



Silicosis Tragedy in Panna Mining Community

Why in News?

The devastating impact of mining continues to claim lives in Panna, with families grappling with silicosis misdiagnosed as [tuberculosis](#).

Key Points

- **Silicosis:**
 - A fatal lung disease caused by inhaling fine silica dust, common in mining industries.
 - Symptoms include chronic cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue, often mistaken as tuberculosis.
 - Since 2014, five family members have died, suspected from silicosis.
- **Tuberculosis (TB):**
 - TB is caused by a bacterium called [Mycobacterium tuberculosis](#), belonging to the Mycobacteriaceae family consisting of about 200 members.
 - Some of Mycobacteria cause diseases like TB and [Leprosy](#) in humans and others infect a wide range of animals.
 - In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other **organs (extra-pulmonary TB)**.
 - TB is a very ancient disease and has been documented to have existed in **Egypt as early as 3000 BC**. It is a treatable and curable disease.

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Silicosis: Occupational lung disease

Silicosis is an often fatal lung disease caused by breathing dust containing crystalline silica particles, a basic component of sand and granite. There is no cure for silicosis, and treatment options are limited. However, the condition can be prevented if measures are taken to reduce exposure.

Symptoms

Continued exposure:

- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Bluish skin at the ear lobes or lips

As the disease progresses:

- Fatigue
- Extreme shortness of breath
- Loss of appetite
- Chest pain
- Respiratory failure

At-risk occupations

- Construction
- Mining
- Sandblasting
- Masonry
- Demolition
- Manufacturing of glass and metal products
- Plumbing
- Painting

Inhaling the dust can cause scar tissue to form in the lungs that reduces the lungs' ability to extract oxygen from the air.

CRYSTALLINE SILICA DUST

Silica dust particles can embed themselves in the alveolar sacs deep in the lungs where they cannot be cleared by mucous or coughing.

Alveolar sacs

