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CSE to start Union Carbide site clean-up

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BHOPAL: Even after three decades, the crumbling structure of the Union Carbide factory awaits remediation. In a sheer case of apathy, the Supreme Court has failed to issue directions to both the Centre and state government regarding remediation of the site.

Taking cue from this, the Centre for Science and Environment on Thursday presented the environmental remediation for the site, which can remove the hazardous chemicals from above and below the ground in five years.

“The government needs to discuss the action plan proposed by experts who have conducted studies on Bhopal gas tragedy,” said CSE’s director general Chandra Bhushan.

BHOPAL’S WORST NIGHTMARE

- **1969:** Union Carbide factory starts
- **1973:** First report of soil contamination
- **1982:** Telex send from Union Carbide Bhopal about water contamination in nearby areas
- **1984:** Days before the gas leak technical issues were

The factory site reeks of chemicals and ground water around the factory is contaminated with heavy metals said to be carcinogenic. The solar evaporation ponds developed on leased private land — now given back to locals — has houses coming up. The open contaminated grasslands are grazing grounds

raised but ignored.

- **1990:** An American lab confirmed contamination of ground water
- **2004:** Chemicals ministry R100 crore for remediation
- **2005:** A private firm collected 350 tonnes of waste and kept in a warehouse in Union Carbide factory

for goats of thousands of people living around the depilated boundary walls of the factory.

Abdul Jabbar, who had been fighting for Bhopal victims since 1984, describes the difficult lives of locals and blamed the government for failing to act. Many blame activists like them for delay as they want Dow

THE FACTORY SITE REEKS OF CHEMICALS AND GROUNDWATER AROUND THE FACTORY IS CONTAMINATED WITH HEAVY METALS. THE CONTAMINATED AREA IS A GRAZING GROUND FOR LOCAL ANIMALS

Chemicals, now owner of Union Carbide to pay for remediation. The issue is being debated in the Supreme Court as the department of chemicals has sought ₹310 crore for the same.

Although the official estimate of the waste at the site is 350 tonnes, many put the number at close to 20,000 tonnes.