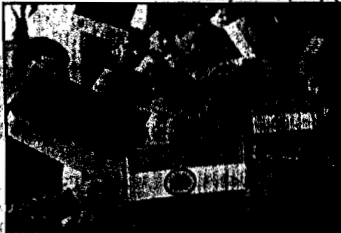


German teaching plan hits hurdle

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

New Delhi: A batch of eight graders at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sadq Nagar, got to try their newly-acquired smattering of German on the German ambassador. The kids were meeting ambassador Michael Steiner who's been an active supporter of the "German in 1,000 schools" programme - a partnership between Max Mueller Bhavan (MMB) and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). German is the first foreign one to be introduced as a third language for upper-primary students in

Anindya Chattopadhyay



Students of KV, Masjid Moth, during the launch of the language programme

the KV system.

Steiner returned impressed. He talks of a student who told him she

wanted a job like his. "I'm pretty sure she's working on it now," he said. The year-old project, which received over 1.3 million of the German government's Euros for 2012-13, has already covered 300 KVs - 45 out of 69 in Delhi. There are 790 more to cover. The response has been encouraging but scaling-up, say those involved, will be hard. A shortage of teachers is the main hurdle. The dearth of teachers has kept KVS from introducing any of the other four languages - French, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese - that its board approved of in 2008.