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The Burning Mines

Truth Inside / 18.45 min

Dhanbad district of Jharkhand. The land of coal mines. A village called Jharia. A village that burns above a furnace.

Over a century ago, the fire in the mines were first seen. It is still burning. Spreading through coal mines, this subterranean fire has engulfed the land. The lives of villagers, fearing an explosion any moment. Steam and smoke rise from the floor of the bedrooms. Atmosphere heats up to 90 degrees during summer. The fire flares up even during the rains. Deaths due to falling into the trenches suddenly forming in the scorched earth, due to inhaling toxic emissions from the mines on fire – it is an inferno on earth.

The spread of the fire has increased after the privatization of the mines. “The burning mines” is the story of the poorest of the people, in a land rich with natural resources, over which they have no right.