

CHETTINAD SCHOOL OF LAW – WEBINAR SERIES 2020

“LEGAL LIABILITY: DISCUSSION ON BHOPAL AND VIZAG” - 17.06.2020



As part of the Chettinad School of Law's Webinar Series 2020, a webinar was conducted on 17th June, 2020 on “Legal Liability: Discussion on Bhopal and Vizag”. The esteemed speaker for the day was Prof. (Dr.) P. Lakshmi, Head PGDM (Law), PGDM Chair Adani Institute of Infrastructure Management, Gujarat and the moderator of the event was Ms. Mrinalini Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Chettinad School of Law. The event saw the participation of both students and faculty members, from various reputed Universities and Colleges. The session started with Ms. Mrinalini Banerjee introducing the distinguished speaker, Dr. Lakshmi. Ms. Banerjee also gave an introduction and an overview of Chettinad School of Law and the various initiatives taken by the School.

The speaker had prepared a visual presentation for the webinar which made the session a very thought-provoking one. The session dealt with one of the world's worst industrial disaster: the Bhopal Disaster or the Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984). The speaker started by giving an introduction

and the genesis of the Union Carbide Corporation and the Union Carbide India Limited in India. The speaker told the students what exactly had occurred on the fateful night of 3rd December, 1984. The students had also learnt about the devastating aftermath of the gas leak and how the victims of this man-made disaster suffer up to this day.

The distinguished speaker then dealt with the litigation process for the same, focusing on the enactment of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and the concept of *parens patriae*. The students also learnt about the on-going uphill battle of survivors of this man-made calamity. The speaker spoke about the *Rylands v Fletcher* [[1868] UKHL 1] case and the concept of strict liability and the *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* [1987 SCR (1) 819] and the concept of absolute liability. The speaker then dealt with the recent Vizag Gas Leak and the on-going litigation in this matter. The webinar ended with an interactive session that saw the eager participation of the students.

The webinar made for a very knowledgeable session for the students.