

# CASE CLOSED

## No closure for Bhopal

1969 to 2000 2000 to 2023

**1969**

Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) sets up plant to manufacture pesticide Sevin

**1973**

Methyl isocyanate (MIC), an intermediate to manufacture Sevin, imported from the US

**1979**

Citing cost factors, UCIL starts manufacturing MIC on the plant premises

**1980-82**

MIC unit crew halved from 12 to six, maintenance crew reduced from six to two workers. On December 26, 1981, a plant operator gets killed in a phosgene gas leak. Another such leak in January 1982 severely injures 28 workers

**December 2-3, 1984**

MIC leaks from tank No. 610 after a series of safety and technical lapses. The gas affects people residing within 20 sq km

**1985**

Indian government files claim for US \$3 billion from UCIL in a US court

**1986**

UCIL succeeds in persuading the US court to send the case back to the Indian judiciary, where compensation liability is much lower

**February 1989**

Indian government and UCIL strike an out-of-court settlement. Compensation amount brought down to \$470 million, one-seventh of the original claim

**April 1992**

Indian court declares UCIL CEO Warren Anderson a fugitive from law

**November 1994**

India's Supreme Court allows UCIL to sell off its encumbered assets, technically wiping out the company's physical presence in India

**November 1999**

Victims file a suit against UCIL and its former CEO, Warren Anderson, in a federal court in New York. Both are charged with violating international human rights law, environmental law and international criminal law

**February 2001**

Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) and Dow Chemical Company merge. Dow inherits assets and liabilities of UCC

**March 30, 2005**

Task force to remove toxic waste is set up under the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers

**2005**

The High Court of Madhya Pradesh orders the government to undertake pretreatment studies

**October 26, 2004**

Supreme Court approves disbursement of remaining amount following a plan by Welfare Commissioner

**July 19, 2004**

Supreme Court asks Welfare Commissioner to disburse the balance amount following petitions filed by victim groups

**June 30, 2004**

UoI submits no-objection memo before New York court

**March 17, 2004**

US Federal Court of Appeals asks New York court to consider decontamination if Union of India (UoI) intervenes to seek relief

**October 14, 2003**

Nine US senators plead an amicus brief on behalf of more than 2,000 victims of the gas tragedy to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, New York. They demand that Dow be held responsible for the disaster

**October 21, 2002**

Madhya Pradesh announces that it will petition the Indian Supreme Court to compel Dow to clean up the contaminated soil and groundwater at the factory site

**September 30, 2002**

A study by the People's Science Institute, Dehradun, confirms the presence of highly toxic mercury in Bhopal's drinking water and warns of grave risks to health. People have been drinking the water for 18 years

**August 28, 2002**

Despite pressure from the Indian government, charges of culpable homicide reaffirmed against Anderson in a Bhopal court. It demands his immediate extradition

**January 9, 2002**

Dow accepts UCC's liabilities in the US and settles a Texas asbestos lawsuit originally filed against UCC. But insists Bhopal is not a similar liability

**October 2005**

Gujarat Pollution Control Board gives no-objection certificate (NOC) to incinerate waste in Ankleshwar

**2006**

UoI writes to New York court saying site should be cleaned up, but court wants UoI to intervene in the case directly. Case pending

**February 2007**

Madhya Pradesh High Court orders 350 tonnes of waste to be sent for incineration to Ankleshwar

**October 2007**

Following protests, the Gujarat government withdraws NOC

**December 2008**

Madhya Pradesh High Court reinstates the order to the Gujarat government to accept the waste or face contempt

**January 2009**

Gujarat government appeals to Supreme Court against the high court order, which the apex court stays

**April 26, 2010**

Chief judicial magistrate rejects petition by Bhopal Gas Peedith Sangharsh Sahyog Samiti and Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan to enhance charges

**June 7, 2010**

In final verdict, chief judicial magistrate convicts eight people

**June 21, 2010**

Group of Ministers recommends a Centre-state joint taskforce for clean-up operation

**December 3, 2010**

UoI files a curative petition to enhance compensation to gas victims

**March 2012**

UoI seeks Supreme Court's permission to dispose 345 tonnes of toxic waste, stored at the site of the former UCIL plant, at a facility near Indore

**September 29, 2014**

Main accused of Bhopal gas tragedy, Warren Anderson, dies

**August 2015**

A facility in Dhar district incinerates 10 tonnes of discards from the Bhopal plant site

**2016**

In May, US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit maintains the order of the lower court that did not hold UCC responsible for any effects of pollution caused by the plant during the Bhopal tragedy. This was the last case of compensation related to the tragedy in the US. In June 2016, the plaintiffs file two petitions related to the judgement that the court rejects. Another petition on the case in August 2016 is also rejected

**2023**

Supreme Court rejects a curative petition after hearing it on January 10-12. In March, it rejects another curative petition filed by UoI to reopen the 1989 settlement under which UCC paid \$470 million as full and final compensation to the Indian government for disbursement to the people affected