

## SAFETY DAY TALK

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It is that time of the year again when we make a pledge once more, in the cause of safety, to make ourselves, our fellow workers and our institution safe.

Today safety is of paramount importance. We have external threats to safety against which we have to guard ourselves. Today, however, our concern is more for internal safety.

Last year I had the privilege of addressing this gathering .I talked about the two cultures of safety. We asked ourselves as to how we may breed a culture of safety in NCL.The culture of safety requires three functions:

**Commitment:** Commitment from leadership at all the levels.

**Involvement:** Involvement of every segment of the working population

**Action:** Measured actions, incremental and evolutionary, to make our work place a safer environment

So what is that we can do to enhance the culture of safety at NCL?

We will work towards creating a culture of commitment towards safety, right from the top .I am happy today that Dr. Gurjar is giving a lecture on safety. I have suggested to Dr. Grover that every HOD should address this gathering by turn. They must tell us all as to what he or she has done to infuse the culture of safety in his or her Division. We will also have the Safety Representatives address this gathering every year, sharing their experiences. My colleague Dr. Mohandas is making a beginning this year. We need to involve our students and project assistant more actively in safety related activities. We need to give them representation in the Safety Committee. We will strive to get every segment of our community to become proactive about safety. We should create a Safety Suggestion Box. This could be operable both electronically as well as in traditional mode. We should reward useful suggestions that enhance the safety of our work place.

We need action too. I would like our Safety Committee to come up with an annual Safety Plan for NCL for 2002-03.We shall take the inputs of every one in evolving this plan. We will also strive to implement the plans.

For example, last year on this very day I voiced the concern about the need to eliminate benzene and mercury from our labs. My own Division is working towards this goal and will be mercury free by the end of March 31, 2002. We can set our mind on many such small steps and strive towards realizing the goal .We can make our work place a more pleasant and safe to work for all of us. However, we can do this only if we all commit ourselves to this goal. So let the pledge we take today be a serious one. Let each one of us do our bit to realize better safety at NCL.