



From The Editor's Desk

As the Head of National Testing Service-India (NTS-I) of Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), I am pleased to extend my warm greetings to all the readers of the NTS-I Newsletter. As a scheme of national importance aimed at catering to the evaluation requirements of the country, we have taken up many assignments, in addition to our regular tasks. To mention a few: recently NTS-India was involved in designing the tools for evaluation of the impact of the training programmes offered to the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Indian states, the NTS-I team evaluated the language text books published by the Government of Mauritius and NTS-I was also consulted by many institutions involved in teaching and testing, both in India as well as in abroad.



Dr. M. Balakumar, Head, NTS-I, CIIL

These prompted us to think of giving a face lift to the NTS-I Newsletter by converting it into a quarterly journal consisting of articles on educational testing and evaluation in four languages-English, Hindi, Tamil and Urdu. The required permission for this conversion has been obtained from the competent authority and steps are being taken to achieve this objective from the next issue.

This volume of the newsletter provides an aerial view of the events organized by NTS-I and Centre for Testing and Evaluation (CT&E) during the year 2011, cutting short usual elaboration of the events, so that we can update and upgrade the newsletter at the earliest. The NTS-I has initiated a series of five day training-cum-workshops on item writing for the teachers at school and college levels through its Regional Field Units (RFUs) established all over the country.

Besides this, most of the RFUs have come forward to arrange for one day workshops on item writing once in three months, from their own funds. It is a sign of commitment of the RFUs to work towards achieving our objective of creating the required manpower in the area of testing and evaluation i.e., 6000 trained item writers in each Indian language. We are trying to bridge the time gap in the publication of the newsletter. I am confident, we will be able to achieve it soon. Looking forward to hearing from you.

-Editor

CONTENTS

- FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
- CURRENT ACTIVITIES
 - RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
 - SURVEY & DOCUMENTATION
 - CONSULTANCY & TRAINING
 - REGIONAL FIELD UNITS
- GRANT-IN-AID
- DOCTORAL & POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS
- NEWS CAPSULE

Workshop on Programme Evaluation for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) of the states



Dr. Sudhir Krishna (Center) Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India addressing the workshop. Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (L), Director i/c, CIIL and Dr. M. Balakumar (R), Head, NTS-I are also seen

The National Testing Service-India of the Centre for Testing and Evaluation, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore organized a three-day training-cum-workshop on programme evaluation for the officials of State Departments of Panchayati Raj and faculty members of SIRD of the States and Union Territories in collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Govt. of India from 27th to 29th July 2011 at CIIL, Mysore.

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Sudhir Krishna (Special Secretary, MoPR, Govt. of India, New Delhi) on the forenoon of 27th July 2011. He observed that for the growth of the nation, governance by the local bodies is very important. The real problems of the masses can be understood properly only by the local elected representatives. Hence, such representatives need good capacity building training programmes for better performance.

Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) in his presidential remarks said that officials of PRI have larger responsibility as they are dealing with common people regularly. He further added that to address the issues of a multi-lingual country like ours, SIRDs and Panchayati Raj Institutions should utilize the services of the Regional Field Units of the NTS-I and Regional Language Centres (RLCs) of CIIL. He also assured that all possible help and support for the endeavors like this will be extended by the CIIL.

R&D

Research and Development

- To undertake in-depth analysis of the concepts of measurement & evaluation in the context of education
- To identify the content inputs & consequential effects of teaching, and learning
- To interrelate the outcome with the objectives of education and the actual needs of the country
- To develop appropriate methodology to meet all the evaluation needs.

Current Activities

Short term workshop for analyzing the NLLT (Pilot Study) answer scripts: Phase-I

1st February to 31st March 2011

A short term workshop was organized for analyzing the NLLT (Pilot Study) answer scripts in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu to identify the problems in scoring of the answer papers by the examiners. A sample of answer scripts in all the three languages was taken randomly for this study. At the end, a detailed report (component wise and language wise) on the performance by the students and the problems in scoring of the answer sheets was prepared and submitted. This will enable NTS-I to take certain precautionary measures during the NLLT (main exam.) to enhance the reliability, and validity of the findings. The programme was coordinated by Dr. R.Senkuttuvan (RP, NTS-I), Dr. Ghulam Mohiuddin Ansari and Mr. Aravind Kumar Gautam (JRP, NTS-I, Academic).

Short term workshop: Phase-II for the young scholars of Hindi, Tamil and Urdu held

1st April to 30th May 2011

Some of the preliminary findings emerged from the analysis of the scores obtained by the test takers in the NLLT pilot study demanded further analysis of the answer papers in-depth, to know more about the scoring process as well as the anomalies in the performance of the students in different language regions and in different centres in the same language region. Hence, young scholars from the three languages – Hindi, Tamil and Urdu were invited for an in-depth analysis of the NLLT answer scripts. Dr. V. Ilangovan (SRP, NTS-I) provided the framework for the analysis. The programme was coordinated by Dr. R. Senkuttuvan (RP, NTS-I), Dr. G.M. Ansari and Mr. A.K. Gautam (JRPs, NTS-I, Academic) under the overall guidance of Dr. M. Balakumar (Head, NTS-India).



Dr. M. Balakumar discussing with the young scholars

Orientation Programme for Module Writers

3rd to 4th February 2011



A view of experts discussing with the module writers

A two day orientation programme for module writers was held on 3rd and 4th February 2011. The participants of the workshop were from Mumbai, Hyderabad and Mysore. The experts were: Dr. C.G. Venkataramanna Setty, (formerly of SKMK College of Education, Mysore) and Prof. G.H. Parvathamma (formerly of UoM, Mysore). The programme was coordinated by Dr. M. Yesudass (RP, NTS-I), under the overall guidance of Dr. M. Balakumar.

Workshop on the Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS)

9th to 15th February 2011

A one week workshop to scrutinize the Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) for the seven levels of general education w.r.t. language and literature was held at NTS Head quarters, Mysore from 9th to 15th February 2011. The experts who participated in the workshop were: Prof. P. Ratnasabapathy (Counselor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. C. Shunmugom, (formerly of Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore), Prof. R. Pannerselvam (formerly of Karnatak University, Dharwad), Prof. T. Sethupandian (formerly of M.K.U. Madurai), and Dr. P. Murugaiyan (Principal, Shivandhi Adhithan College of Education, Chennai). Dr. M. Yesudass (RP, NTS) coordinated the programme in consultation with the Head, NTS-I.



A view of experts discussing at workshop

Workshop to finalize CCGS

18th to 21st June 2011

A four day workshop to finalize the CCGS was held at Chennai from 18th to 21st June 2011. Dr. M. Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) briefed the experts about the objectives of the programme and the need to finalize the CCGS at the earliest. The experts for the workshop were Prof. P. Ratnasabapathy, Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai (former Controller of Examinations, CIIL) and Dr. L. Ramamoorthy (RRO, CIIL & Head, LDC-IL).

Workshops for the selection of JRPs/RPs

4th to 12th July 2011

A series of workshops were conducted from 4th to 12th July 2011 at NTS-I, H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore for the selection of JRPs (Hindi and Tamil) and RP (Urdu). The overall planning and guidance was provided by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) in consultation with Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL). He was assisted by Dr. V.Ilangovan in this process. Mr. Ancy Thomas (JRP-Tech.) provided the technical assistance. Ms. G.Uma Maheswari (Asst. Gr.-I) and Ms. K.Lepakshi (Asst. Gr.-II) looked after the administrative matters for the conduct of workshop. Seventeen applicants identified by a screening committee constituted for this purpose were invited for the workshop. Out of the 17 applicants 10 attended the programme.

Prof. J. C.Sharma (Former Professor-cum-DD, CIIL), Dr. V.D.Hegade (Former Professor of Hindi, UoM, Mysore) were the external experts and Dr. L.Ramamoorthy (RRO, CIIL) was the internal expert. The participants were given different types of tasks and they were assessed on the basis of their performance. They were also interviewed by the experts. The candidates selected by the experts committee were engaged. Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy (Counselor, TIERA, Chennai), Prof. P.Veerappan (Professor of Tamil, RIE, Mysore). Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (former Controller of Examination, CIIL) and Dr. L.Ramamoorthy were the experts of the committee constituted for the selection of JRPs -Tamil. A two day workshop for the selection of Resource Person (Urdu) from among the working JRPs (Urdu) was held on 11th and 12th July 2011. The following experts were on the committee: Prof. Masood Siraj (Professor of Urdu, UoM, Mysore), Dr. R.Subbakrishna (RRO, CIIL), Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai and Dr. L.Ramamoorthy. Appropriate decision was taken as suggested by the committee of experts.

Workshops for Conceptual Explanations of Evaluation Terms

NTS-I organised various workshops at NTS-I H.Qrs., and across the country to finalise the Conceptual Explanations of Evaluation terminology prepared in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu. Experts in the fields of Psychology, Education, Statistics, Literature and Language were consulted during these workshops. The details are as follows:

Sl.No	Language	Period		Venue	Experts Participated	NTS-I Faculty
		From	To			
1.	Hindi	18.1.11	22.1.11	NTS-I H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore	Dr. T.R.Naidu, Dr. Nisha Sharma and Dr. Manju Sharma	All JRPs of NTS-I (Hindi)
2.	Urdu	07.03.11	12.03.11	NTS-I H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore	Mr. Abdur Rahman Khan, Dr. Muzammil Hussain Qasmi, Dr. Riyaz Ahmad and Dr. Shakil Akhtar	All JRPs of NTS-I (Urdu)
3.	Urdu	06.09.11	10.09.11	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	Dr. Md.Ezhar Khan, Prof. Farhat Ehsas, Prof. Ghazanfar Ali, Dr. Khalid Jawaid, Dr. Muzammil Hussain Qasmi, Dr. Safdar Imam Qadri and Prof. Soheb Abdullah	Dr. Jamshed Ahmad and Dr. Zubair Shadab Khan
4.	Urdu	26.09.11	30.09.11	MANUU, Hyderabad	Dr. Abdul Kalam, Mr. Abrar Ahmad Khan, Dr. Md.Ateeq Ahmad, Mr. Faheemuddin Ahmad, Dr. Firoz Alam, Prof. Khalid Saeed, Prof. Md.Khalid Mubashir Uz Zafar, Prof. Naseemuddin Farees, Dr. Md.Moshahid, Prof. Rahmat Yousufzai, Dr. Reyaz Ahmad, Prof. Sayeed Khaja Moinuddin and Prof. S.M.Mazharuddin Farooqi	Dr. Jamshed Ahmad and Dr. Zubair Shadab Khan

Sl.No	Language	Period		Venue	Experts Participated	NTS-I Faculty
		From	To			
5.	Tamil	18.10.11	22.10.11	NTS-I H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore	Prof. D.Kumaran, Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai, Prof. Sam Mohanlal, Prof. T.Sethupandian, Prof. C.Shunmugom, and Dr. P.Ratnasabapathy	Dr. M.Balakumar and Dr. V.Ilangovan
6.	Hindi	31.10.11	04.11.11	NTS-I H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore	Dr. Dhruv Kumar Dixit, Prof. Kanchan Jain and Prof. Kum Kum Dewan	Dr. Biresh Kumar, Dr. Parman Singh, Dr. Rishi Bhusan Chaubey and Dr. Sanjay Prasad Srivastava.
7.	Urdu	21.11.11	25.11.11	Jamia Millia Islamia, NewDelhi	Dr. Ahmad Khan, Prof. Ghazanfar Ali, Prof. Farhat Ehsas, Dr. Jaseem Ahmad, Dr. Muzammil Hussain Qasmi, Mr. Md.Izhar Khan, Dr. Naushad Ahmad, Dr. Obaidur Rehman, Dr. Roohi Fatima, Dr. Saood Parvez, Ms. Shagufta Yasmeen, Prof. Shoeb Abdullah and Dr. Wahid Nazeer	Dr. Zubair Shadab Khan
8.	Tamil	19.11.11	23.11.11	UoM, Chennai	Prof. D.Kumaran, Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai, Prof. Sam Mohanlal, Prof. T.Sethupandian, Prof. C.Shunmugom and Dr. P.Ratnasapathy	Dr. M.Balakumar and Dr. V.Ilangovan
9.	Hindi	29.11.11	03.11.11	BHU, Varanasi	Prof. K.K.Singh, Prof. V.K.Singh, Prof. R.C.Yadav, Prof. Umesh Singh and Dr. R.K.Srivastava.	Dr. Parman Singh, and Dr. Sanjay Prasad Srivastava
10.	Tamil	12.12.11	14.12.11	NTS-I H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore	Prof. D.Kumaran, Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai, Prof. Sam Mohanlal, Prof. T.Sethupandian, Prof. C.Shunmugom, and Dr. P.Ratnasabapathy.	Dr. M.Balakumar and Dr. V.Ilangovan
11.	Urdu	14.12.11	18.12.11	NTS-I H.Qrs., CIIL, Mysore	Mr. Abdur Rahman Khan, Prof. Farhat Ehsas, Prof. Faheemuddin Ahmad, Prof. Ghazanfar Ali, Prof. Md.Khalid Mub -ashiruz Zafar and Prof. Shoeb Abdullah	All JRP's of NTS-I (Urdu)

S&D

Survey and Documentation

- To collect, consolidate, and create an electronic grid of information pertaining to contents, methods, and purposes of evaluation
- To enlist the contact particulars of individuals and institutions involved in preparing and using different types of tests
- To develop a grid of material resources with syllabi of various courses and question papers there on, at different levels of education
- To build up a specialized library with rare reference on this area and documenting various related news items.

Current Activities

In a move to keep pace with the changing trend, the National Testing Service-India has made efforts to use the latest technologies to communicate with its Regional Field Units. In a situation when the third generation communication technology has come into picture, we need to upgrade our tools and techniques according to the changes and find better means of communication to save time, energy and money. In NTS-India, we are planning to

use video chatting facility (VCF) via Skype software. The Skype software is available free of cost (for limited edition) and it provides facilities such as text chat, voice chat and video chat.

In order to train the Coordinators of RFUs in installation and use of the software, it is proposed to prepare a user manual. The entire process of VCF will be explained step by step in this manual with appropriate screen shots for easy understanding. The manual covers easy steps for installation and commissioning of this software. The need for the user-manual was felt during the in-house testing process. The user-manual will enable even the non-technical persons to install the software and interact with NTS-I H.Qrs., from the RFU Room at the respective places.

Expansion of NTS Library

Books added to the NTS-India library during the Year 2011, are as follows: English-134, Hindi - 203, Tamil - 43 and Urdu - 259.

Besides the above books purchased, the following members of CT&E gifted books to the library: Dr. M.Balakumar (121 books) Dr. B.Nehruji (2) and Ms. P.Anuradha (1) respectively.

C&T

Consultancy and Training

- To evolve a mechanism for providing periodical training and to create specialized expertise
- To develop teaching cum training modules in various branches of evaluation
- To produce supplementary materials such as documentary films, charts, tables, etc.
- To extend consultancy on various matters related to testing and evaluation.

Current Activities

Officers of the Ministry of Education, Singapore, visited CIIL and NTS-India

14th to 16th March 2011

A team of 8 educational officers of the Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre (Ministry of Education, Singapore) involved in designing and implementation of the training programmes for the professional development of Tamil teachers in Singapore visited the Central Institute of Indian Languages in March, 2011. They were at CIIL from 14th to 16th March and gained a better understanding and insight on the methodology of teaching, learning and testing of Tamil.

The delegates interacted with Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL), Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) and Dr. L.Ramamoorthy (Head, LDC-IL). They explained the various aspects of the projects they are heading. Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (Former Controller of Examinations, CIIL) was also present.



Officers of Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre, Min. of Education, Singapore interacting with Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, Dr. L.Ramamoorthy is also Present

Meeting for Evaluating the Impact of the Capacity Building Programmes of MoPR

27th to 28th January 2011

Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP, NTS-I) and Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP, NTS-I) attended a meeting convened by Dr. Sudhir Krishna, Special Secretary, MoPR, GOI at National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad on 27th and 28th January 2011. This was in connection with the request from the Special Secretary, MoPR for evaluating the impact of the Capacity Building Programmes in Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) implemented in the districts selected in the country.

Dr. V.Ilangovan explained the principles of evaluation (both formative and summative) and briefed about the tools and techniques to be used for evaluating the impact (both immediate and sustained) of the training programmes offered for the elected representatives and functionaries under BRGF.

Training-cum-workshop on language teaching and testing at Manipur University

1st to 4th December 2010

NTS-I organized a three day training-cum-workshop on language teaching and testing at the Dept. of Linguistics, Manipur University, Imphal from 1st to 4th December 2010. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Imoba Singh (Dept. of Linguistics) and Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I). He was accompanied by Dr. M.Yesudass (RP, NTS-I), Dr. L.Ramamoorthy (Head, LDC-IL) and Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (Former Controller of Examinations, CIIL). The participants were given inputs on language teaching and testing methods. They were provided with sufficient practice in writing question items for evaluating the achievement of degree level students in Language and Literature.

Workshop for Teachers of Regional Language Centres of CIIL and Research Scholars

11th to 31st May 2011

The National Testing Service-India of the Centre for Testing and Evaluation, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore organized a 21 day training-cum-workshop on Applied Linguistics, Testing and Evaluation from 11th to 31st May 2011 at CIIL, Mysore for the Guest Lecturers and Resource Persons of Regional Language Centres (RLCs) of CIIL. Many research scholars from various universities of the country and the academics of NTS-India also participated in the workshop.



Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, Director i/c, CIIL addressing the participants of the workshop at CIIL

The objective behind the organization of this programme was towards achieving the mission statement of the NTS-India of catering to the evaluation requirements of the country and also for the development of methodology, material and manpower in the area of testing and evaluation. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) on the forenoon of 11th May 2011. In his inaugural speech, he spoke elaborately on the importance of languages in a multilingual country like ours.

Earlier, Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) welcomed the participants of the programme. He briefed the objectives and activities of NTS-India and requested the participating scholars to make use of this rare opportunity, as many eminent scholars from the institute and from other reputed institutions were to deliver lectures on various aspects of language education, applied linguistics and testing & evaluation. Dr. P. P.Giridhar, Assistant Director (Admn. i/c, CIIL) in his presidential remark observed that this training-cum-workshop designed by NTS-I was indeed a great forum for the scholars for discussing the aspects of language and literature in general and teaching, learning, testing and evaluation in particular.

In this training-cum-workshop, eminent scholars delivered lectures on themes related to 'Linguistics', 'Language teaching' and 'Testing and Evaluation'. 'Teaching of languages as L1 & L2', 'Language teaching through corpora and multimedia', 'Item Writing', 'Standardization', 'Item Analysis' and 'Interpreting test results' were some of the themes discussed during the workshop. More than 90 members who are either involved in the teaching of Indian languages or engaged in research activities at the following institutions of CIIL viz., Northern Regional Language Centre, Patiala, Punjab; Western Regional Language Centre, Pune, Maharashtra; Eastern Regional Language Centre, Bhubaneswar, Orissa; North Eastern Regional Language Centre, Guwahati, Assam;

Urdu Teaching and Research Centre, Solan, Himachal Pradesh and Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh participated in the workshop. The eminent scholars who taught the participants include: Prof. Jacob Tharu (formerly of CIEFL, Hyderabad), Prof. Pon Subbiah (former Head of NTS-I, CIIL, Mysore), Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy (TIERA, Chennai), Prof. Dorasami (Principal, RIE, Mysore), Prof. A.S.Dasan (DoS in English, University of Mysore), Prof. J.C.Sharma, Dr. K.V.V.L.Narasimha Rao and Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (formerly of CIIL, Mysore), Dr. L.Ramamoorthy (Head, LDC-IL, CIIL), Dr. Y.Sridhar Reddy (Research Assistant & Academic Secretary, CIIL), Prof. Adithi Mukherjee (Director, NTM, CIIL) and Dr. Sampath (former Director [Epigraphy], Department of Archeological Survey of India). Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP, NTS-I), Dr. M.Yesudass and Dr. Biresh Kumar (RPs of NTS-I) also delivered lectures on various aspects of testing and evaluation. The participants of this programme felt enriched. During the workshop, documentaries produced by CIIL and NTS-I were also screened. In the valedictory session on 31st May 2011 Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) said that for achieving something in testing, a deeper understanding of the concept is very important and expressed his happiness over the success of the programme.

NTS-India team attended Meeting Convened by MoPR at KILA, Kerala

8th & 9th June 2011

Dr. Sudhir Krishna, Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Govt. of India convened a two day meeting on Capacity Building and Training of Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayathi Raj Institutions at the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Trissur, Kerala on 8th and 9th June 2011. Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) was invited to attend the programme in connection with the assignment given to NTS-I for the evaluation of the impact of the training programmes conducted under BRGF. The Head, NTS-I accompanied by Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP) and Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP) of NTS-I attended the programme. They interacted with the Special Secretary, MoPR regarding the training programme to be conducted at NTS-I, Head quarters, CIIL, Mysore before taking up the assignment on impact evaluation.

Meeting of the core group constituted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)

10th to 11th August 2011

National Testing Service-India hosted a two-day meeting of core group constituted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Govt. of India at NTS-I, CIIL on 10th and 11th August 2011. The meeting was organised to finalise the templates to evaluate the impact of training programmes imparted to the Elected Representatives (ERs) and government functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) all over the country, which were funded under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and Rashtriya Gram Swarozgar Yojana (RGSY) of MoPR, Govt. of India. Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, [National Project Manager, Capacity Development for Local Governance (CDLG)], MoPR, New Delhi was the convener of the core group. Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP, NTS-I), Mr. Ashraf-ul-Hasan (Director, SIRD, Mysore), Prof. R.Suryanarayana Reddy (Centre Head, CDPIA, AMR-APARD, Hyderabad), Dr. Sumant Pande (SIRD-YASHADA, Pune) and Dr. Ommen John (Faculty, SIRD, Kerala) were the other members of the group. Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) and Dr. G.S.Ganesh Prasad (Faculty, SIRD, Mysore) also joined the group during the discussions on the preparation of tools for evaluation.



A view of MoPR core group officials with NTS-I officials

National Testing Service-India is offered by MoPR with the task of developing tools and scales to check the effectiveness of the training programmes and to suggest measures for improvements in the methods and materials being used for this purpose. This is to strengthen the methodology of the training programmes of MoPR and also the capabilities of the elected representatives and functionaries of the PRIs in discharging their duties effectively and efficiently. This was the fourth interaction of NTS-I faculty with the officials of MoPR & RD. The first was held in NIRD, Hyderabad in December, 2010 and the second was in KILA, Thrissur, Kerala in June, 2011 and third one was held at NTS-I, CIIL, Mysore during the last week of the July, 2011. In this programme the pre-final version of four templates for assessing various programmes and their impact on the ERs and the functionaries were

prepared. The programme was conducted by NTS-I with the support and cooperation of Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) and Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL). Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP, NTS-I, Academic), Mr. V.K.Dheeraj (JRP-Tech., NTS-I) and Mr. N.Murali Mohana (PRO, NTS-I) provided necessary assistance in the successful completion of the programme.

Students of Malaysia visited to NTS-I

26th & 27th August 2011

The Students of Linguistics from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia visited NTS-I H.Qrs., Mysore on 26th & 27th August 2011. During their visit they interacted with the academics of National Testing Service-India and CIIL and tried to understand the activities of its important research units and the projects viz., Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages (LDC-IL) and National Translation Mission (NTM). They were also exposed to the different areas of Applied Linguistics viz., Computational Linguistics, Language Testing, and Translation. They also visited CIIL library, language laboratory, and language technology unit. An interactive session with the key functionaries of CIIL was also arranged. A team of professors from Malaya University and Tamil University (Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu) accompanied them. Prof. A.Karthikeyan, (Head of Tamil studies in the Tamil University) coordinated the training programme and Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) made arrangements for the programme at CIIL.

Training programme for +2 teachers

3rd to 5th September 2011

The II phase of the training programme for +2 teachers arranged at Padmavathi school, Chennai from 3rd to 5th September 2011 was attended by Dr. M.Balakumar. The Head, NTS-I suggested the methodologies for improving the proficiency of the teachers as test developers.

Training-cum-Workshop on Testing, Evaluation and Item Writing

28th September to 26th November 2011



A view of participants in the workshop

A series of training-cum-workshops on Testing, Evaluation and Question item preparation for the School and College teachers of the institutions housing the Regional Field Units (RFUs) of NTS for Hindi, Tamil and Urdu speaking regions located in different states of the country were organised at the National Testing Service-India of CIIL, Mysore during the months of September, October and November, 2011. The duration of each workshop was of 4 days. The first workshop in this series commenced on 28th September 2011 and the final one concluded on 26th November 2011. The objective behind these training-cum-workshops was towards achieving the mission statement of the NTS-India i.e., to evolve a centralized mechanism to cater to the testing and evaluation requirements of the country and also for the development of methodology, material and manpower in the area of testing and evaluation. Altogether 60 teachers of school and college levels from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh took part in the workshops conducted in 6 phases.

The workshops were coordinated by Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP) and Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP) of NTS-I. Dr. G.M.Ansari, Dr. Md.Rizwan, Ms. R.Shakunthala, Mr. A.K.Gautham, Dr. Zubair Shadab Khan, Dr. B.Vijaya Kumar, Dr. Rishi Bhushan Choubey, Dr. Parman Singh, Dr. Sanjay Prasad Srivastava and Dr. P.T.Kingston (JRPs of NTS-I) provided the academic resources under the overall guidance of Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I).

RFUs**Regional Field Units**

- To disseminate the R & D outcome at the grass root levels
- To ensure wider participation for building up national consensus on materials and methodologies
- To identify scholars and undertake the process of item preparation, test construction, field administration, data collection, and standardisation (of tests) for establishing norms.

Current Activities**Orientation-cum-Training programmes**23rd to 25th December 2010

A three day Orientation-cum-Training programme was held at the RFU (Region-5B, Urdu) located at Karim City College, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand from 23rd to 25th December 2010. The NTS-India team led by Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP) consisted of Dr. G.M.Ansari, Dr. Md.Rizwan, Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRPs-Academic) and Mr. V.K.Dheerajj (JRP-Tech.) conducted the programme. The participants were briefed about the objectives of NTS-India and roles and responsibilities of the RFU as a nodal agency of NTS-I for the Urdu language region. Also, they were given time for practice in the preparation of question items according to the principles evolved by NTS-I for evaluating the achievement of language & literature.

18th to 20th January 2011

A three day Orientation-cum-Training programme was held at the RFU located at K.G.N. Multipurpose School (Region-7A, Urdu) Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh. The NTS-India team consisted of Dr. G.M.Ansari, Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRPs-Academic) and Mr. V.K.Dheerajj (JRP-Tech.) conducted the programme.

3rd March 2011

Preliminary Orientation-cum-Training Programme on Testing & Evaluation was held at St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School (Region-8A, Tamil Nadu) Dindigul on 3rd March 2011. The orientation was provided by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I). Mr. B.M.Lingaraj (Officer-RFUs) accompanied the Head, NTS-India. The teachers of the St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School attended the programme and were benefitted by the explanations offered by the Head NTS-I on the different aspects of evaluation of the language & literature.

21st to 23th March 2011

A three day Orientation-cum-Training programme was held at NTS-I RFU, Eram Intermediate College (Region-4A, Uttar Pradesh) Lucknow from 21st to 23rd March 2011. The NTS-India team consisted of Dr. G.M.Ansari, Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRPs-Academic) and Mr. Ancy Thomas (JRP-Tech.) conducted the programme. Mr. K.S.Faizi Yunus (Local Coordinator) and Mr. Yaseen (Director of Eram Intermediate College) were also present. The NTS-I team also purchased books for NTS-I library at Lucknow and Delhi.

24th to 26th March 2011

A three day Orientation-cum-Training programme on Testing and Evaluation was held at NTS-India RFU located at Thiagarajar College (Region-8B, Tamil Nadu) Madurai from 24th to 26th March 2011. The NTS-India team led by Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP). The other members on the team were Ms. R.Shakunthala (JRP, Academic) and Ms. D.Manivasuki (JRP, MILES). About 45 teachers from various colleges participated and they were motivated to know and use the latest techniques in Testing & Evaluation. They were also explained in detail about the NTS-India perspective on Mastery of Language and the different methods used for evaluation.

14th to 17th September 2011

A four day Orientation-cum-Training programme on Item Writing in Urdu was held at Reshmi Welfare Education Society (Region -10A, Karnataka) Hubli between 14th and 17th September 2011. The NTS-India team led by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) consisted of Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP), Dr. G.M.Ansari, Mr. Ancy Thomas (JRPs). The participants were given intensive training in item writing for the components included under language and literature.

Training-cum-Workshops on Item Writing:

1st to 4th December 2010

A Four day Training-cum-workshop on Testing & Evaluation and item writing was held at Theivanai Ammal College for Women (Region -4B, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry) Villupuram from 1st to 4th December 2010. Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP) led the NTS-India team consisting of Dr. R.Senkuttuvan (RP), Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak and Ms. R.Shakunthala (JRPs.). About 40 teachers from various colleges in and around Villupuram, and Puducherry participated in the workshop. Dr. Kasthuri Bai Dhanasekaran, Principal of the college and Dr. Lourduswamy, Local Coordinator made the arrangements with the cooperation and support of the management and other faculty members. Dr. Michael Faraday (Dean, MCC, Chennai) delivered the inaugural address on 1st December 2010 and Dr. R.Kalia Perumal (Director, Centre for Rural Development, Periyar Maniammai University) delivered the valedictory address. Ms. Shridevi (HOD, Dept. of Computer Science, TACW) proposed vote of thanks.

4th to 6th January 2011

Training-cum-Workshop on item writing was held at the RFU located at Mufti Akhtar Hussain Urdu College (Region-3B, Urdu) Kota, Rajasthan from 4th to 6th January 2011. About 50 teachers participated in the Workshop. They were given sufficient practice in item writing by the NTS-India team and the local experts called for this purpose from the neighbouring institutions. The NTS-I team led by Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP) consisted of Dr. Md.Rizwan, Dr. Saleem Ahmed (JRPs-Academic) and Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRP-Tech.).

12th to 15th October 2011

A four day workshop on testing and evaluation and item writing was held at RFU (Urdu, Region-9, Andhra Pradesh) Z.P. Urdu High School, Khazipet, Chittor, A.P. from 12th to 15th October 2011. The venue of the programme was SCVR College, Palamaner. The NTS team provided the resources for the teachers. It consisted of Dr. Md.Rizwan, Dr. Zubair Shadab Khan (JRPs-Academic) and Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRP-Tech.). Around 40 teachers participated in the programme. Dr. M.Balakumar (Head NTS-I) attended the valedictory function of this programme and Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP) accompanied him.

25th to 28th October 2011

A five day workshop on Item Writing w.r.t Urdu was held at RFU located at Al Huda Public School (Region-1, Jammu & Kashmir), Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir). Dr. G. M. Ansari and Dr. Jamshed Ahmad (JRPs) of NTS-India provided the training to the teachers.

← Intermediary Visits

4th August 2011

Under instructions from Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) a team consisting of Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRP-Tech.) and Mr. B.M.Lingaraj (Officer-RFUs) visited the RFU of NTS-I located at Dept. of Urdu, University of Delhi (Region-2B, Delhi & Haryana) from 4th August 2011. This was an intermediary visit to assess the performance of the RFU of NTS-India. A report was submitted to the Head, NTS-I in this regard. The team also visited Eram Intermediate College (Region-4A, Uttar Pradesh) and Unity Degree College (Region-6A, Uttar Pradesh), Lucknow, U.P. on 08th August 2011.



A view of UDC faculty with NTS-I officials

← Visit to Applicant Institution

5th August 2011

The Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, offered to function as RFU (Hindi) of NTS-India at its Delhi Centre. This institution was visited by Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRP-Tech.) and Mr. B.M.Lingaraj (Officer-RFUs) on 5th August 2011.

Two-day introductory meeting for the representatives of Regional Field Units

26th & 27th September 2011

A two-day introductory meeting for the representatives of Regional Field Units (RFUs) of the National Testing Service-India which were established recently and for the newly appointed Local Coordinators of the existing



Dr. Kedutso Kapfo addressing the gathering at the introductory meeting

RFUs was held on 26th & 27th September 2011 at NTS-I, CIIL, Mysore. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Local Coordinators the first-hand knowledge of objectives and the academic activities of NTS-India. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Kedutso Kapfo (Director-in-charge of CIIL). In his inaugural speech, he said that the teaching should create concepts in the minds of our students. The effective language learning is possible only through proper understanding of concepts on which one can build his/her knowledge. Dr. P.P.Giridhar, Assistant Director

(Admin. i/c, CIIL) during his interaction with the participants of the meeting said that NTS-I was indeed a great forum for the teachers and scholars of our country for discussing various aspects of evaluation and constructing a bridge in the field of language testing and evaluation. Earlier Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) welcomed the representatives of the RFUs of NTS-I, and also briefed the objectives and activities of NTS-I. He further requested the Local Coordinators of the RFUs to make use of the academic resources of NTS-I and to work for a quality evaluation system in the country. Dr. V.Ilangovan, Dr. Biresh Kumar and Mr. B.M.Lingaraj also explained the various activities of RFUs to the participants. The programme was coordinated by Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP) and Dr. Biresh Kumar (RP). Mr. B.M.Lingaraj (Officer-RFUs) assisted them. The overall guidance for the programme was provided by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I).

GIA

Grant-in-Aid

- To create awareness among the members of the teaching community on this essential component of education : testing and evaluation
- To encourage the individuals and institutions (involved in this specialized work) by extending financial assistance
- To facilitate developing materials, methodologies, and trained manpower to meet various evaluation requirements.

Current Activities

National Seminar on “Evaluation of Language Teaching in Secondary Schools”

17th to 19th January 2011

A three-day National Seminar on “Evaluation of Language Teaching in Secondary Schools” was organized by the Centre for Testing and Evaluation of CIIL, Mysore in collaboration with the Department of Linguistics of University of Kerala at its Karyavattom Campus from 17th to 19th January 2011. Mr. N.K.Premachandran, Minister of Water Resources, Government of Kerala inaugurated the seminar. He said that Linguistics should be included in the secondary school curriculum. Teachers and students at the secondary school level should know the scientific application and development of language. Delegates from various universities of the country and the resource persons from NTS-India and CIIL presented their research papers.



Mr. N.K.Premachandran addressing at the seminar

Orientation Programme on Professional Development

27th January 2011

Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) was invited to give a lecture on the concept of “Professional Development in Thirukkural”. The programme was organised by the Directorate of Tamil Development, Madurai,

Tamil Nadu. The Head, NTS-I delivered lectures in two sessions on 27th January 2011. Dr. M.Yesudass (RP) accompanied Dr. M.Balakumar.

National Seminar on “Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching”

15th & 16th March 2011

A two day National Seminar on “Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching” was organized by the institute of Distance Education, University of Madras, Chennai in collaboration with the National Testing Service-India and Centre for Testing and Evaluation of Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore on 15th and 16th March 2011. This was held at the Platinum Jubilee Auditorium on the campus of the University of Madras, Chennai. Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) was the organizer of the seminar and Dr. P.Aruna Devi (Assistant Professor of English) Institute of Distance Education, UoM, Chennai and Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I CIIL, Mysore) were the coordinators of the programme. In his inaugural speech Dr. Pon Kothandaraman, the Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras said that the knowledge of vernacular languages will go a long way in the teaching and learning of English. Dr. K.Ramasamy (Officer-in-charge of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai) in his keynote address talked about learning strategies, the latest methods of teaching languages and the inbuilt testing methods. Col. Dr. G.Thiruvassagam, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras in his speech emphasized that the language teachers have a great responsibility of making the students not only to learn a language but also to communicate fluently in the language. The abstracts of the seminar papers were compiled and published and the same was released by Prof. Pon Kothandaraman. In this two-day National Seminar more than 200 delegates and research scholars participated and about 80 of them presented their papers in the sessions held under the chairmanship of eminent scholars. During valedictory session Prof. P.R.Ramanujam, the Pro-Chancellor of IGNOU recalled the contributions of ancient grammarians and the scholarly explanations of the commentators. Earlier, Dr. M.Balakumar welcomed the guests and gathering, Dr. Arunadevi presented a brief report of the programme and Ms. Beena Anil proposed vote of thanks.

National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Language Testing”

15th to 16th March 2011

A two-day National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Language Testing” was organized by the Department of Linguistics, School of Tamil Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai in collaboration with the Centre for Testing and Evaluation of CIIL, Mysore. Dr. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) Mysore and Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, Centre for Testing and Evaluation (CT&E), CIIL, Mysore) were the organizers. Prof. Athitan (Head, Department of Linguistics, and Chairman, School of Tamil Studies, MKU, Madurai) and Dr. K.Umaraj (Department of Linguistics MKU, Madurai) were the Coordinators of this seminar. Prof. Tirumalai (Former Controller of Examinations, MKU) presided over the inaugural session. Prof. T.Vasanta Kumari (Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, MKU) in her inaugural speech emphasized the importance of computer aided tests. Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) in his keynote address requested the teachers, teacher educators and administrators to measure the effectiveness of teaching and learning through a systematic process of evaluation. He also assured that the basic reference materials prepared by CT&E in English will be brought out in all the Indian Languages. Dr. A.Muniyan and Dr. R.Kumarasamy (Asst. Professors of Dept. of Linguistics, MKU) were the organising Secretaries of the seminar. Prof. Renukadevi (Department of Linguistics, MKU) proposed vote of thanks. Mr. A.K.Gautam, Dr. Md.Rizwan, Ms. R.Shakunthala, Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak, Ms. G.Usha Nandini, Dr. Sanjay Prasad Srivastava, from NTS-I, CIIL presented their papers related to Language, Linguistics and T&E.

17th to 19th March 2011

A three day training-cum-workshop for college teachers on item preparation was held at Sir Sayeed College, Kannur, Kerala. The NTS-India team consisting of Dr. M.Yesudass (RP), Dr. Rishi Bhushan Choubey and Mr. A.K.Gautam (JRPs of MILES & NTS-I respectively) conducted the programme at Kannur. This programme was funded by CT&E.



A view of the participants in the workshop held at Kannur

Orientation-cum-Workshop on Testing and Evaluation for the Teachers of Puducherry Region

28th November 2011 to 2nd December 2011

National Testing Service-India (NTS-I) of CIIL, Mysore in collaboration with Puducherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture (PILC), Lawspet, Puducherry organised a five day Orientation-cum-Workshop on testing and evaluation for the teachers of B.Ed. Colleges and Research Scholars of Puducherry region. This was held at Vivekananda College of Education, Lawspet, Puducherry from 28th November 2011 to 2nd December

2011. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. S.Hariharan, Director of UGC-Academic Staff College, Pondicherry Central University, Puducherry. In his inaugural address he insisted that the evaluation should be done on the basis of social relevance and subject matter with human touch. Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) in his presidential address explained the objectives and the activities of the CIIL and NTS-I. He further added that the future of our nation is in the hands of teachers. Therefore, the teachers should take initiatives to know about the nuances of testing and evaluation, and the systematic process of question item preparation. Prof. P.Ratnasabapathy (TIERA, Chennai), Prof. T.Sethupandian (MKU, Madurai), Dr. R.Thirumavalavan (STC, Puducherry), Mr. Kashi Villavan (Former SRP of NTS-I) gave lectures on the methods of teaching and testing language and literature, and trained the participants in different areas of testing and evaluation. Dr. V.Ilangoan (SRP), Dr. P.T.Kingston (JRP) and Mr. N.Murali Mohana (PRO) represented NTS-I. Dr. Parasuraman of PILC coordinated the programme.



Dr. M.Balakumar, Head, NTS addressing the Teachers and Scholars of Puducherry region

Orientation-cum-Workshop on Sangam Literature

27th to 29th December 2011

National Testing Service-India (NTS-I) of CIIL, Mysore organised a three day Orientation-cum-Workshop on teaching, learning and testing of Sangam literature for the teachers of the colleges and research scholars of Tamil Nadu region in collaboration with the Department of Tamil, Chikkaiah Naicker College, Erode from 27th to 29th December, 2011. Dr. M. Balakumar (Head, NTS-I), Prof. Sam Mohanlal and Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (both formerly of CIIL, Mysore) and Dr. P.Veerappan (RIE, Mysore), Prof. T.Sethupandian (formerly of MKU) and Dr. P.Ratnasabapathy (TIERA, Chennai) provided the necessary academic input for the participants. Dr. Kamalakannan (Associate Professor, CN College) coordinated the programme.

D&PDF

Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships

- To promote advanced studies in the multidisciplinary area of testing and evaluation
- To extend financial support and to create a band of specialized manpower in every discipline, and in every region of the country to meet the shortage of trained manpower
- To evolve a system of eclectic intelligentsia by pooling together the potentials available across the disciplines.

Current Activities

Workshop to award Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships

25th to 31st March 2011



Panel of experts interacting with the fellowship aspirants

Interactive workshops for identifying the candidates for the award of Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships of NTS-India for the academic year 2010-2011 was held at NTS-I.H.Qrs., Mysore in 3 phases from 25th to 31st March 2011. Earlier the committee constituted for this purpose scrutinized 312 applications and shortlisted 95 applicants (including NE Region) who could be invited for discussion. Prof. R.Paneerselvam (former Professor, Karnatak University, Dharwad), Prof. Thippeswamy and

Dr. V.D.Hegde (both formerly of Dept. of Hindi UoM), Prof. P.T.Abraham (former Professor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh), Prof. M.Susheela (former Professor, Tamil University, Thanjavur), Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (former Controller of Examinations, CIIL, Mysore), Dr. Kedusto Kepfo, (RRO, CIIL, Mysore), Prof. Masood Siraj (Professor of Urdu, UoM, Mysore) and Dr. Mahjabeen Najm (HOD of Urdu, Yuvaraja's College, Mysore) were the experts on the committee. The workshops were coordinated by the academic staff of NTS-I viz., Dr. V.Ilangovan (SRP), Dr. R.Senkuttuvan (RP), Dr. Md.Rizwan and Mr. A.K.Gautam (JRPs). The overall guidance was provided by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I). On the basis of the individual performance of the candidates and experts' recommendations the list of eligible candidates chart was prepared: The details are as follows:

	Tamil	Hindi	Urdu	Total
Doctoral Fellowships	10	6	5	21
Post-Doctoral Fellowships	1	3	3	7

Release of NTS-I fellowships to the Awardees (from January-December 2011):

Month	2007-08				2008-09				2009-10				Total
	Doctoral		Post Doctoral		Doctoral		Post Doctoral		Doctoral		Post Doctoral		
	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	
Jan-Mar 11	02	60,000	-	-	09	2,90,000	01	24,000	14	4,20,000	05	1,68,000	9,62,000
Apr-Jun 11	03	1,40,000	-	-	05	1,60,000	01	48,000	15	3,20,000	04	84,000	7,52,000
Jul-Sep 11	03	50,000	-	-	06	1,70,000	01	24,000	15	5,60,000	05	2,28,000	10,32,000
Oct-Dec 11	03	60,000	-	-	04	1,20,000	01	48,000	14	4,80,000	05	1,56,000	8,64,000

News Capsule

➤ **30th December 2010:** A meeting was convened by the Secretary, MHRD, New Delhi to review the functioning of CIIL schemes viz., LDC-IL, NTM and NTS-I. The Heads of the schemes led by Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) attended the review meeting held at New Delhi and made presentations. Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) made a presentation of the objectives and functions of National Testing Service-India and offered clarifications for the queries raised by the Secretary.

➤ **January 2011:** A series of lectures by the SRP, RP and JRPs of National Testing Service-India was arranged during January, 2011 for the Doctoral and Post-Doctoral awardees. This was arranged to orient them towards the latest developments in the area of testing & evaluation and also to help them in their research activities.

➤ **3rd January 2011:** On invitation from the Tamil University, Thanjavur Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) delivered lectures on 'Translation and Assessment' in the refresher course for the college lecturers held at the Tamil University on 3rd January 2011. In his lecture, he explained in detail how translation can be used as a tool for assessing mastery of language and literature.

Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD, GOI visited CIIL

➤ **8th January 2011:** Ms. Vibha Puri Das (Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD, Govt. of India, New Delhi) visited CIIL to address the delegates of SALA (South Asian Linguistics Analysis) Roundtable-29. During her visit, she interacted with the Head and staff of NTS-I on 8th January 2011.



Ms. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Hr.Edn., MHRD having an interaction with the Academicians of CIIL

➤ **21st January 2011:** Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) presented a paper on 'Language Attitude' at the seminar organized by Dept. of Linguistics, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

➤ **28th January 2011:** Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) delivered the key note address at the National Seminar held at Shivanthi College of Education, Thiruchendur, Tamil Nadu on 28th January 2011. The theme of the seminar was 'Recent Trends in Evaluation'. Dr. M.Yesudass (RP, NTS-I) accompanied the Head, NTS-I. The paper explained about the perspectives of National Testing Service-India on evaluation.

➤ **29th January 2011:** An intermediary visit to Annamal College of Education for Women (NTS-I, RFU Region-10A, Tamil Nadu) Tuticorin, T.N. was undertaken by Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) on 29th January 2011. Dr. M.Yesudass accompanied the Head, NTS-I.

➤ **9th May 2011:** Dr. M.Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) attended a meeting held at MHRD, New Delhi on 9th May 2011 and briefed both the academic and financial issues of NTS-I.

Foundation Day Celebrations and visit by the Joint Secretary, MHRD, GOI

➤ **19th July 2011:** The 43rd foundation day was celebrated from 17th to 19th July 2011. Mr. Anant Kumar Singh (Joint Secretary, MHRD, Govt. of India, New Delhi) attended the valedictory function held on 19th July 2011 and addressed the delegates. He also interacted with the Academic and Administrative staff of CIIL.



Mr. Anant Kumar Singh,
JS, MHRD, GOI

Books on Children Literature released

➤ **24th November 2011:** The release of books on children's literature was held on behalf of Central Institute of Indian Languages and EMESCO, Hyderabad at Chennai on 24th November 2011. The books were released by Dr. T.S.Sridhar I.A.S. (Additional Principal Secretary, Dept. of School Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu), Dr. M.Rajaram (I.A.S.) received the copies. Dr. M. Balakumar (Head, NTS-I) in his speech emphasized the need to produce more books for children. Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Former Director i/c, CIIL) insisted on the need to develop mutual understanding and integration among the speakers of different Indian languages.

➤ **1st December 2011:** During Orientation-cum-Training Programme of the National Testing Service-India at Puducherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture (PILC). Dr. P.T.Kingston and Mr. N.Murali Mohana called on Mr.Sabhpathy, Speaker of the Puducherry Legislative Assembly.



Dr. P.T.Kingston and Mr. N.Murali Mohana
seen with Mr. Sabhpathy, Speaker of
Puducherry Legislative Assembly

Patrons
Ms. VIBHA PURI DAS
Secretary, Hr.Edn., MHRD, GOI
Mr. ANANT KUMAR SINGH
Joint Secretary(L), MHRD, GOI
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Superannuation of Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva

➤ **31st October 2011:** Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Director i/c, CIIL) superannuated on 31st October 2011. In this connection a farewell function was held at the CIIL conference hall. Dr. Satyendranath Burman, Principal, Eastern Regional Language Centre (ERLC) of Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Bhubaneshwar assumed charge as the Director i/c, CIIL on 2nd November 2011.



Dr. S.N.Burman

NATIONAL TESTING SERVICE-INDIA

CENTRE FOR TESTING AND EVALUATION

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