna doesn't believe in displacing people because for them, she says, things can simply lose their meaning.

Dima: So that's what last week's protests in London were all about. But understandably perhaps, the mining company sees the situation differently.

Let's listen to Vedanta's Chief Executive, M. S. Mehta. He says on the whole India's systems balance well the economic and social development.

Kate: This is a good word to know and use: 'to balance', meaning to give several things equal amounts of importance, time or money so that a situation is successful. And another expression I wanted to mention is 'a final stamp of approval', or 'a final seal of approval'. This phrase is used when it has been officially decided that something should definitely happen.

Dima: That's 'to balance' and 'a final stamp of approval'. Listen out for these words - and also try to find out which very important Indian institution has given their final stamp of approval to Vedanta's project:

Clip 2 0'22"

The issue has been in debate for last three years. And all the regulatory agencies in India have had a look at it and the Supreme Court of India had got it re-verified and put the final stamp of approval [in] August last year. India has a very good legal system, regulatory system both balancing development and the social development. I think we've got to start respecting the legal system.

Dima: Did you hear the answer? Which important Indian institution has given its final stamp of approval to the mining project?

...

It was the Supreme Court of India. Still campaigners are not convinced. They say they want Vedanta to give up the mining project and to leave the area for good. Until then, they say, they won't stop their fight.

Kate: *Quite a dramatic story* - and you can find out more about it by following the links from our website, bbclearningenglish.com.

Dima: But before that, can I ask you to go through some of today's key words and phrases again Kate?

Kate: *Responds.* We began with the adjective **indigenous**, meaning people that have always naturally lived in a place, rather than arriving from elsewhere. Then we talked about **displacing**, that's when people are forced to leave the place where they normally live, and **worshiping**. '**To worship**' means to have deep faith in someone or something, to be fully devoted to them and to treat them as divine. We mentioned **bauxites** - that's another name for the world's main type of aluminium ore. And **aluminium** of course is a light metal which is silver in colour and is used in many different ways. We had the verb **to balance**, meaning to give several things equal amounts of importance. And just one more phrase to remember: **a final stamp of approval**. This phrase is used when it has been officially decided that something should definitely happen.

Dima: I'm afraid that's all we have time for today. Until next week.

Both: Goodbye!