



# DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

*~a cradle of future jurists~*

National Seminar

on

**MASS TORTS**

**AND**

**INDUSTRIAL DISASTERS**

7TH & 8TH  
JANUARY, 2023

In Commemoration of 39 years of Bhopal Gas Tragedy



# About Visakhapatnam



The name of the city was coined after Visakha, the Hindu God of valour. Visakhapatnam is a port city and industrial centre in the State of Andhra Pradesh situated at the Bay of Bengal. It is also called the City of Destiny, because of its landscape view and very attractive beaches. It is known for its beaches like Ramakrishna Beach, Rushikonda Beach it is also a home to a preserved submarine at the Kursura Submarine Museum. The city is surrounded by Eastern Ghats and faces Bay of Bengal on the east. It is the headquarters of Eastern Naval Command. Other tourist spots popular in the city are Simhachalam, Thotlakonda, Bavikonda Kailasagiri and Visakhapatnam Port.



# About DSNLU



Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University is a premier educational institution situated at "NYAYAPRASTHA" Sabbavaram 30 kilometers from Visakhapatnam the "City of Destiny". It caters the needs of law students and research scholars from across the country. Its mission is to design and deliver legal education, promote academic achievement and excellence in legal research. The University offers 5 year integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons) Degree and one year LL.M. program, Ph.D. and LL.D. The University has MOUs for student exchange programs with four Prestigious National Law Universities.

The objective of the University includes providing quality multi disciplinary education in legal studies keeping in view the demands of the global economy and the needs of the domestic society, to disseminate legal knowledge and legal process and their role in national development by organizing lectures, seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences. The University is committed to promote cultural, legal and ethical values with a view to promote and foster the rule of law and the objectives enshrined in the Constitution of India, and to improvise the ability to analyze and present for the benefit of the public contemporary issues of public concern and their legal implications etc.,

# Theme of the Conference

Mass torts create a unique scale of harm and liabilities. Corporate tort-feasors are desperate to settle claims but condition settlement upon resolution, of substantially all claims at a known price commonly referred to as a global settlement. Without this, corporate tort-feasors are willing to continue with protracted and fragmented litigation across jurisdictions. Global settlements can be elusive in these cases. Mass torts are oftentimes characterized by heterogeneous victim groups that include both current victims and future victim's individuals whose harm have not yet manifested and may not do so for years. Despite this incongruence, future victim claims must be aggregated as part of any global settlement. This is the tragedy of the mass tort anti-commons: without unanimity, victim groups are unable to access settlement resources in a timely or meaningful way, but actual coordination across the group can be impossible.

In India the Bhopal gas tragedy is the classic example of mass torts. Current resolution structures have proven ill-equipped to address the novel challenges posed by mass torts. This Seminar will throw some light on re-conceptualization of how modern mass torts should be resolved and delivers an unprecedented normative construct focused on addressing anti-commons dynamics through statutory amendments to the existing laws. These changes, coupled with an evolved perspective on fundamental structural anomalies, are designed to improve predictability, efficiency, and victim recoveries.

Thus, it is important to stimulate scholarly debate of an overlooked trend that will reshape mass tort litigation in the upcoming decade. The search is on for new rules of law which would require those engaged in particular activities, especially hazardous ones, to bear collectively the operative cost including the distribution of losses consequent as a result of carrying on such activities. Chernobyl and Bhopal are not just significant events: they are dreaded words in the

vocabulary of all industrial nations, words that mean that, technologically, the unthinkable can happen.

## The Objective of the Seminar is to discuss:

- To provide a platform for scholarly discussion on Cases involve war-time herbicides, defective medical devices, countless pharmaceutical cases involving staggering side effects, severe personal injury, and product liability disputes.
- To analyze the key features of many mass tort cases, with particular emphasis on the profile of modern mass tort cases that have sought bankruptcy protection.
- To explore the dimensions of new species of mass tort litigation has evolved over the last 10 years including those involving the opioid crisis, sexual abuse involving non-religious entities, and product liability with significant latent injury risks.
- To draft a Vizag Declaration on Mass Torts.

## Taking this perspective into account, the conference will include following sub themes:

- Mass Torts in a World of Settlement.
- Characteristics of property damage mass tort – Global Perspectives.
- Toxic Torts – An Overview.
- Theories of liability related to both toxic products and environmental pollution.
- Theories of liability: land-based claims.
- Liability for "take-home" toxins – Perspectives from USA
- Regulation of hazardous releases into the environment.
- Theories of liability related to both toxic products and environmental pollution with specific reference to mass disasters.
- Simple property damage mass torts – Perspectives from Europe.
- Economic loss mass torts – Leading Cases.
- Limited personal injury mass torts without latent harm – A Contentious Issue.
- Complex personal injury mass torts.

# Who Can Attend?

Seminar is open for academicians, researchers, practitioners, professionals, interested learners and students. It is aimed that the Seminar will serve as a platform for a healthy discussion and exchange of ideas related to any other topic related to the broad theme of the Seminar.

## Paper Submission and Registration

Participants are requested to send their full papers

**Last date to submit abstract**  
- 15th December 2022

**Last date to submit full paper**  
- 30th December 2022

The full paper should be between 2,500 words to 5,000 words length; it should be accompanied by an abstract not more than 250 to 300 words. The papers may fall under the main theme or sub themes of the Seminar. **Link for registration:**

<https://forms.gle/KSSs9HcZzpF46mrt6>

Type of the Delegate	Fee for Registration
Foreign Delegate	USD \$150
Academicians	Rs. 1000
Student/Research Scholars	Rs.500

**Note: Accommodation will be provided on twin sharing basis Rs. 500/- per day. However. Limited number of rooms are available and the same will be allotted on first come first serve basis.**

The Registration fee is payable at Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, and VISAKHAPATNAM State: Andhra Pradesh, PIN CODE: 530017, IFSC CODE: ANDB0002837, Branch: Waltair, MICR: 530011020, Branch Code: 000633 Account No: 283710100024089.

**Note: Registration fee includes Seminar Kit, lunch, dinner, high tea on relevant dates.**



# Organizing Committee

## Chief Patron:

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Mr. P. Narasimha, Judge,  
Supreme Court of India and Visitor,  
DSNLU.

## Patron:

Hon'ble Sri Justice  
Prashant Kumar Mishra,  
Chief Justice,  
Andhra Pradesh High Court & the  
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## Chairman:

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Chair Person,  
Centre for IPR &T,  
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Brochure designed by,  
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