

1-15 APRIL, 2025

# Down To Earth

FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Subscriber copy, not for resale

₹80.00

# DEADLY DUST

Why millions of workers in India face risk of silicosis



D.T. 18  
3/5



**DAIRY SECTOR**  
India promotes sex-sorted semen to boost milk production

P14

**PHARMACEUTICALS**  
No trade recourse to Trump's tariffs

P44

# DownToEarth

Founded in 1992 to arm you with knowledge critical to shaping a better world

**FOUNDER EDITOR** Anil Agarwal

**EDITOR** Sunila Narain

**MANAGING EDITOR** Richard Mahapatra

**CHIEF COPY EDITOR** Sniigdha Das

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS** Aditya Misra, Rajit Sengupta

**SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Ajit Bajaj

**SUPPLEMENT EDITOR** Souparna Banerjee

**CHIEF CARTOONIST** Soril Gupta

**REPORTING TEAM** Shagun, Akshil Sangomla, Pulaha Roy, Rohini Krishnamurthy, Himanshu N

**SENIOR SUB EDITOR** Dakshiani Policha

**WEB EDITORS** Rajat Ghai, Preetha Banerjee, Nandita Banerji, Pratyaksh Srivastava

**DESIGN TEAM** Chaitanya Chandan (Art Editor), Ritika Bohra (Assistant Art Editor), Tarun Sehgal (Senior Designer), Yogendra Anand (Illustrator), Vineel Tripathi (Graphic Designer), Shri Krishan

**PHOTO EDITOR** Vikas Choudhary

**PRODUCTION** Rakesh Shrivastava, Gundhar Das

**TECH SUPPORT** Rajendra Rawal, Jaidev Sharma

**MULTIMEDIA** Joel Michael, Sunny Gautam, Midhun Vijayan, Shreya KA, Prabhat Kumar, Dhruval Parekh, Surangya Kaur, Danishmand Khan

**INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT** Kiran Pandey, Susan Chacko, Madhumita Paul, Lalit Maurya, Dayanidhi Mishra

**CONSULTING EDITORS** Anumita Roychowdhury, Vibha Varshney

**Vol 33, No 22; Total No of Pages: 60**

Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements:  
Society for Environmental Communications,  
41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062.

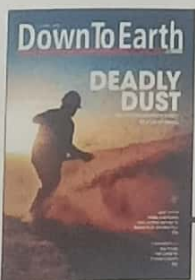
Phone: 91-11-40616000, 29955124,  
29956110, 29956394, 29956399 | Fax: 91-11-29955879.  
Email: editor@downtoearth.org.in

© 2025 Society for Environmental Communications.  
All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction  
in any manner is prohibited. Printed and published by  
Richard Mahapatra on behalf of Society for Environmental  
Communications. Printed at Viba Press Pvt. Ltd. C-66/3, Okhla  
Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110 020, India, and  
published at 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area,  
New Delhi 110 062.

To subscribe, sms 'die' to 56070  
or visit [www.downtoearth.org.in/subscription](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/subscription)

FOR ADVERTISEMENTS Jyoti Ghosh  
jghosh@cseindia.org

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS  
K C R Raja, raja@cseindia.org



◀ Cover design: Ajit Bajaj

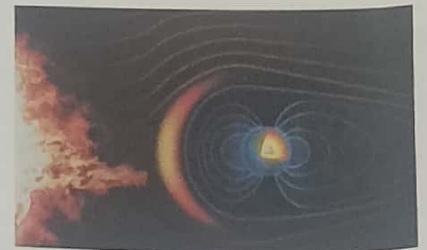
Down To Earth does not endorse the content of advertisements printed in the magazine. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

COVER STORY



24 India's workers face risk of silicosis, an underreported but fatal disease

- 11 Digest  
India hit by heatwaves, warm night conditions early in 2025
- 14 Agriculture  
Sex-sorted semen promoted to revolutionise dairy sector
- 18 Wildlife  
Outgrowing their home in Gir, Asiatic lions venture into new areas
- 38 Analysis  
A unique *yatra* to the remote villages of Uttarakhand
- 42 Factsheet  
Joshimath shows evidence of continuous subsidence



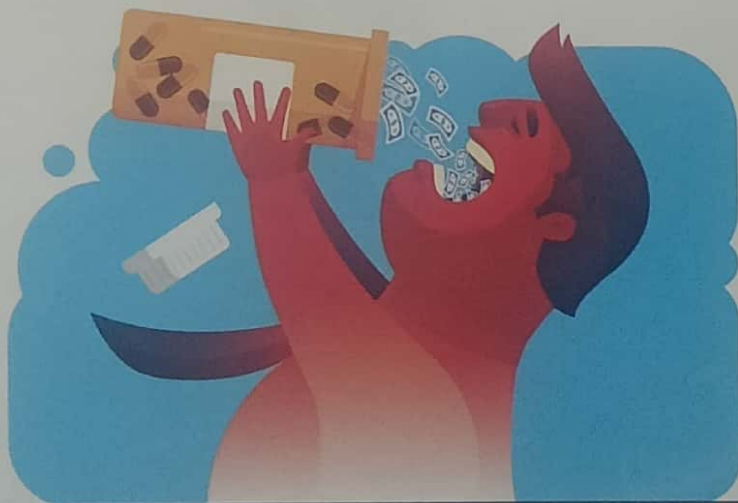
- 48 Science  
Efforts to understand reversals in Earth's magnetic poles
- 52 Opinion  
Identify best practices to grow tissue-cultured teak
- 58 Civil Lines  
Debt hinders countries' ability to invest in human development

# Contents



22 A combination of environmental and individual factors determine the risk of heat-related health impacts, says climate scientist Joy Merwin Monteiro

44 Trump's pharma tariff plans violate WTO rules, but see no recourse



Quest for diamonds in the dust in Panna, Madhya Pradesh

54