



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय
खान सुरक्षा महानदेशालय



SAFETY ALERT: 38

Dhanbad, dated 20.02.2026

SUBJECT: Fatal accident occurred during chute cleaning at Joda East Iron Mine of M/s. TATA Steel Limited.

1. Name of Mine : Joda East Iron Mine
2. Name of Owner : M/s. TATA Steel Limited
District : Keonjhar
State : Odisha
3. Mineral : Iron Ore
4. Date and time : 04.08.2025; 11:55 PM
of accident
5. Place of : Secondary Screen area, 3MPTA Plant
accident
6. Killed : Name: Suraj Mahto
Designation: Mechanical Helper (contractual)
Age: 27 Yrs
Experience: 08 months.
7. Seriously Injured : NIL
8. Brief Cause : "While a contractual mechanical helper was engaged for cleaning of a jammed chute by entering into the area between the screen and chute cover, the disturbed chute cover (hood) suddenly retracted to its original position, causing his head to trap between the screen and cover, to which he succumbed on the spot."
9. Sketch/photograph showing the accident:



10. Best Practices: Isolation of Energy Sources (Lockout-Tag out-Try-out)
 - Ensure total isolation of all energy sources (electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, and gravitational) before clearing jams.
 - Implement Lockout-Tag out-Try-out procedures and permit systems.
 - Provide physical locking arrangements on chute covers, hoods, and moving parts.Prohibition of Entry into Hazard Zones
 - Strictly prohibit entry between moving or spring-loaded components such as screens, chutes, and covers.
 - Redesign chutes to allow cleaning from outside using long tools, air lances, or water jets.
 - Provide remote or mechanized chute cleaning systems wherever feasible.

Engineering Controls and Design Improvements

- Fit positive locking devices or pins to chute covers/hoods to prevent unintended movement.
- Replace spring-loaded or gravity-operated covers with mechanically secured designs.
- Install interlocks so that access doors or covers cannot be opened unless the system is fully isolated.

Supervision and Competency

- Ensure direct supervision by a competent supervisory official during jam clearing.
- Engage only trained and authorized persons for chute cleaning.

***Safety Alert**, a tool utilized by DGMS, informs the mining industry about potential safety issues and offers recommendations to prevent such incidents.

Directorate General of Mines Safety: 125 years in the service of the nation