



3rd National Convention on Testing and Evaluation, IIMC, New Delhi

18th to 20th February 2009



FROM L-R : Prof. Shambhu Nath Shaw, Former Director, CHI; Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India; Prof. Purushottam Agrawal, Member, UPSC; Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, V.C., J.N.U; Prof R.V. Singh, Director, CHI; Prof. S.C. Jaswal and Prof. M. Gnanam, Regional Directors, CHI (standing).

The Third National Convention on Testing and Evaluation (Hindi) was held from 18th to 20th February 2009 at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, JNU campus, New Delhi. The convention was jointly organized by NTS-India, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore and Central Hindi Institute, Regional Centre, New Delhi. On 18th the convention was inaugurated by Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and presided over by Prof. Purushottam Agrawal, Member, UPSC, New Delhi. The VC appreciated the work done so far by the NTS-India and congratulated Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS for leading this great venture, unique of its kind in India. According to Prof. Bhattacharya, 'if NTS-India achieves its target it is definitely going to be a major contribution to this nation'. Referring to the utilization of funds Prof. Bhattacharya stated that a huge amount of money would be spent on education, especially for higher education and research in the 11th five year plan (2007-2012) of the country. The whole expenditure is needed to be assessed to know as to what was achieved and what was the standard of achievement. He reminded of our nation's ambition to develop India into a technically and scientifically sound country.

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He suggested Prof. Pon Subbiah to concentrate on any one of the specific targets so that it could be achieved within the stipulated period of time.

Delivering the Presidential address Prof. Purushottam Agrawal, Member UPSC, remarked, 'I am very proud to be here to address the gathering of intelligentsia participating in this national convention. I am of the view that by fixing norms and establishing a system of evaluation we are centralizing the whole process which I fear, may not be good for the education system. In this process we should not sideline the subjective evaluation which is very important traditional system of making judgement. In the academic exercise there should be qualitative work rather than the quantitative. The foremost thing is to make self introspection which would give the correct judgment during evaluation. If NTS-India ventures ahead and achieves its objectives, it would be a great service to the nation'.

Prof. Shambhu Nath Shaw, Former Director, CHI, praised NTS and compared its evolution with the advent of river Ganga on the earth. He said, 'Prof. Subbiah is the Bhagirath of NTS-India, who, despite a number of difficulties and criticism, is leading this great task of evolving a system of testing and evaluation which is most important to the teacher as well as to the taught.'

On 19th, Prof. Ram Saran Joshi, Vice President, CHI, while releasing the draft version of the book, *An Introduction to Evaluation Terminology* (in Hindi) praised the attempts of NTS and observed that the work of NTS has relevance in controlling the mass copying which was encountered during his tenure in Makhan Lal Chaturvedi University. He said that teachers are the main stake-holders in changing the system. He further observed that the education system should not be in isolation as it is closely related to society and nation. He was very much concerned about the quality of research in India and wanted it to be reviewed as the number of researches has increased enormously.

Subsequent to the book release, the following committees were formed for scrutinizing the different materials prepared by the NTS-India :

Group-1: Glossary of Evaluation Terms (Hindi)

Coordinator : Prof. R. J. Sharma, HOD-Linguistics, NCERT, New Delhi

Representative of CIIL / NTS : Dr. I.S.Borkar, Dr.R.C.Maurya, Dr. G.Sandhya Nayak, & Mr. K.S.Raghavan

Group-2: Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (Literature)

Coordinator : Prof. Reeta Rani Paliwal, School of Humanities, IGNOU, New Delhi

Representative of CIIL / NTS : Dr. Anand Ravi, Dr. G.M. Ansari, Dr. G. Suseela, & Mr. Ancy Thomas

Group-3: Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (Language)

Prof. R. P. Gupta, Coordinator, CHI, New Delhi

Representative of CIIL / NTS :Dr. L. Ramamoorthy, Mr. A.K.Singh, Mr. A.K. Gautam, & Ms. R.Kavitha

Group-4: Achievement Test Frame

Coordinator : Dr. Anita Rastogi, Dept. of Educational Studies, JMI, New Delhi

Representative of CIIL / NTS : Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai, Dr. T. Janaki, & Ms. R. Shakunthala



Members of different groups in action in the Convention at IIMC, JNU campus, New Delhi



Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL, Mysore addressing the gathering of the scholars in the Convention

Group-5: Aptitude Test Frame

Coordinator : Prof. Naseem Ahmad, Reader in Maths, JMI, New Delhi

Representative of CIIL / NTS : Dr. Biresh Kumar

Group-6: Proficiency Test Frame

Coordinator : Dr. Shashi Bhalla, Advocate, Delhi High Court, Delhi

Representative of CIIL / NTS : Mr. M. Saravana

The interdisciplinary scholars represented different premier institutions viz., University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, National Council of Educational Research & Training, Central Board of Secondary Education, Indian Institute of Technology, National Open School, Delhi Administration, affiliated Colleges of Delhi University, Central Institute of Hindi, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, and so on.

On 20th, Prof. Ravi Prakash Gupta, Central Hindi Institute, Regional Centre, Delhi, welcomed the gathering. The Coordinators of the 6 groups presented the reports of their respective groups. The session was presided over by Prof. Shambu Nath Shaw.

The valedictory address was delivered by Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore. He referred to the lead and the achievements made by NTS in giving a thrust to the challenging task of evolving norms of quality for all the seven levels of education i.e., primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, graduate, post graduate, and research. He further emphasized that we should not be afraid of the difficulties in the way of such a challenging task. Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS responded to all the queries made by the participants and assured of taking into account the views and suggestions provided by scholars. The session concluded with the vote of thanks by Prof. S.C. Jaswal, the local coordinator. The three-day Convention was conducted by Prof. M. Gnanam, Regional Director, CHI, Mysore and co-ordinated by Dr. M. Balakumar, RRO, CIIL, Mysore.

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

III Phase Workshop on Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi (CCGS)

2nd to 6th February 2009

The III phase of the five day workshop on Concept based Continuum of Graded Syllabi in Language and Literature (Tamil) was held during 2-6 February 2009. The focus of the workshop was to finalize the draft version of the details furnished under the second column of the CCGS meant for highlighting the dimensions / properties associated with the components of language and literature so that they could be distributed across the seven levels of general education. The experts who participated in the workshop were : Prof.P.Ratnasabapathy (Chennai), Prof. Lakshminarayana Aurora , Prof. P. T. Abraham and Prof. M. Susheela (Mysore). Overall guidance was given by Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India. The workshop was coordinated by Dr.M.Balakumar, RRO, Centre for Testing & Evaluation of the CIIL.

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 process of updating the database and adding addresses of various scholars, academic institutions, etc., is being continued by Mr. K.S. Raghavan and Ms. R. Kavitha-JRPs (Tech). They are also preparing user friendly search facility for NTS Library. Addresses of the members of Central Advisory Board of Education have been updated in the data base. The addresses of the Professional Institutions available with the NTS have been categorized (Medical, Engineering, Managements, etc.) and updated. Mr. Md. Ibrahim, DEO, is assisting the technical team for inputting the data. More than 1000 addresses were added to the mail list of NTS-Newsletter .

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

Training Modules

1. The assignment of developing 82 training modules on testing and evaluation was allotted to a few identified scholars / experts / teachers and researchers of interdisciplinary area. Subsequent to this, 31 draft modules were received from different scholars, out of which, only 09 modules were accepted after scrutiny by a committee consisting of experts from NTS and other institutions. Each one of those who submitted the pre-final versions of the modules, was paid an amount of Rs.20,000/- as 1st installment .

Short Term Project cum Training

2. 50 scholars in different disciplines who were engaged for a short term project work since 15th October 2008 were trained in the process of item writing for nearly one and half months. Thereafter they were assigned the job of item writing in the areas of their specialization under the supervision of NTS academic staff. They were sent on field assignment for about a month in January 2009 to Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu speaking areas. Each one of them was also asked to develop 100 distinct question items. They submitted the assignments to the NTS faculty on 2nd February 2009. The question items prepared by them were distributed among the JRPs / RPs of the concerned languages for scrutiny. The programme was coordinated by Dr. R. C. Maurya, Resource Person (Education) of NTS and is scheduled to be concluded on 31st March 2009.



From R to L : Dr. Biresh Kumar, Dr. R.C.Maurya(R.Ps-NTS), and Dr. Rizwan (JRP-NTS) are in discussion with Participants of the Short Term Project

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.

Inspection of Applicant Institutions for RFUs

5th February 2009

A four member team of NTS-India comprising Mr. K.Narayan Devaraiah (Academic Secretary, CIIL), Mr. M. Saravana (SRP), Dr. T. Amudhan (JRP) and Mr. B. M. Lingaraj (Officer-RFUs), visited and inspected the following three applicant institutions in connection with the establishment of Regional Field Units of NTS-India.

- (1) Safiyama Primary School, Ambur (TN), for RFU (Urdu Region)
- (2) Moulana Azad Education Trust, Ambur (TN), for RFU (Tamil Region)
- (3) Adi Parashakthi College of Arts and Science, Kalavai, Vellore (TN) for RFU (Tamil Region)



Safiyama Primary School



Adi Parashakthi College of Arts and Science

The team headed by Mr. K.Narayan Devaraiah inspecting the applicant institutions for establishing RFUs

4th to 6th February 2009

Another team comprising Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head NTS, Ms. R. Shakunthala, Dr.T.Janaki, and Mr. V. K. Dheerajj (All JRPs of NTS) visited and inspected the following applicant institutions for RFUs (Tamil Region) :

- (1) National Academy of Montessori Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Ramanathpuram (TN).
- (2) Annammal College of Education for women, Tuticorin (TN).
- (3) St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli (TN).



National Academy of Montessori Matriculation Hr. Sec. School



Annammal College of Education for women



St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School

The team headed by Prof. Pon Subbiah inspecting the applicant institutions for establishing RFUs

From the Visitors' Diary:

"Among many institutions of education that I have visited in the country, my exposure to NTS has been highly rewarding. I am deeply impressed by the total grasp of issues associated with education, testing, evaluation and assessment. It is a repository of the total systematic knowledge in this field. Over the years the faculty of NTS, under the inspiring and visionary leadership of Prof. Pon Subbiah, have developed the possible approaches to the challenges to educational evaluation. More so, their dedication and commitment is visible in all their activities. I am confident that they will re-engineer the difficult testing procedures in India. My hearty good wishes to their success".

- Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur

Fellowships

Workshop for Doctoral and Post -Doctoral Fellowships

12th & 13th February 2009

A two-day workshop on 12th & 13th February 2009 was conducted to identify suitable candidates for the award of Doctoral / Post Doctoral Research fellowships in different disciplines. A total of 30 Doctoral (10 each for Hindi, Tamil and Urdu speaking areas) and 15 Post Doctoral (5 each for the three language speaking areas) Fellowships are available for the year 2008-09. There were 18 applicants from Hindi, 96 from Tamil, and 10 from Urdu areas. Out of whom, based on scrutiny by a committee, 12, 20, and 8 respectively for Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu were invited for the workshop. Finally 6 from Hindi, 10 from Tamil and 4 from Urdu speaking areas were selected for the award of doctoral fellowships.

For the Post Doctoral Fellowships 2 and 6 candidates respectively from Hindi and Tamil speaking areas had applied. Out of whom, 7 candidates were invited for the workshop. No one was found suitable for the award except one from the Tamil speaking areas.

Apart from NTS academics, the following external experts were involved in the selection process:
 1. Prof. Veerappan (Department of Education, Regional Institute of Education, NCERT, Mysore),
 2. Dr. L. Ramamoorthy (RRO, CIIL, Mysore), 3. Dr. N. Nadaraja Pillai (RRO, CIIL, Mysore), 4. Prof. M.Gnanam (Regional Director, CHI, Mysore), 5. Prof. Masood Siraj (Head, Dept. of Urdu, University of Mysore). The programme was coordinated by Mr. M. Saravana, SRP of NTS and Dr. M. Balakumar, RRO of CT&E, CIIL



Prof. Gnanam, Regional Director, Central Hindi Institute, Mysore (standing) giving directions to the applicants for fellowship in the two day workshop

Forthcoming Events

- March 3-6 : Workshop for the recruitment of academic faculty in NTS viz., CRP/ SRP/ RP/ JRP positions.
- March 3-7 : IV phase Workshop on CCGS at CIIL, Mysore.
- March 6 : The Head, NTS to deliver valedictory address in a NTS-GIA Programme at Periyar Maniammai University, Thanjavur, TN.
- March 7 : Inauguration of RFU at Vivekananda College of Arts and Science, Thiruchangode, Namakkal, TN by the Head NTS.
- March 9 : Interactive meeting with Prof. G. K. Chadha, CEO. South Asian University, Member P.M's Economic Advisory committee, Govt. of India, and Chairman UGC, VI Pay Commission Committee, at NTS H.Qrs.
- March 10 : Inspection of the applicant institution for establishing RFU at Erode, TN.
- March 11 : Inspection of the applicant institution for establishing RFU at Purnea, Bihar.
- March 14 : The Head, NTS to be interviewed by a Staff Reporter, Deccan Herald, Mysore.
- March 16 : The Head, NTS to inaugurate RFU at Thiagarajar College, Madurai, TN.
- March 17 : The Head, NTS with his team to give orientation at the RFU, located in St. Xavier College, Palayamkottai, TN.
- March 20 : The Head, NTS to attend the inaugural session of the workshop on Testing and Evaluation at Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka.
- March 26-28 : NTS Workshops on CCGS at CIIL, Mysore.
- March 31 : Five and half month short term project cum workshop of NTS on 'Item writing' to be concluded.

News & Events

Inspection of applicant institutions for RFUs

- RFU committees constituted by NTS have visited applicant institutions in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu speaking regions and submitted reports recommending institutions for the establishment of 10 more RFUs in different regions. An introductory meeting for the representatives of the identified institutions is scheduled to be held on 27th & 28th of May 2009.

Documentary Film on Testing

- The final version of the documentary film on Achievement Test was received from the producer. The film which gives a visual presentation about the concept of 'Achievement' contains a beautiful picturization of events with sound effects and the interviews of a few distinguished personalities. It will be used as a training tool by the Consultancy and Training task group. The film was produced by Mr. Virendra Valsangkar, a Pune based documentary film producer.
- A documentary film on Proficiency Test is being produced by Mrs. Usha Rajeswari, a Chennai based documentary film producer. She has been advised to meet a few selected Chiefs of Recruitment / Employment providing Agencies and obtain their views on various requirements that are needed for different types of employment. Those who are suggested to be interviewed include the Chairman of Railway Recruitment Control Board, New Delhi, Chairman Railway Recruitment Board, Bangalore, Chairman, UPSC, New Delhi and Chairman, SSC, New Delhi.

Financial Assistance extended under NTS-GIA

- Thiagarajar College of Preceptors* (Madurai, Tamilnadu) conducted a two-day workshop on 'Preparation of Question Papers in Tamil' on 5th & 6th January 2009 with financial assistance from NTS under GIA. The Programme was coordinated by Dr. (Mrs) L. Saraswathi, Principal of the college. An amount of Rs. 75,000/- was provided by the NTS for this programme.
- Ewing Christian College* (Allahabad, U.P.) conducted a two-day Training-Cum-Orientation programme on "Testing and Evaluation" on 31st January & 1st February 2009 with the financial assistance from NTS under GIA. The programme was coordinated by Miss Ramola Ruth Lall, RFU Local Coordinator and Dr. M. Massey, Principal of the College. An amount of Rs. 75,000/- was provided by the NTS for this programme.
- Jaya College of Education* (Indra Nagar, Thiruniravur, Tamilnadu) conducted a five day Workshop on 'Test items for Different Levels' during 20th to 22nd, and 28th February to 1st March 2009, with financial assistance from NTS under GIA. The Programme was coordinated by Dr. G. Govindaswamy, Principal of the College. An amount of Rs. 75,000/- was provided by the NTS for this workshop.
- RMK College of Engineering & Technology* (R.S.M. Nagar, Pudukkottai, Thiruvallur, Tamilnadu) conducted a two-day workshop on 'Enhancing Second Language Teaching by Effective Evaluation Methods' on 21st & 22nd February 2009 with financial assistance from NTS under GIA. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. J. R. Nirmala, Professor of English. An amount of Rs. 75,000/- was provided by the NTS for this programme.

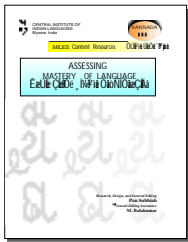
Announcement

Out of the eight institutions which were selected for extending financial assistance to conduct seminars / workshops / training programmes on testing and evaluation under Grant-in-Aid Scheme of NTS-India, the following four institutions are to conduct the programme in March 2009 :

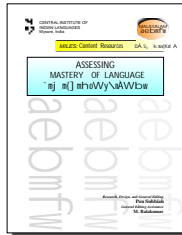
Sl. No.	Name of the Principal / Institution	Amount Sanctioned	Sl. No.	Name of the Principal / Institution	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Prof. R.K. Chapra Principal, Govt. Mahakoshal Arts & Commerce PG College, Jabalpur (MP)	Rs. 100000/-	3.	Prof. Alphonse Manickam. S.J. Principal, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai (TN)	Rs. 100000/-
2.	Prof. V.A. Bourai Principal, Shri Guru Ram Rai PG College, Dehradun (Uttarkhand)	Rs. 75000/-	4.	Prof. R. Raja Govindasamy Principal, Thiagarajar College, Madurai (TN)	Rs. 100000/-

What do they contain?

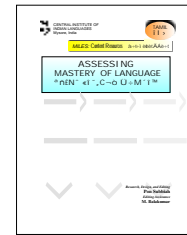
Assessing Mastery of Language



KANNADA
ISBN : 81-7342-106
6.5" X 9.5", xx + 242,
2002, Rs.200/-
*Research, Design,
and General Editing*
Pon Subbiah
*General Editing
Assistance*
M. Balakumar



MALAYALAM
ISBN : 81-7342-110
6.5" X 9.5", xx + 438
2003, Rs.300/-
*Research, Design,
and General Editing*
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TAMIL
ISBN : 81-7342-109
6.5" X 9.5", xx + 357
2003, Rs.200/-
*Research, Design,
and General Editing*
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The books focus on the concept of contents in language. They contain scores of question items as constituent models for the construction of tests of various difficulty levels. The items can be used for collecting and quantifying the language learnt, for the purpose of assessment. Each item is presented in an Item File Card (IFC) format with instructions in English as well as in Tamil / Kannada / Malayalam. The items prepared on each of the sub components are hierarchically listed under phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic levels. They are meant to assess the mastery of language in all its dimensions with sampling error free content coverage. These materials which are unique in Indian languages can prove to be an indispensable companion to teachers while constructing mastery tests in language for different levels of education.

Reader's View

Establish NTS as an Independent entity...

The initiatives taken by the Centre for Testing and Evaluation, known as 'NTS-India' under the stewardship of Prof. Pon Subbiah of the CIIL, Mysore for the cause of setting certain uniform standards applicable at all levels of evaluation in education are laudable indeed. It is heartening to note that the Director of CIIL and concerned officials of HRD Ministry, Govt. of India have extended their wholehearted support to this national mission.

It's time that NTS comes forth with the publication and distribution of the eighty plus Training Modules on Evaluation in Education for which a wide publicity was given. The delay seems to be due to non-availability of experts, teachers and others who are good and proficient at the jobs expected or assigned. There should be time-bound effort to ensure that at least the ones that are ready be published and distributed. Such a step would go a long way in animating, motivating, and guiding question paper setters and evaluators of different disciplines.

It's time that NTS looks for and appoints few more qualified personnel on regular basis rather than contract or project basis so that the NTS Team gets strengthened and the credibility of the centre gets enhanced. If this is not done with utmost priority, more number of persons may join the centre as project staff, use the centre as a ladder for their personal scaffolding, and opt out for greener pastures elsewhere. The loser will be the NTS.

NTS venture can be a trend-setter. The vision and leadership provided by the NTS-India needs to be supported and encouraged by all those involved in education and evaluation. Its objectives, applications, and operational strategies are very relevant to the future course of testing and evaluation in education in India. Long-term perspectives require that HRD Ministry thinks of creating a few more regular vacancies. Having few more qualified staff as part of the regular team of NTS-India could pave the way for establishment of the NTS as an independent entity in course of time.

- Prof. A.S. Dasan, Dept. of English, University of Mysore.

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