

German touch to teaching

Former HR professional, Thomas Pallushek has set up a bilingual international school in Chennai, which follows the European system of education

OUR CORRESPONDENT

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Drinking ionised water directly from the tap is not the only thing your kid will be able to do at the German International School or Deutche Schule, Neelankarai, that opens this November.

In this sprawling sea-facing bungalow on East Coast Road that looks as if it's straight out of 18th century Berlin, even kindergarten girls and boys can dabble in music, theatre and sport, learn maths and science in both German and English, while primary schoolchildren will troop to the European nation for regular exchange programmes, and play host to their counterparts here.

The idea of setting up a bi-lingual school in Chennai struck the founder Mr. Thomas Pallushek, a former HR professional, and his associate after a year of globe-trotting and exhaustive research, when they found that there was no international school here that opened its doors to Indian students.



German International School at Neelankarai

"After all that research, I can easily say that Chennai has the best potential for education in the world right now," Pallushek is quick to compliment.

"While younger children will get individual attention to help them discover what they are good at, and work on skills that don't come all that easily, this is a great opportunity for

Indian students in higher classes, as the school will help them get into reputed universities in Germany, and make sure they get their visas without much difficulty as well," he remarks.

The

Bavarian curriculum system from Southern Germany, which has produced some of the 'best brains' in the country, will be followed at the school in Chennai, where the kids are first discreetly evaluated by a team of psychologists and teachers for nearly eight weeks to 'judge their strengths and weaknesses'.

"Though there is a teacher and an assistant for each class, they will handle a maximum of twelve kids. The basic idea is to tap all the child's

potential, so that he is not limited only to what comes naturally to him," explains Pallushek. Parents, anxious to know about their child's progress, are always kept in the loop, he says with a smile.

The school right now can admit 50 children in the kindergarten section, and will become full-fledged up to grade 12 in the next two years.

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