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# Down To Earth

FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

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# INVASION ALERT

India promotes cultivation of an exotic seaweed known to destroy corals



RIVER POLLUTION

How the Hindon reached a toxic end

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KOLKATA TRAM

West Bengal to discontinue its cleanest public transport

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PASSIVE EUTHANASIA

Draft guidelines exclude interests of terminally ill

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# DownToEarth

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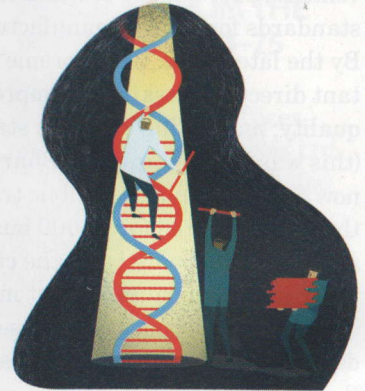
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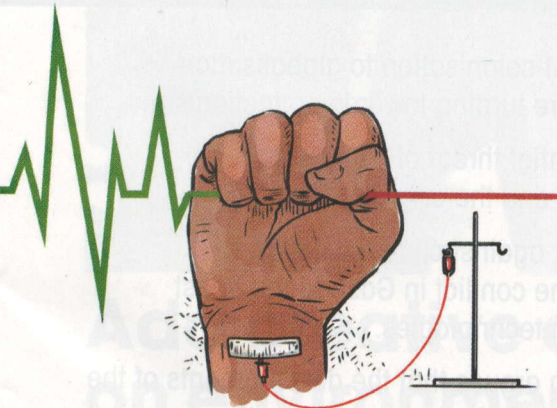
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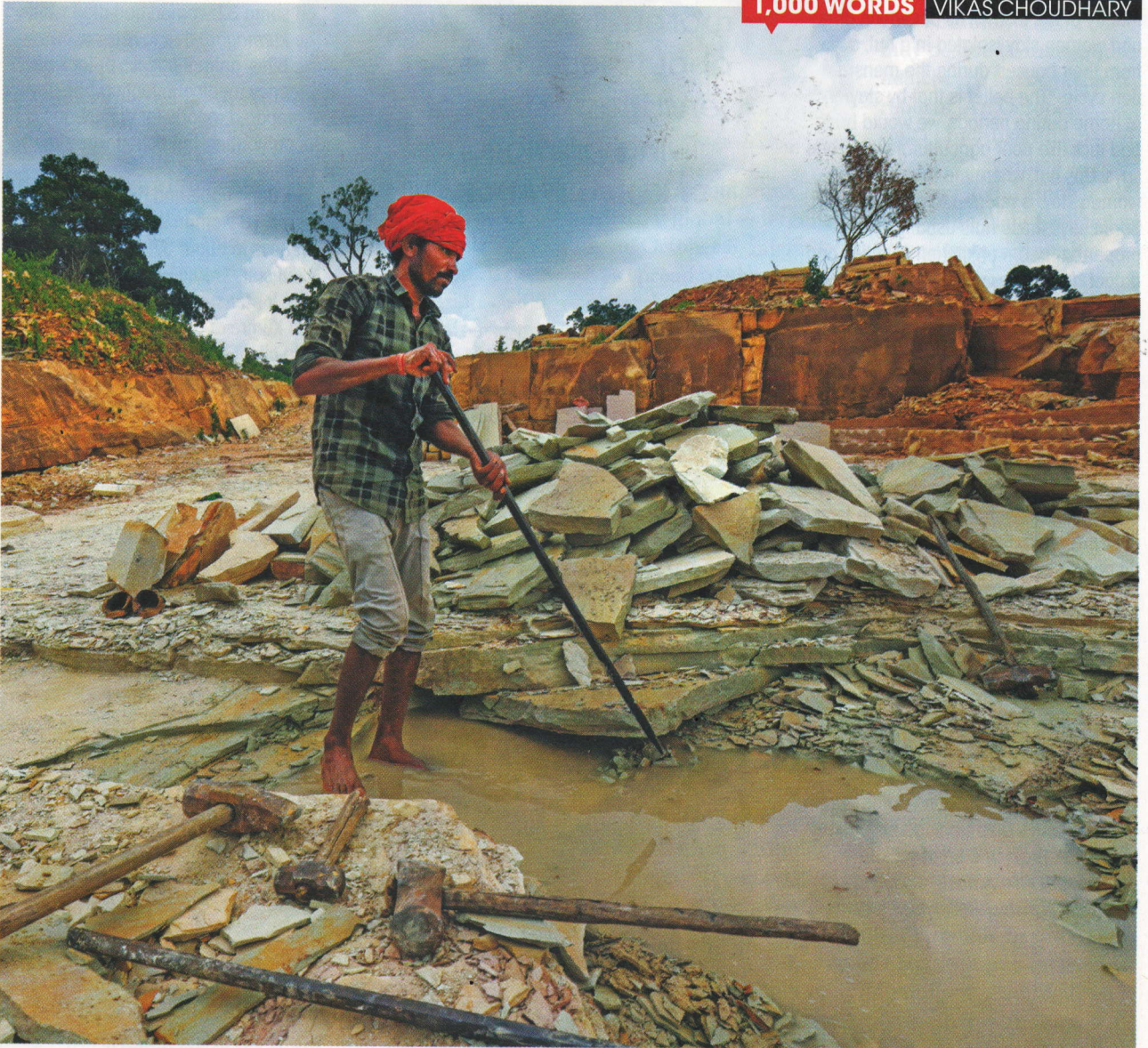
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1,000 WORDS VIKAS CHOUDHARY



Working at diamond mines and sandstone quarries is the main source of livelihood for several communities in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh. However, extraction of stone exposes the workers to excess levels of silica dust, which leads to a debilitating and potentially fatal lung disease called silicosis. Its symptoms are similar to those of tuberculosis (TB)—persistent cough, fever and fatigue. When *Down To Earth* visited villages of Panna in September 2024, several silicosis patients reported that they had been misdiagnosed and treated for TB for years. Some are even suspected to have died due to undiagnosed silicosis.

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