

Speech of the General Council of the Federal Republic of Germany

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear members of the Consular Corps in Chennai,

Dr. Siegfried Huber, Director of the Dr. German School in Delhi,

Dr. Peter Schabert, Director of the Goethe Institut Chennai,

Thomas Pallushek,

Melanie Rolf,

Dear parents,

For decades Germans in Chennai missed a German School. There were a lot of initiatives to build up a German School. But unfortunately none of these efforts could lead to success. There were different reasons for this. Especially creating a German School Association is very difficult, and brings a lot of financial risks to its board members. On the other hand there were not enough German children to fill a German School in Chennai.

Most of the German children went already to an International School and their parents did not want to change their school during a stay of only some years outside of Germany.

Until now Germans applying for a job in Chennai were aware of the fact that there was no German school, so some of them went to work at other places or did even leave their children back in Germany.

But there was always a need for a German school: for Germans working in the private sector as well as for the staff of our Consulate General. Everyone knew that with the offer of a German school the demand would be created by German families coming to Chennai because of the presence of a German school. That means where there is a German school there is also an increasing number of German families.

Well aware of this fact in recent years the German authorities changed their educational policy and accepted Private Public Partnership.

Which means that there is no need that parents have to create a German School Association. In a PPP private investors can open schools with a recognized German curriculum and are funded by the German government.

When there are not enough German children for a school why not offer German education also to Indian children or the children of other Ex pats. Taking up this idea Thomas Pallushek started his project of a German International School in Chennai.

There are a lot of reasons for Indian children to go to a German school.

Language is the basis of understanding; the German language gives the widest access to our culture and lifestyle.

100 million people in the heart of Europe speak German as their mother tongue.

Worldwide 25 million people speak German as a foreign language.

Most of them have established very close ties with our country.

If your children German can speak German, they can

*** read works by the great authors of the last centuries such as Goethe, Schiller and Brecht in the original;**

they can

*** include something on their CV that will catch the eye of prospective employers;**

*** they can study at a university in Germany, Austria or Switzerland;**

and they can read the latest academic publications (German is the second most popular language in academic publications, and 28% of all books published worldwide are written in German).

There are also a lot of reasons for Germany to welcome Indian pupils in a German school. We like to have Indians come to Germany to study and work there. We invite students to come and study at German Universities which is very important to us. Yes you can go to Germany and study at our universities in English – no problem. But to really understand the culture and get well linked up you need to have solid German language knowledge.

The German International School Chennai has very ambitious plans, and the German Consulate General will give any possible support to make our German school a sustainable success.

I wish this new born child a long and successful life.

Let me congratulate the persons who stand behind this idea Thomas Pallushek and Melanie Wolf for all their efforts to realise this important project and for their strong will.

The German Consulate General has the task to deepen the Indo-German relations in every possible way. Which includes improvements in the fields of economy, culture and science.

My personal aim in the coming years is first of all to increase the relations in the economic field. So my ambition is to convince a lot of German companies to settle down in Chennai. To do so we have to promote the advantages of Tamil Nadu.

So my policy is to pass on these interesting informations to German companies.

A well equipped, established and well working German school in Chennai will also attract German companies to invest here.

The coming growth of the German School Chennai will first of all depend on the number of its pupils. So it is up to the parents now to register their children. So let me please address myself directly to the parents:

Dear parents, please do not hesitate to register and do not wait for the decision of your friends or neighbours when you are already convinced of the advantages of the German school. Register now! Make the first step and tell other parents to follow.

Make publicity to invite other parents - German, Indian and other nationals - to send their children to our school.

As I said in the beginning: Where there is a German school there will be more German children in the future. German parents now will come in bigger numbers and work in Chennai as they are sure to have a German school for their children. And these parents may work in the fields of business, industry or at the German Consulate in Chennai.

Let me finish by wishing the German school a good start and a long and successful life. Let it become one of the main Cultural Centres of Chennai.

German International School: welcome to Chennai!!!

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you very much