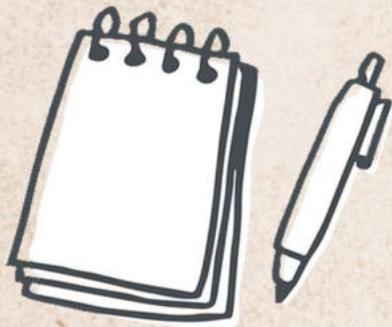


# EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

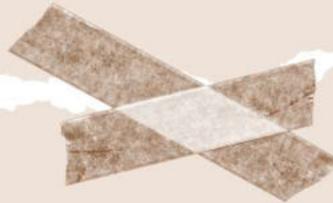
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# Silica scars: On India's silicosis problem



## MINERS AT RISK



**10m**  
Workers exposed  
to silica dust



**35 years**  
Mean age of  
death



**55%**  
Found suffering  
from silicosis in  
any given group  
of miners



**Worst Affected**  
Rajasthan, Gujarat,  
MP, Haryana, Delhi,  
Karnataka

### VULNERABLE INDUSTRIES

- ⊕ Stone Crushers ⊕ Quartz Mining ⊕ Foundries ⊕ Sand Blasting
- ⊕ Ceramics ⊕ Gem Cutting & Polishing ⊕ Slate & Pencil
- ⊕ Construction & Glass Manufacturing

### HOW SILICOSIS CAN BE CHECKED



Control & manage-  
ment of silica dust



Protective gear  
for workers



Regular chest radi-  
ography & pulmo-  
nary function tests



Conduct occu-  
pational health &  
dust surveys



# 1. Spur

Part of Speech: Verb/Noun

**Meaning:** To encourage or stimulate action, development, or progress.



**Hindi Translation:** प्रेरित करना / प्रोत्साहन

**Synonyms:**

- |    |                      |        |           |              |
|----|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. | <u>Stimulate</u> , ✓ |        |           |              |
| 2. | <u>provoke</u> , ✓   | Prompt | Thrust    | Galvanize    |
| 3. | <u>incite</u> , ✓    |        |           | (Foster)     |
| 4. | <u>motivate</u> ✓    | Boost  | Instigate | <u>=====</u> |

**Antonyms:**

- |    |                             |       |                     |
|----|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1. | <u>Discourage</u> , ✓       | Impel | Propel   Propulsion |
| 2. | <u>hinder</u> , ✓           |       |                     |
| 3. | <u>restrain</u> , (limit) ✓ |       |                     |
| 4. | <u>deter</u> ✓              |       |                     |

**Example Sentence:** The new government policies are expected to spur economic growth.



*Extracted oil*

## 2. Extract

Part of Speech: Verb/Noun

**Meaning:** To remove or take out,  
especially by effort or force; a  
substance removed or  
concentrated.

X  
X  
X

**Hindi Translation:** निकालना / अर्क

**Synonyms:**

1. Remove, ✓
2. derive, ✓
3. obtain, ✓
4. distill ✓

**Antonyms:**

1. Insert, ✓
2. embed, ✓
3. implant, ✓
4. infuse ✓

**Example Sentence:** The scientist managed to extract a pure sample of the compound.

Bring Out

Draw Out

Take Out

Pull Out

Elaborate

Isolate

Drain lazy

Elicit Languish

Lethargy

Weary.

# 3. Hamper

Part of Speech: Verb

**Meaning:** To hinder or obstruct  
the progress or movement of  
something.



**Hindi Translation:** बाधा डालना

**Synonyms:**

- |    |             |         |          |                   |
|----|-------------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Obstruct, ✓ |         |          |                   |
| 2. | impede, ✓   | → stop  | Delter   | Interrene         |
| 3. | hinder, ✓   |         | Impair   | <del>Thwart</del> |
| 4. | restrict ✓  | (limit) | Obstacle | Thwart            |

**Antonyms:**

- |    |               |            |           |                   |
|----|---------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Assist, ✓     | → curb     | Interfere |                   |
| 2. | facilitate, ✓ |            | Meddle    |                   |
| 3. | promote, ✓    | → help aid |           |                   |
| 4. | encourage ✓   |            |           | → Bolster, Cojole |

**Example Sentence:** The heavy rains hampered rescue operations in the flooded area.



## 4. Agnostic

Part of Speech:

Noun/ Adjective

**Meaning:** A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known about the existence of God; showing uncertainty or non-commitment.

X  
X  
X

**Hindi Translation:** अज्ञेयवादी

**Synonyms:**

1. Skeptic ✓
2. doubter,
3. nonbeliever,
4. neutral ✓

**Antonyms:**

1. Believer, ✓
2. theist, ✓
3. faithful, ✓
4. certain ✓

**Example Sentence:** He remained agnostic about the outcome of the experiment until all data was analyzed.

Apprehension

Theo  
God

god  
Atheist

Agony

Pain  
Anguish (Зіст  
wish)

Tormented  
Harrowing  
Woe (Vows) Ordeal  
Mortification

# 5. Chronic

Part of Speech: Adjective

**Meaning:** Persisting for a long time or constantly recurring, especially regarding illnesses or conditions.



**Hindi Translation:** दीर्घकालिक

**Synonyms:**

1. Persistent, ✓
2. long-term, ✓
3. enduring, ✓
4. habitual ✓

**Antonyms:**

1. Acute, ✓
2. temporary, ✓
3. occasional, ✓
4. fleeting

**Example Sentence:** Chronic pain can significantly affect a person's quality of life.

Recurring  
often  
Perpetual  
Obstinate  
Endless  
Tenacious  
Tenacity  
Lingering  
Transitional



PASSIVITY *or*  
PASSIVENESS?



## 6. Passivity

Part of Speech: Noun

**Meaning:** The state of accepting  
or allowing what happens  
without active response or  
resistance.



**Hindi Translation:** निष्क्रियता

**Synonyms:**

1. Inaction, ✓
2. inertia, ✓
3. submission, ✓
4. apathy ✓ (Callous)

**Antonyms:**

1. Activity, ✓
2. initiative, ✓
3. resistance, ✓
4. engagement ✓

**Example Sentence:** His passivity in the face of injustice disappointed his colleagues.

lethargic  
languor

lazy

Meek

Sluggish

Complacent

Docile

Weak

Feeble

frail

fragile

Vulnerable

Enervate

# 7. Wield - *Welding*

Part of Speech: Verb

**Meaning:** To handle or use (a tool or weapon) effectively; to exercise power or authority.



**Hindi Translation:** संभालना / प्रयोग करना

**Synonyms:**

1. Handle ✓
2. exercise ✓
3. exert ✓
4. manipulate ✓

**Antonyms:**

1. Relinquish ✓
2. surrender ✓
3. mismanage ✓
4. abandon ✓

**Example Sentence:** A good leader knows how to wield authority with fairness and justice.

Command  
Reign  
Harness  
Adept, Adapt, Adapt  
Adroit Embrace  
Dexterity  
Ambidexterous



xx

# Phrasal Verbs & Idioms

## Lodged in (lodge)

- **Meaning:** Firmly stuck or embedded in a particular place.
- **Example:** Microscopic silica particles become lodged in lung tissue, causing silicosis.

xx

# Phrasal Verbs & Idioms

## Fly in the face of

- **Meaning:** To act in direct opposition to or defiance of something.
- **Example:** The state's passivity flies in the face of its commitments to climate justice.

# Phrasal Verbs & Idioms

## Turn a blind eye

- **Meaning:** To ignore or pretend not to notice something wrong.
- **Example:** Health-care providers sometimes turn a blind eye to cases of silicosis, misrecording it as tuberculosis.

xx

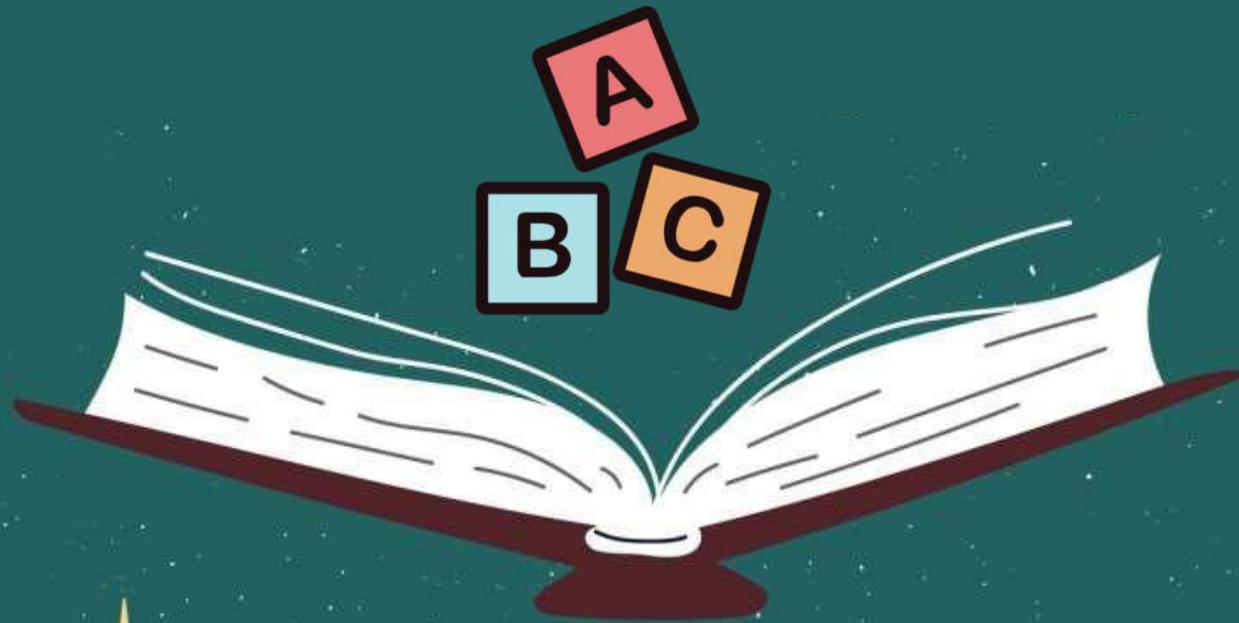
# Phrasal Verbs & Idioms

## Give in to

STR / Adopt

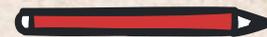
- **Meaning:** To yield or succumb to demands or pressures.
- **Example:** Workers often give in to unsafe conditions due to economic pressures.

# SHALL WE READ?



India's growth aspirations have spurred the national mining industry to extract more minerals for use in construction. One such mineral is silicon dioxide, or silica, an important component of sand and stone. Mine workers exposed to silica dust for many years have a heightened risk of developing silicosis, wherein microscopic silica particles are lodged in lung tissue, hampering their normal function. The risk of silicosis is age-agnostic and determined by exposure, and is chronic after onset. Thus it threatens millions of workers, many of them young. In 1999, the Indian Council of Medical Research reported that more than eight million people in the country were highly exposed to silica dust; this population could only have increased since the national government has opened new mines and expanded old ones.

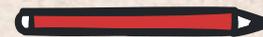
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**On November 29, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Central Pollution Control Board to draft new guidelines visà-vis “granting permission for [silica] mining and washing plants”, and the Uttar Pradesh government and Pollution Control Board to set up health-care facilities in areas with silica mines. The NGT is well-intentioned but mine workers are desperate for action.**

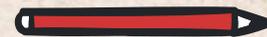
**The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 requires mine workers’ employers to notify threats of bodily harm to workers and workers developing specific diseases, including silicosis.**

xxx



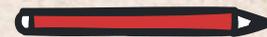
But operators often do not notify the Directorate General of Mines Safety, preventing the state from developing an actionable awareness of mine operators' workplace practices; nor have States of their own initiative strived to collect this data. The potential for special hospitals to ameliorate this situation is also unclear: the Code obligates qualified medical practitioners to notify silicosis cases to the Chief Inspector-cum-Facilitator, yet it already required operators to provide free annual health checkups, which have failed to reveal silicosis cases. Health-care providers have even been known to misrecord silicosis as tuberculosis. The NGT also noted that "concerned authorities" are not living up to the law.

xxx



The state's passivity is thus the principal roadblock to mine workers' welfare, which guidelines are unlikely to surmount.  
The passivity also flies in the face of climate justice, an idea India has ironically wielded in multilateral fora to demand concessions on emissions and adaptation financing. The nation's mineral resources are concentrated in 'resource frontier' States that have low literacy and health-care coverage, a disorganised labour force, and where mining provides crucial revenue. When the state diverts the concessions to suppliers of cheap silica, workers tolerate bad working conditions and delay seeking medical or legal recourse until the silicosis has become life-threatening.

xxx



**Q1. What has the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed regarding silica mining and washing plants?**

- A) To draft new guidelines for granting permission for silica mining
- B) To shut down all silica mining operations
- C) To increase the number of silica mines in India
- D) To ban the use of silica in construction
- E) To conduct nationwide health surveys for silicosis

Forum

Fora

Flora

XXX

**Q2. Which of the following best describes the status of the state's efforts in addressing mine workers' health, as mentioned in the passage?**

A) The state has successfully reduced silicosis cases through health interventions

B) The state has been proactive in establishing special hospitals for workers

C) The state has largely been passive and failed to act on silicosis-related issues 

D) The state has set up numerous health-care facilities in mining areas

E) The state has implemented effective monitoring mechanisms to track silicosis cases



**Q3. What was the Indian Council of Medical Research's finding in 1999 regarding exposure to silica dust?**

A) Silica dust exposure had decreased due to safety measures

B) Over eight million people in India were highly exposed to silica dust  

C) Silica exposure was found to be most dangerous for elderly workers

D) Only 1% of the workforce was at risk of silicosis

E) Silica exposure was found to be more prevalent in urban areas 

**Q4. What does the passage suggest about the state's role in addressing the welfare of mine workers?**

- A) The state has been proactive in monitoring the health of mine workers
- B) The state has banned silica mining in affected areas
- C) The state has imposed strict laws to prevent silicosis
- D) The state has established numerous hospitals for silicosis patients
- E) The state has failed to take action and has shown passivity towards the issue





@rajwaghmare5755 · 15 hr ago

Rue = To feel regret for something.

### Synonyms

- (1) Regret
- (2) Lament
- (3) Repent
- (4) Bemoan
- (5) Wail
- (6) Deplore
- (7) Mourn
- (8) Condemn
- (9) Remorse
- (10) Repent
- (11) Anguish
- (12) Chagrin

b

@bhavishyasnetty7566 · 15 hr ago

### Synonyms of the word "Rue"

- 1) Sorrow
- 2) Mourn
- 3) Grief
- 4) Lament
- 5) Bemoan
- 6) Repent
- 7) Remorse
- 8) Anguish
- 9) Regret
- 10) Sorrow
- 11) Deplore
- 12) Whine
- 13) Commiserate

2) Lessons that I learned from 2024-

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# REVISION

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## Match the columns

0:40

### Column A

### Column B

<b>A. Rue</b>	P. To defeat or overcome, especially in a conflict or challenge.
<b>B. Muddles</b>	Q. A situation involving misfortune or an unfortunate event.
<b>C. Mishap</b>	R. A deep or profound space, often referring to a dangerous or hopeless situation.
<b>D. Beckon</b>	S. To call or signal someone, often indicating an invitation or draw.
<b>E. Redemption</b>	T. The act of saving or reclaiming something, often linked with forgiveness or improvement.
<b>F. Loftiest</b>	U. The feeling of friendship, mutual support, and trust among a group of people.
<b>G. Vanquish</b>	V. To secure or finalize something, often used in the context of a victory or deal.
<b>H. Arenas</b>	W. Places or fields where activities or competitions, especially sports, take place.
<b>I. Camaraderie</b>	X. To regret or feel sorrow for something, often related to a past action.
<b>J. Clinch</b>	Y. The quality of being the highest or most distinguished.
<b>K. Abyss</b>	Z. To confuse or complicate something, making it hard to understand.

# Answer

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| <b>A. Rue</b>         | <b>X.</b> |
| <b>B. Muddles</b>     | <b>Z.</b> |
| <b>C. Mishap</b>      | <b>Q.</b> |
| <b>D. Beckon</b>      | <b>S.</b> |
| <b>E. Redemption</b>  | <b>T.</b> |
| <b>F. Loftiest</b>    | <b>Y.</b> |
| <b>G. Vanquish</b>    | <b>P.</b> |
| <b>H. Arenas</b>      | <b>W.</b> |
| <b>I. Camaraderie</b> | <b>U.</b> |
| <b>J. Clinch</b>      | <b>V.</b> |
| <b>K. Abyss</b>       | <b>R.</b> |

# DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

**Write a precis on silicosis  
problem in india**

*'Agony'*

xxx



Adda247

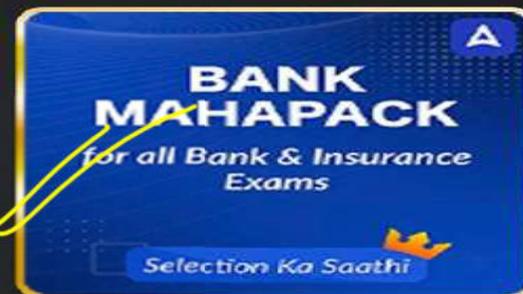
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