



Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India, Dr. Chidambaram, Visits NTS-India



From left : Prof. Pon Subbiah (Head, NTS-India), Dr. R. Chidambaram (Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India), Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva (Dy. Director, CIIL) and Prof. Shashidhar Prasad (former VC, Mysore University) with NTS personnel

NTS-India had a distinguished visitor Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt. of India on May 05, 2008. Dr. Chidambaram accompanied by Prof. J. Shashidar Prasad, former VC, University of Mysore, Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, Prof-cum-DD, CIIL, and others spent about half an hour with Prof. Pon Subbiah, the Head, NTS-India. He, also visited the sections of NTS and had an interaction with the Resource Persons working in various branches of evaluation through Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu languages. He expressed his desire to know more about the NTS work on Aptitude, Achievement and Proficiency tests. He also provided a few substantial examples to illustrate how the concept of Aptitude is different from that of Proficiency. While appreciating the efforts of CIIL in establishing the NTS-India, Dr. Chidambaram emphasized the need for involving experts from other disciplines too so that NTS could be made an effective mechanism of quality maintenance. Prof. Pon Subbiah briefed him about the importance and scope of

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this vital scheme. He was delighted to know that Hindi, Tamil, and Urdu were taken up by the NTS for coverage in the I phase of its work and added that he knows all these three languages. As desired by Dr. Chidambaram, a few materials of the NTS have been sent to him by post.

Research and Development (R&D)

- In-depth analysis of the concepts of educational measurement & evaluation as well as the content inputs & consequential effects of teaching, and learning
- Interrelating them with the objectives of education and the actual needs of the country

Current Activities

NTS academics are in the process of consolidating the feed back on various NTS materials obtained during the 2nd National Convention held at Tamil University, Thanjavur. Their suitability for inclusion in the final version is being examined.

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

Draft versions of the Training Modules received from the module developers so far are being circulated among the NTS staff for scrutiny in the light of the specifications provided to them. Queries and doubts received here are being clarified. As soon as this process is completed, further action regarding the finalisation of the materials, release of payment, etc., will be initiated. The following are the topics for which the draft version of module were received here so far :

- Personality Development & Taxonomies of Educational Objectives
- Tests and Examinations as Tools and Scales
- Instruments of Evaluation: Tools, Scales & their Constituents
- Integrated Skills and their Manifestations: Productive (Speaking & Writing)
- Marks, Grades, Ranks, Ratings, Scores and Normalisation Procedures
- Data: Types, Categories & Methods of their elicitation
- Teaching, Learning, Testing and Evaluation: An Interdependent Process

Regional Field Units (RFUs)

- To disseminate the outcome of NTS 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

III Introductory Meeting

29th & 30th April, 2008

A two-day introductory meeting of the representatives of institutions identified for establishing RFUs was held at CIIL, Mysore. Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India, explained to the representatives about the activities of NTS, its objectives, applications and operational strategies. Dr. M. Balakumar, RRO, CT&E and Mr. B. M. Lingaraj, Officer (RFUs) co-ordinated the programme and also explained other relevant points. They were also apprised of the terms and conditions under which the RFUs are established.

Twelve officials representing Hindi and Urdu languages from different parts of the country participated in the programme. The details of regions, names of representatives, location of RFU, etc., are as follows.

Sl.No.	Region	Names of Representatives	Address of School / College
1	Region-6 (Hindi) Uttar Pradesh	1. Ms.R.R.Lall 2. Dr.Ajin Ray	Ewing Christian College Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211003
2	Region-7 (Hindi) Bihar	3. Dr. Usha Kumari 4. Shri. Mahadev Yadav	Govt., Women's Polytechnic Phulwarisharif, Sahainagar post Patna Dist., Bihar-801506
3	Region-8 (Urdu) Maharashtra	5. Dr.B.R.Zate 6. Dr.Salim Mohiuddin	M.S.P.Mandal's Shri Shivaji College Basmath Road, Parbhani, Maharashtra-431401
4	Region-8 (Urdu) Maharashtra	7. Dr.Ayyubi Manzoor Hasan 8. Dr.Asif Salim Ahmad	Citizen Welfare Education Society Malegaon, Sr. No. 224,Plot No124, Islam Nagar, Guruwarward, Malegaon (Nasik)-423203, (MS)
5	Region-9 (Urdu) Andhra Pradesh	9. Prof.S.M.Mazheruddin Farooqui 10.Prof. Syed khaja Moinuddin	Maulana Azad National Urdu University Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032 Andhra Pradesh
6	Region-10 (Hindi) Karnataka	11. Shri.Shamshuddin Reshmi 12. Smt.Shamshiya	Reshmi Welfare and Educational Society (R) No. 86-87, Keshwapur Hubli-580023 Karnataka

Grant-in-Aid

A screening committee has been constituted to identify suitable candidates for awarding Doctoral and Post Doctoral fellowships, with the following experts: Prof. Tippeswamy for Hindi Language, Prof. Sam Mohanlal and Dr. L. Ramamoorthy for Tamil Language, and Prof. Masood Siraj for Urdu Language. The NTS has received 89 applications i.e., 75 applications for Doctoral (Hindi-9, Tamil-42, Urdu-9, and Others-15) and 14 applications for the Post Doctoral Fellowship (Hindi-5, Tamil-4, Urdu-nil, and Others-5) respectively. The scheme has been initiated to promote the young potential of the country in the area of Testing and Evaluation.

One and the Same : Difference in the name

Open Ended Question requires an examinee to provide responses in his own free writing under different facets without limiting the scope of his / her thinking. An example would be 'Essay Type Question'.

Free Response Question is one which requires an examinee to talk or write freely about whatever he wishes in a given period of time. Usually three to five minutes' time is given for this purpose. No restriction is placed on the kind of response that the examinee is to make. Two types of free response tests are usually emphasised: the teacher by showing a picture or series of pictures can (a) ask the testee to speak or write about that, and (b) asking the testee to have a free conversation with the other qualified speaker. It is one of the popular method for measuring one's language proficiency – oral or written.

Subjective Question is one for which the answer is not usually predetermined and hence objective marking is difficult. Simple Question, Short Answer Types, Completion Types, Long Answer Essay Questions, Conversion and Problem Solving Questions are included under this category. These question-items may be contrasted with those listed under objective category for which objective marking is easy.

Source : *Introduction to Evaluation Terminology, CIIL, 2008.*

News & Events

- On 16th April 2008, Prof. Pon Subbiah, Head, NTS-India delivered the inaugural address in the UGC sponsored workshop on Preparation of Lexicon in Tamil at Shri Sharada College of Education, Salem. The programme was chaired by Prof. M.Thangarasu, Vice Chancellor, Periyar University, Salem.
- Shri T.C. Saravanabava, Executive Director and Shri B. S. Ravi Prasad, Joint Director, National Instructional Media Institute (Ministry of Labour & Emplmt., GOI), Chennai visited the Institute and NTS on 25th April, 2008 for gathering information on the translation of technical works including those of testing & evaluation.
- A two day Introductory Meeting of the representatives of the institutions identified for establishing RFUs was held on 29th & 30th April, 2008 at CIIL, Mysore.

Announcements

Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships

In order to promote research in the interdisciplinary areas of testing and evaluation, the NTS-India invites applications for the award of **30 Doctoral** and **15 Post Doctoral** fellowships for the year 2008-09 from researchers / scholars of any discipline of study. The research may be in any field and in any discipline but with a component on testing & evaluation.

The applicants should have studied one of the 3 languages (Hindi / Tamil / Urdu) either as a major subject or as a Part I or Part II upto graduate level. If the applicants are from the courses such as engineering, medicine, commerce, etc., they should have studied any one of these languages at least up to Higher Secondary level.

Value of fellowships: For doctoral research Rs.10,000/- per month and contingency of Rs.20,000/- per annum. For post doctoral research Rs.12,000/- per month and contingency of Rs.30,000/- per annum.

For operational details, terms & conditions, application format, etc., please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT (NEW). The application format may be downloaded from the website. Formal advertisements (for public consumption) will be released in popular News dailies during August, 2008.

Invitation to Module Writers

Synopses on developing Training Modules on various topics of Testing & Evaluation in Education are invited from Scholars / Experts / Researchers / Teachers of interdisciplinary areas. The modules that are proposed to be prepared are required to equip the NTS Task Group on Consultancy & Training which in turn will impart training to about 50 lakh teachers of all the disciplines at various levels across the country in a phased manner.

No. of Modules still open for allotment :	about 60
Size of each Module :	Max. 15 to 16 pages including exercises (as per specification)
Language of the Module :	English (with an option of translating the module into one of the three languages viz., Hindi, Tamil, & Urdu)
Remuneration / Honorarium :	For each module Rs.40,000/-(Rs.30,000 - for English version & Rs.10,000 - for translated version in one of these 3 languages)
Maximum time given :	10 weeks (5+2+2+1 weeks) w.e.f. date of assignment

For details of topics, specifications, terms & conditions, payment procedures and model proforma (to furnish scholar details), please log on to www.ciil-miles.net and look for ANNOUNCEMENT

For further details please contact: The Head, NTS-India

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