

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Forum,
held in the TEC Conference Room, NPL on October 9, 2009, at 10.30 A.M.

PROGRAMME

The following programme for the meeting had been notified by G K Arora, the Secretary of the Forum to the members, vide his letter dated 23. 09. 2009 sent to the members by post/ e-mail. The Questionnaire on “Self Assessment Survey on Superstitions & Myths’ was enclosed with this notice.

1. Welcome by the President of the Forum
2. Self Assessment Survey of Superstitions & Myths – Remarks by Dr. Kailash Chandra, Chairman, Scientific Affairs Committee
3. First Family Get Together of the Forum – Dewali Get Together – Remarks by Dr. S K Sharma, Chairman, Programme Committee
4. Felicitating Shri Dewan Singh on his induction as a Member of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum by Shri Dev Kumar – the Senior-most Member of the 80-Plus Club.
5. Sixth Issue of the Forum’s Newsletter – Special Issue – ‘On Being Eighty’- Remarks by Dr. R Bhattacharyya, Chairman, Publication Committee & Release by Shri Dev Kumar
6. Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.
7. Socializing over a cup of tea, and refreshments.

Attendance

The following persons had attended the meeting:
(Names arranged alphabetically by the Surname)

1.	Agarwal, Shyam Kishore (Dr.)	31.	Halder, Sujit Kumar (Dr.)	61.	Om Prakash (Dr.)
2.	Aggarwal, Santosh (Mrs.)	32.	Hamid, Abdul	62.	Panwar, Vinay Singh (Dr.)
3.	Agrawal, Arun Kumar (Dr.)	33.	Hans, Gokul Singh	63.	Pradhan, Man Mohan (Dr.)
4.	Alam, Mohammed Izhar	34.	Harish Chander (Dr.)	64.	Rakesh Kumar
5.	Arora, Gyanendra Kumar	35.	Jain, Adeshwar Preshad (Dr.)	65.	Ram Narain
6.	Awasthy, Bal Ram	36.	Jain, Atma Ram (Dr.)	66.	Ram Swarup (Dr.)
7.	Balchandani, Mulchand Kewalram	37.	Jain, Prakash Chandra (Dr.)	67.	Rathore, Hazara Singh
8.	Banerjee, Prasun Kumar (Dr.)	38.	Jain, Sohan Lal (Dr.)	68.	Saxena, Rajan Babu
9.	Bhaskar, Hira Lal Bhagat	39.	Joginder Singh (Dr.)	69.	Sharan, Pramod Chandra
10.	Bhatheja, Ram Chand	40.	Kakkar, Om Prakash	70.	Sharma, Kailash Chand
11.	Bhatnagar, Kameshwer Nath	41.	Kanjilal, Alok Kumar	71.	Sharma, Ravi Shanker
12.	Bhattacharyya, Raghunath (Dr.)	42.	Kapahi, Shashi Bhushan	72.	Sharma, Sham Lal
13.	Bindal, Vishwa Nath (Dr.)	43.	Kaushik, Asha Rani (Mrs.)	73.	Sharma, Surinder Dutt (Dr.)
14.	Chandra, Kailash (Dr.)	44.	Khattar, Dharam Chand	74.	Sharma, Surjeet Kumar (Dr.)
15.	Chandra, Subhash	45.	Kishan Lal	75.	Sharma, Ved Parkash
16.	Chattar Singh (Bharti)	46.	Kishore, Ram (Dr.)	76.	Shastri, Shashikala (Mrs.)
17.	Chopra, Bir Bal	47.	Kothari, Prafulla Chandra (Dr.)	77.	Shiv Nath
18.	Chopra, Parvati (Mrs.)	48.	Kundu, Namita (Dr. Mrs.)	78.	Singal, Sagar Pal (Dr.)
19.	Das, Satya Ranjan (Dr.)	49.	Lakha Singh (Dr.)	79.	Singh, Devendra
20.	Das Gupta, Mrinal Kanti	50.	Majumdar, Suhas Chandra (Dr.)	80.	Singh, Ramadhar (Dr.)
21.	Dev Kumar	51.	Malhotra, Girdhari Lal	81.	Singh, Shiv Nath (Dr.)
22.	Dewan Singh	52.	Marwah, Raksha (Mrs.)	82.	Singh, Ved Ram (Dr.)
23.	Dhawan, Jagdish Kumar	53.	Mathur, Sartaj Swarup (Prof.)	83.	Singhal, Raghunandan Prasad (Dr.)
24.	Dhawan, Ramesh Chandra	54.	Mendiratta, Roshan Lal	84.	Tagra, Om Parkash
25.	Dhawan, Urmil (Mrs.)	55.	Mitra, Ved (Dr.)	85.	Varma, Satya Prakash (Dr.)
26.	Garg, Satish Chand	56.	Mittal, Pramod Kumar	86.	Vashisht, Avadh Raj Singh
27.	Ghosh, Anand Krishna	57.	Nagpal, Kailash Chandra (Dr.)	87.	Verma, Tribhawan
28.	Gupta, Akhilesh Chandra	58.	Naib Singh	88.	Wasan, Ved Parkash
29.	Gupta, Ashok Kumar (Dr.)	59.	Nangia, Shiv Nandan		
30.	Gupta, Suresh Kumar (Dr.)	60.	Nath, Mohinder		

Note: The names of some Members who had attended the meeting but had not signed the Attendance Record have been included in the above list. These include Dr. P K Banerjee, Dr. Ram Kishore, Dr. Shiv Nath Singh and Dr. S P Singhal listed at Sr. Nos 8, 46, 81 and 83 respectively. It is possible that the names of some others who had not signed the Attendance Record have been left out.

**The Following Members had expressed either their inability to attend the meeting
or else were either learnt to be out of Station or were abroad
(Names arranged alphabetically by the Surname)**

1.	Agnihotry, Suhasini (Dr. Mrs.)	Out of Station	34.	Mathur, Hari Mohan	Out of Station
2.	Bahl, Om Parkash (Dr.)		35.	Mathur, Harish Chand	
3.	Chakladar, Swapan Kumar		36.	Mohanam, Vellur (Dr.)	
4.	Charavarty, Tushar Kanti	Out of Station	37.	Ojha, Jai Narain	
5.	Chandra, Mukesh (Dr.)		38.	Pandey, Vijay Kumar (Dr.)	
6.	Chaudhary, Janki Nath		39.	Poddar, Hari Nandan Prasad	
7.	Chaudhuri, Mihir Kumar		40.	Rahul Kumar	Out of Station
8.	Chhibber, Mohinder Kumar	Out of Station	41.	Raina, Mohan Krishen (Dr.)	
9.	Chitnis, Vijay Trimbak (Dr.)		42.	Raja Gopal, Erode Subrabanian (Dr.)	Out of Station
10.	Das, Bijoy Kishore (Dr.)	Out of Station	43.	Ram Prasad	
11.	Dhawan, Surinder Mohan (Dr.)		44.	Raman, Vasantha (Dr. Mrs.)	Out of Station
12.	Gautam, Chhail Behari Lal		45.	Reddy, Borra Madhava (Dr.)	Out of Station
13.	Gupta, Sohan Lal		46.	Roy, Binod Kanti	Out of Station
14.	Jain, Kamlesh Kumar (Dr.)		47.	Saksena, Rakesh Chandra (Dr.)	
15.	Jain, Sukhmal Chand (Dr.)		48.	Sarma, Kuchibhatla Subrahmanya	Abroad
16.	Jain, Wakil Chand		49.	Sastri, Vemuri Durga Prasad (Dr.)	Abroad
17.	Joshi, Kundal Chandra (Dr.)	Out of Station	50.	Sehgal, Madan Gopal	
18.	Joshi, Shri Krishna (Prof.)		51.	Seth, Roshan Lal (Dr.)	
19.	Kapur, Sudarshan Singh		52.	Shah, Vilaschandra Vithaldas (Dr.)	
20.	Karfa, Mritunjay		53.	Som, Jnanendra Nath (Dr.)	Out of Station
21.	Kewal Krishan		54.	Soni, Jai Bhagwan	Out of Station
22.	Khanduja, Radhey Sham	Out of Station	55.	Srinivasan, Thirumalai Mappur (Dr.)	Out of Station
23.	Kohli, Nand Kishore		56.	Taneja, Pran Nath	
24.	Kumar, Sharwan (Dr.)	Abroad	57.	Tewari, Shiva Gopal	Abroad
25.	Lakshmi, Duggirala Rama (Dr. Mrs.)	Out of Station	58.	Tomer, Tej Ram	
26.	Lal, Krishan (Dr.)	Abroad	59.	Trehan, Jagdish Chander (Dr.)	
27.	Luthra, Ram Krishan		60.	Uppal, Gian Singh (Dr.)	Abroad
28.	Mahajan, Kushal Kumar (Dr.)		61.	Varma, Ved Prakash	
29.	Mahajan, Surender Kumar (Dr.)	Abroad	62.	Ved Singh (Dr.)	
30.	Mahesh Chander (Gupta) (Dr.)	Abroad	63.	Venkatachari, Raghavachari (Dr.)	Out of Station
31.	Malhotra, Padam Lal (Dr.)		64.	Wadhwa, Rajinder Pal (Dr.)	
32.	Malik, Manmohan Kumar		65.	Zalपुरi, Kanwar Sushil (Dr.)	
33.	Manrai, Santosh (Mrs.)				

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Welcome by the President of the Forum : V N Bindal welcomed the Members to the meeting, and expressed his happiness at the attendance at this meeting, which was perhaps the maximum so far. He made a special mention of Shri Hazara Singh Rathore who was on a short visit to India from USA and had made it a point to attend this meeting and have the pleasure of renewing his contact again with some of his old colleagues after he left the Laboratory in 1965.

He said that the International Day of Older Persons had recently been observed on 1st October and now Shri Dev Kumar – the Eldest Member of the Forum – will be releasing the Special Issue of the Forum’s Newsletter – “On Being Eighty” – at this meeting, and will also be felicitating Shri Dewan Singh as a new member of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum.

Dr. Bindal also said that, as had been detailed in the notice for the meeting, effort had been put in addressing the issue on eradication of superstitions about which Dr. Kailash Chandra will be elaborating. The Self Assessment Survey Form had been circulated to the members along with the notice for this meeting as a pilot study, before approaching some other sections of the society and in particular school children, for which the team formed under Dr. A P Jain will need to concentrate and design forms relevant to specific groups of persons in the light of the response received from the Members.

Dr. Bindal also mentioned about the Scholarships & Awards that had been instituted by the Forum and the function held on 24th September 2009 at which Dr. P Banerjee, Acting Director, NPL, had given away the Awards to the various Children on the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee Meeting held earlier under his Chairmanship.

On the suggestion made by Dr. Vikram Kumar, at an earlier meeting of the Scholarship Committee chaired by him, scholarships for one year had also been started from this year for three children of the staff members of NPL who had expired during the service of the Laboratory. However, in view of the present fund position only an amount of Rs. 125/- per month was being paid to such children. He was happy to announce that Dr. V V Shah had contributed Rs. 10,000/- in support of this scheme and Shri Radhey Kishan Khanna, who has not been able to attend this meeting as he has been handicapped on account of amputation of one of his legs, has also contributed Rs. 1000/-, and has also offered to contribute Rs. 1,000/- every year. He also mentioned about another donation of Rs. 2,000/- that he had received from Shri C Dhandapani, an Industrialist, in support of this Scheme. He requested Members for contributing to this fund generously so that more and more children who need this

support could be given scholarships on a continuing basis during their school-stage, subject to their registering satisfactory progress.

Responding to this appeal, Dr. Sohan Lal Jain contributed a sum of Rs. 11,111/-, and Shri Hazara Singh Rathore contributed another Rs. 2,000/- at the time of the meeting to meet expenditure on such scholarships.

Dr. Bindal also added that in the light of the past experience of operation of the Scholarship and Awards Scheme of the Forum started in 2006, while the number of Scholarships and Awards offered by the Forum had been increasing the response to the Scheme had not been very encouraging to ensure that the money available for them could be effectively utilized to the maximum extent. Ways and means were to be found to give this Scheme a wider publicity.

He added that while all the Scholarships and Awards were open to the Children of the Staff Members of NPL, the Awards were also open to the Grand-children of the Members of the Forum and two such Awards had given to the grand-children of the Members of the Forum at the Award Function held on 24th September 2009. The Members were requested to bring this Scheme to the notice of their children and grand-children

2. Welcoming the New Members of the Forum: The Secretary read out the names of the following who had joined as new members of the Forum since its last meeting held on 16th April 2009.

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Suhit Kumar Halder | 2. Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Jain | 3. Shri Naib Singh |
| 4. Shri Jai Bhagwan | 5. Dr. Bijoy Kishore Das | 6. Dr. Prasun Kumar Banerjee |
| 7. Dr. Sukhmal Chand Jain | 8. Dr. Tara Chand Tripathi | 9. Dr. Dharam Pal Singh |
| 10. Shri Parvinder Pal Singh Viridy | 11. Shri Ved Parkash Sharma | 12. Shri Kishen Lal |
| 13. Shri Rajan Babu Saxena | | |

They were welcomed to the Forum with the customary clapping of hands.

3. Self Assessment Survey on Superstitions & Myths: Kailash Chandra informed that the Sub-Committee on Superstition of the Scientific Affairs Committee, had deliberated on the action that could be taken in respect of the stated objective of the Forum relating to popularization of science and for creating awareness against social drawbacks like ‘superstition’ etc. in the interest of society, at its meeting held on April 30, 2009. The Management Committee had been informed about deliberations of this Sub-Committee when it met subsequently on the same day. As a follow-up of the decision taken at that meeting, the enclosed form on “Self Assessment Survey of Superstitions & Myths” was drawn up and it was approved by the Management Committee at its meeting held on 12th August 2009, where after it had been circulated to the Members of the Forum for eliciting their response and also for their suggestions regarding other common superstitions.

The members who had brought the filled up forms were requested to hand them over to Shri G K Arora, the Secretary of the Superstition Sub-Committee, and the others were requested to send their response to him by e-mail/ post directly.

Dr. Chandra also mentioned about the meetings with the counterpart Scientists of NPL had been held for the revised Chart on S I Units of Measurement, and said that it was expected to be published by NPL in the near future. Following that, it was proposed to initiate action in bringing this to the notice particularly for the benefit of the school and college going children.

4 First Family Get-together : The Programme Committee, chaired by Dr. S K Sharma had met on 12th August 2009, to deliberate on what activities of common interest to the Members could be taken up by the Forum and had recommended to the Management Committee, to have family get-together and Picnic once every year, in addition to arranging talks of common interest to the Members which was being done hereto. Accordingly, it had proposed to have the First Family Get-together of the Members of the Forum – Diwali Get Together – , on Sunday the 25th October 2009 from 11.30. A.M. to 2.30 P.M. The programme will include some recreational activities e.g. Tambola till around 1.30 P.M. where after lunch will be served in the NPL Guest House Cafeteria. The members interested in this programme were requested to make payment @ Rs. 100 per head to Shri P K Mittal, the Convener of the Programme Committee, either in cash or by A/c Payee cheque drawn in favour of "NPL Former Scientists Forum. The assembly point for this Get-together will be the NPL Guest House.

5. Felicitating Shri Dewan Singh and Release of the Forum’s Newsletter by Shri Dev Kumar: The citation for Shri Dewan Singh was read out by the Secretary where after he was presented the citation as also the 80-Plus Club Certificate and the Memento of the Forum by Shri Dev Kumar. After a brief presentation of the highlights of the Special Issue of the Newsletter – ‘On Being Eighty’ – , the same was also released by Shri Dev Kumar.

6. Socializing over a cup of Tea and Refreshments: Before disbursing for socializing over a cup of tea the meeting formally ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

7. Hosting of the Meeting: The meeting had been hosted through the generous contributions made by Dr. R P Singhal (Rs. 3,000/-), Dr. P C Jain (Rs. 200/-), Shri Chhatar Singh (Rs. 100/-), Dr. S C Majumar (Rs. 200/-), Shri Birbal Chopra (Rs. 500/-), Shri M K Balchandani (Rs. 500/), and Shri Dharam Chand Khattar (Rs. 100/-).