



## 'NTS-India should strive to reinforce Standardised Evaluation Techniques' - Prof. K.Karunakaran

30<sup>th</sup> June 2009



Prof. K.Karunakaran



NTS team with the dignitary during the interactive session

Prof. K.Karunakaran (Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur and Visiting Professor, Michigan University, USA) visited NTS-India and gave his valuable views and suggestions. Speaking on the occasion he expressed his happiness for being present in a prestigious and premier Institution like Central Institute of Indian Languages. While interacting with the academic staff of the NTS, he expressed that he was amazed by the enormous work done by NTS through its various *Task Groups* and *Regional Field Units*. He was of the view that the NTS should strive to bring a change in the system of evaluation being practised in the country. While referring to the Centre for Testing & Evaluation (of which NTS is a part), he reiterated that it was doing a remarkable job in this field.

Prof. Karunakaran has recorded his views on NTS in the Visitor's Book which is reproduced here : *The work that is going on in this field will go in the history of Indian educational domain. There is a great need for testing and evaluation everywhere in the world, and without exaggeration, this is very true that the work done by the NTS would remain evergreen and fresh. NTS has chosen a very important thrust area which is directly related to the developing society and to all the age groups. Hence, it is a great service to the nation.*

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Prof. Karunakaran pointed out that in earlier days sarcastic comments were made on those who were working in the field of language and literature. He felt that this scenario got completely changed with the advent of linguistics. He was of the view that language was playing a very important role in the field of education, and the communication related human resources development. This could happen only through education and that was the reason why the thrust area was needed to be enriched through the reputed mission like National Testing Service-India. He also expressed that the cooperation of experts should be obtained from all fields of education and wished that those working in different domains like Social Sciences, Pure Sciences, etc., should also come forward to join hands with the NTS for undertaking this daunting task.

During the interactive session, he answered the queries raised by the NTS staff. He also informed that he would get back to NTS after interacting with some of the senior officials of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Prior to the commencement of this interactive section, the details of the objectives and activities of NTS were briefed by Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS-India).

## Research and Development (R&D)

- 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

#### Workshop on 'Societal Needs' to build up CCGS in Language

22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

This programme was initiated to analyse the concept of 'Societal Needs' in the context of National Policy on Education (NPE), for building up a Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS) for all the levels of education. A small group of scholars who have some acquaintance with the CCGS work of the NTS participated in this week long meeting. The basic idea of societal needs was introduced by Prof. Pon Subbiah along with details as noticed from various reports of the commissions and committees on education. Those participated in the meeting include: Prof. C.Shunmugom (Former Head of the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore), Prof. M.Suseela (Former Head of the Department of Linguistics, Tamil University, Thanjavur), Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai (Former Controller of Examinations, CIIL, Mysore), and Dr. K.Pasumpon (District Assistant Director of Tamil Development, Government of Tamil Nadu, Madurai). In addition to this, a host NTS academics participated in the deliberations. The discussion was centered around the details of components that constitute this idea, in the context of distributing them across the seven levels of general education for the purposes of teaching and subsequently testing & measuring them.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. M.Balakumar (Reader-Cum-Research Officer, CT&E) under the overall guidance of the Head, NTS.



From left : Dr. K.Pasumpon, Dr. R.Senkuttuvan, Prof. C.Shunmugom, Prof. M.Suseela, Dr. M.Balakumar

## Survey and Documentation (S&D)

- Collecting, consolidating, and creating a grid of resources pertaining to : Contents, methods, and purposes of evaluation
- Contact particulars of individuals and institutions involved in preparing and using different types of tests
- Syllabi of various courses and corresponding question papers at different levels of education.

### Current Activities

The S&D team of NTS has been continuously engaged in enhancing the database with new addresses. Recently, the addresses of the Education Ministers, the Vice chancellors, Registrars and the Faculty Members of various Universities were added. The current additions also include the addresses of scientists from research institutes like Indian Space Research Organisation, Defence Research and Development Organisation, etc. In addition to that the address of the officials from Public Sector Undertaking like Bharat Heavy Electricals, Bharat Electronics Limited, etc., under Navaratna groups and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bharath Dynamic Limited, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, etc., under Miniratna groups were also collected. Further, the addresses of journalists from Mysore District Journalist Association were also obtained and included. Ms. R.Kavitha and Mr. K.S.Raghavan (JRPs-Tech.) are involved in the process with the help from Mr. P.Harsha and Mr. N.Murali Mohana (PROs). Ms. Shaistha Anjum and Mr. T.S.Phaniraj (DEOs) are assisting by inputting the information.

The details of all these information are being incorporated in the Electronic Information Grid of NTS. An appropriate reflection of this is being worked out in the website ([www.ciil-ntsindia.net](http://www.ciil-ntsindia.net)) by Mr. Ancy Thomas and Mr. V.K.Dheeraj (JRPs-Tech.)

## Consultancy and Training (C&T)

- Evolving a mechanism for periodical training
- Preparing teaching cum training modules
- Producing documentary films
- Creating trained manpower in various branches of evaluation
- Extending consultancy on matters related to testing and evaluation.

### Current Activities

#### Documentary film on Achievement Test

23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Mr. Virendra Valsangkar of Pune who produced a documentary on Achievement Test on the basis of the academic inputs provided by the NTS, was here on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for a pre launch discussion with the Head, NTS. He was advised to make some minor corrections on the final version of the documentary submitted by him recently. Prior to this, the film was viewed by the academic and technical staff of NTS along with a team of Institute staffs comprising Dr. M.Balakumar (Coordinator, NTS Programmes), Dr. L.Ramamoorthy (RRO, i/c of Bhasha Mandakini) and in the presence of the producer. Based on their suggestions, the producer assured to make necessary improvements in certain portions of the documentary. In this connection, he also undertook a few more shots of interview with the Head, NTS on this subject.



From Left: Mr. Virendra Valsangkar and Dr. N.Nadaraja Pillai are on their job of interviewing Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS

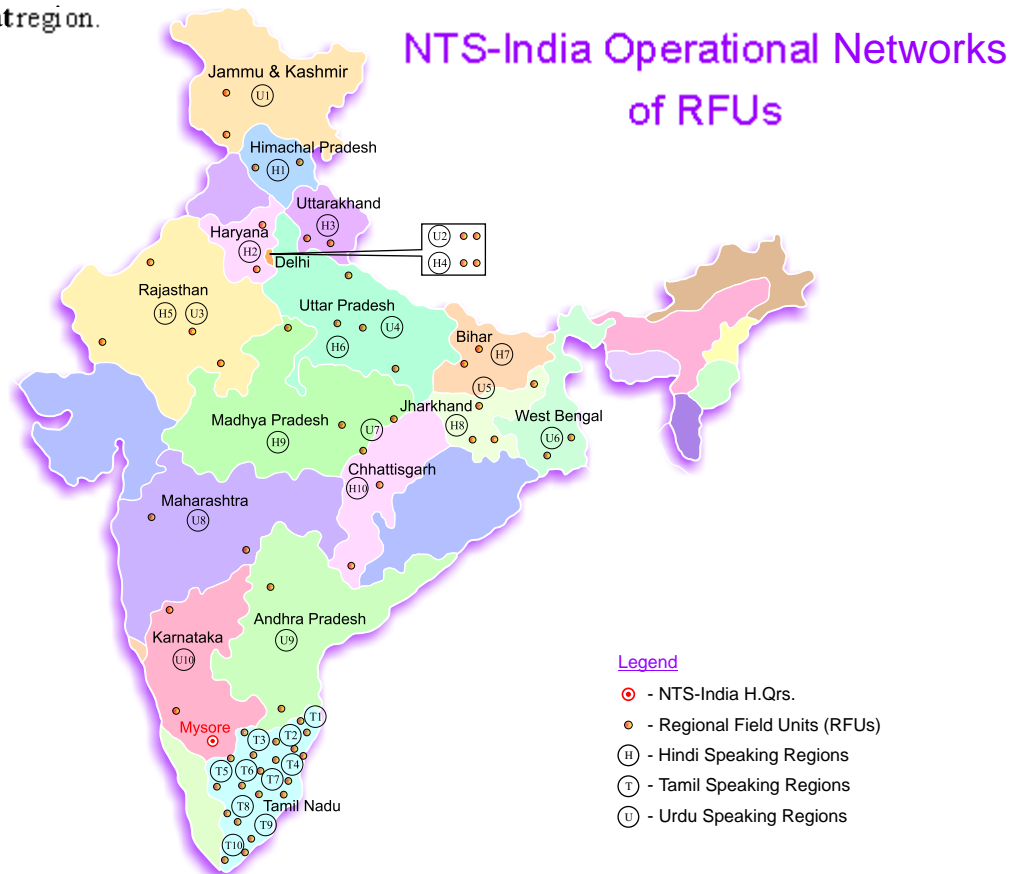
# Regional Field Units (RFUs)

- 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.

In order to make NTS a participatory movement on quality assurance in the area of education, 60 Regional Field Units (RFUs) are being established across 18 States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country. The Rationale behind opening the RFUs are given below:

## RATIONALE

- **Representative Samples** : No programme/scheme will be successful if the actual stakeholders who are spread across the country are not taken into confidence. It has therefore been decided to have representative samples from each of the regions (which come under the area of NTS operation) from among the teachers (for item writing) and also from among the learners (to constitute the norm / experimental group).
- **Number of Regions** : Taking into consideration the speech varieties of the language concerned and also the spread of the geographical areas where it is in active use (in education, administration, medium of communication, etc.), it has tentatively been decided to identify 10 regions (to represent each language) for operational convenience. Accordingly, 30 regions have been identified for 3 languages viz., Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu.
- **Number of Field Units** : For each of the identified region, 2 Field Units (one for school level and another for college level) have been created. Accordingly, each language has got 20 field units to cover the 10 identified regions. Thus, a total of 60 RFUs are created covering 30 regions across 18 States / UTs of the country, at present.
- **Local Coordination** : As the process of 'item writing & tool making' is a large scale operation, it has to be taken up by involving 1000s of item writers from all over the country. Orientation, training, and consultancy required for them are to be taken care of by the RFUs located nearby with the help of other agencies in the form of a series of training cum workshops.
- **Nodal Centre of NTS** : Since the standardization of tests is a lengthy process, RFUs are entrusted with the responsibility of functioning as the nodal centres of NTS and to assist in the process of preparing and scrutinizing the question items, formulating norm groups, administering the tests on them, collecting data for analysis, etc.. They will also evolve 'norm' for that region.



## Grant-in-Aid

In order to encourage the individuals and institutions working in the area of testing and evaluation, NTS is extending financial support grants under its GIA sub scheme. Those identified for this purpose during 2008-09 were already paid the I installment of the grants. The II installment of the same was released during June 2009. The details are as follows :

Sl.No.	Name & Address of the Grantee	II installment released	Activities for which the Grant is provided
1.	Dr. Alphonse Manickam. S.J, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai-627002, Tirunelveli, TN	Rs. 30,000/-	Workshop on Evaluation Techniques in Higher Education
2.	Dr. Chapra. R.K, Principal, Govt. Mahakoshal Arts & Commerce (Autonomous), Mahavidyalaya, Jabalpur-482001, MP	Rs. 28,532/-	Training programme on the Methodologies and Techniques of Testing & Evaluations.
3.	Prof. Fatihi. A.R, HOD, Dept. of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002, UP	Rs. 25,000/-	Workshop cum Training programme on Language Testing and Evaluation
4.	Sr. Joyce, Principal, Teresian College, Siddarthanagar, Mysore-570011, KA	Rs. 30,000/-	Seminar cum Workshop on Testing and Evaluation
5.	Prof. Mazheruddin Farooqi. S.M, Director, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032, AP	Rs. 9,770/-	Training Programme on Evaluation for School Education
6.	Dr. Murugaiyan. N, Professor, Periyar Maniammai University Periyar Nagar, Thanjavur – 613403, TN	Rs. 6,276/-	Workshop on Teacher Development Programme on Testing and Evaluation.
7.	Mr. Raja Govindasamy. R, Principal, Thiagarajar College, Madurai-625009, TN	Rs. 11,826/-	Workshop on New Methods of Testing & Evaluation of Part I Tamil Syllabi prescribed for Colleges
8.	Dr. Saraswathi. L, Principal, Thiagarajar College of Preceptors, Madurai-625009, TN	Rs. 6,007/-	Workshop on Preparation of Question Paper in Tamil

The Head, NTS had a meeting with the co-ordinator and staff of NTS on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, in connection with the NTS-GIA for the North-Eastern Region (NER). It was decided to release an advertisement through prominent newspapers across the country, including the NER.

## Fellowships

To encourage young researchers to focus their attention in the area of testing & evaluation and to create a band of specialised expertise across the country, NTS is awarding doctoral and post doctoral fellowships. The details of fellowships and contingent grants released during the month of June 2009 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Awardee	For the Month of	Amount Released	Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Awardee	For the Month of	Amount Released
<b>I. Doctoral Fellowships :</b>				<b>II. Post Doctoral Fellowships :</b>			
1.	Mr. Abdul Quddus Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad-500032	Apr.	Rs.10,000/-	1.	Dr. Ganeshmoorthy. P.S Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi-517502, Andhra Pradesh	Apr. & May	Rs.24,000/-
2.	Mr. Kamaraj. K Bharathiar University, Coimbatore-641046, Tamil Nadu	Apr.	Rs.10,000/-	2.	Dr. Jayanta Kumar Sahu Ranchi University, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Feb. to May	Rs.48,000/-
3.	Mr. Manikandan. M Alagappa University, Karaikudi-630003, Tamil Nadu	May	Rs.10,000/-	3.	Dr. Prem Kumar. S University of Madras, Chennai-600005, Tamil Nadu	Mar. & Apr.	Rs.24,000/-
4.	Mr. Prem Kumar. L.R Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-625021, Tamil Nadu	May	Rs.10,000/-	<b>III. Contingent Grants :</b>			
5.	Mr. Ravi Kumar. R University of Madras, Chennai- 600005, Tamil Nadu	Apr. & May	Rs.20,000/-	1.	Ms. Chandrika. J University of Madras, Chennai-600034, Tamil Nadu	Oct. 08 to Mar. 09	Rs. 9,999/-
				2.	Mr. Sankar. M Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul-624302, Tamil Nadu	Oct. 08 to Mar. 09	Rs. 9,805/-

The advertisements inviting applicants for the award of NTS Research fellowships for the year 2009-10 have been sent to prominent newspapers across the country, including North-Eastern Region. The details were also uploaded in the centre's website [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) under the link 'Announcement'.

## News & Events

### Interaction with the participants of NELD Programme :

26<sup>th</sup> June 2009

The funds earmarked for awarding Fellowships to the Research scholars of the North-Eastern Region (NER) could not be utilised as there was no applications from this region. In view of this, Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS) interacted with the participants of the North East Language Development (NELD) programme held at the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore.

Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, NELD i/c, advised the young scholars of the NER to utilise the opportunities provided by the NTS. Scholars of Linguistics, Folklore and Philosophy from North-Eastern Region (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura) participated in the workshop. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Losii Heshu and Ms. Pangersanla of Manipur under the guidance of Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva. Dr. Sachdeva accoladed the NTS team for the stupendous work done by them.



Prof. Pon Subbiah and Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva addressing the scholars

A view of the participants in the programme

## Announcement

### NTS Grant-In-Aid (Financial Assistance)

Applications are invited from eligible individuals and institutions for extending financial support under NTS-GIA to undertake short term research study and also to conduct seminars, workshops etc., in the area of testing & evaluation. A portion of the funds under this sub-scheme has also been earmarked for **North-Eastern Region**.

The usual amount of financial assistance is Rs. 75,000/- per instance. However, depending on the significance of study / project, the amount could be enhanced.

The following are the activities for which the financial assistance is extended: (1) For undertaking short term research studies. (2) For developing reference materials. (3) For organising workshops / seminars / training programmes, etc. The topic chosen for the above purpose should be different from those for which the assistance has already been extended (list is available on the website).

For further details, please log on to [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The proposals should reach the Head, NTS-India, Centre for Testing & Evaluation, CIIL, Mysore-570006 within the prescribed date.

### What does it mean?

**Mean Ability Index ( $M_T$ )** is one of the four important measures of question (quality) indices and is concerned with the ability of the group of students attempting a particular question. It is equal to the mean of their total marks. The other three indices are: choice index (CI), facility value (FV) and discrimination index (DI). These measures are useful to determine the suitability of question items and subsequently the tests, with reference to the testees.

Source : An Introduction to Evaluation Terminology, CIIL, Mysore, 2008.

## NTS Research Fellowships

Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for the award of 30 Doctoral and 15 Post Doctoral fellowships for the year 2009-10 from post graduates / researchers of any discipline of study. Three Fellowships (two Doctoral and one Post Doctoral) are earmarked for the candidates from **North-Eastern Region**.

**Eligibility:** The applicant should have studied one of the 3 languages (Hindi / Tamil / Urdu) either as a major subject or as a Part I/ Part II subject upto the graduate level in case of non-technical courses. If the applicants are from technical areas such as engineering, medicine, etc., they should have studied one of these three languages upto Higher Secondary level.

Value of fellowships for doctoral research is Rs. 10, 000/- per month with a contingency of Rs. 20, 000/- per annum; for post doctoral research Rs. 12, 000/- per month with a contingency of Rs. 30, 000/- per annum.

For prescribed application format, terms and conditions, operational details etc. please log on to [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The duly filled in applications should reach the Head, NTS-India, Centre for Testing & Evaluation, CIIL, Mysore-570006 within the prescribed date.

## Setting up of Regional Field Units of NTS

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from the managements of reputed Schools and Colleges / University departments proposing to function as Regional Field Units (RFUs) of the NTS-India to represent Schools or Colleges / Universities / Special Institutes involved in teaching, as per the details given below:

HINDI Speaking Regions (HSR)	Level(s)
HSR-2: Haryana (the whole state of Haryana preferred places Panipat, Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon)	School & College / University
HSR-3: Uttarakhand (the whole state of Uttarakhand preferred places Dehradun, Nainital, Haridwar)	School
HSR-4: Delhi (the whole National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi (Old & New))	School & College / University
HSR-5: Rajasthan (the whole state of Rajasthan preferred places Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Bikaner)	School & College / University
HSR-6: Uttar Pradesh (the whole state of Uttar Pradesh preferred places Meerut, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Saharanpur)	School
HSR-8: Jharkhand (the whole state of Jharkhand preferred places Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Bokaro)	School & College / University
HSR-10: Chhattisgarh (the whole state of Chhattisgarh preferred places Bilaspur, Raipur, Bastar, Bhilai)	School & College / University

TAMIL Speaking Regions (TSR)	Level(s)
TSR-1: TN-AP-Border-1 (Chennai, Tiruvallur Districts including AP Border-1)	College / University
TSR-2: TN-AP-Border-2 (Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Kanchipuram (Chengalpattu) Districts including AP Border-2)	School
TSR-3: TN-KA-Border-1 (Salem, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri Districts including KA Border-1)	School & College / University
TSR-8: TN-Central West (Dindigul, Teni, Madurai Districts)	School
TSR-9: TN-Old Ramnad (Sivaganga, Ramnathapuram(Karaikudi), Virudhunagar Districts)	College / University

URDU Speaking Regions (USR)	Level(s)
USR-1: Jammu & Kashmir (the whole state of J & K preferred places Jammu and Srinagar)	College / University
USR-2: Delhi & Haryana (the whole NCT of Delhi & state of Haryana preferred places Old Delhi / New Delhi, Panipat, Faridabad)	School & College / University
USR-3: Rajasthan (the whole state of Rajasthan preferred places Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Kota)	School & College / University
USR-5: Bihar & Jharkhand (the whole states of Bihar & Jharkhand preferred places Patna, Dharbanga, Gaya, Purnia, Siwan & Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Bokaro)	School

URDU Speaking Regions (USR)	Level(s)
USR-6: West Bengal (the whole state of West Bengal preferred places Kolkatta, Asansol, North 24 Paraganas)	School
USR-7: Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh (the whole states of MP & Chhattisgarh preferred places Bhopal, Burhanpur, & Bilaspur, Raipur, Bastar, Bhilai)	School & College / University
USR-10:Karnataka (the whole state of Karnataka preferred places Bangalore, Gulbarga, Mysore)	School & College / University

Any school / college / university department or specialised institute involved in teaching and located in the specified region is eligible to become an RFU of NTS, provided it fulfills the terms and conditions. RFUs are required to assist NTS in matters related to **construction of tests** and their **standardisation** as a prelude to evolve **norms** & establish **benchmarks** meant for **every level** of education. For operational details, terms & conditions, prescribed application format, etc., please log on to [www.ciil-miles.net](http://www.ciil-miles.net) and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The duly filled in application should reach the the Head, NTS-India, Centre for Testing & Evaluation, CIIL, Mysore-570006 within the prescribed date.

**Note:** Applications are invited even from the regions where RFUs are already established as there is a provision to nominate alternative institutes as the RFUs, in case already established ones are not performing well as per the agreement.

## Forthcoming

- Workshop on Item preparation (the conceptual framework for assessing various aspects of human growth (Aptitude, etc.) developed by NTS, and to make use of it for item preparation), is scheduled for 07<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at CIIL, Mysore.
- Workshop on 'Societal Needs' to build up CCGS in Literature, is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at CIIL, Mysore.
- A four member team has been constituted to inspect the applicant institutions in connection with the establishment of RFUs in the Tamil speaking areas. The details of the dates of inspection/visit and the name of the institutions are given below :
  - 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 - Maha Engineering College, Salem (TN)
  - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 - St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Dindigul (TN)
  - 31<sup>th</sup> July 2009 - Government Arts College, Paramakudi (TN)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 - Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Kilakarai (TN)

## Reader's View

I have been receiving the NTS Newsletter regularly and I find that NTS is consistently enriching it with News, Views and Opinions of expert scholars in the area of testing and evaluation. My many congratulations! There, certainly, is a need to create awareness in the minds of teachers, professionals, and students about the need to evolve "Testing & Evaluation Procedures and Methods" that can be implemented across disciplines throughout the country. This is a gigantic task and you have been pursuing it with vigor and vision. I am sure that the NTS will attain new heights and the world of scholarship at large will appreciate its significance for national development and integration.

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