Habibia School teachers training in Sanskriti School, Delhi

s part of India's capacity building programme for educators, 15 teachers of the Habibia High School in Kabul are currently undergoing an "in-service training" programme, specially designed for them, at the reputed Sanskriti School in New Delhi.

The teachers are from the English, mathematics, biology, physics, chemistry, history and geography disciplines.

The training is multi-dimensional, catering to the specific needs of the teachers, with modules on effective classroom management; use of computers as a tool in education; environmental studies as an integral part of the curriculum; and early childhood development programmes.

The Sanskriti School was established in August, 1998, by the Civil Services Society. It is managed by the spouses of the civil servants posted in Delhi and is meant primarily for the children of civil servants who are often transferred all over the country including in middle of the academic year.

In a short time, Sanskriti School has become known for its high quality of teaching and has established itself as one of the front-ranking educational educations in India's capital.

Habibia High School was chosen because of



Teachers of Hamidia School, Kabul, interacting with the faculty of Sanskriti School in New Delhi.

its special linkage with India, as India has been involved in the reconstruction of the school.

It is hoped that, with India's assistance, the school will become a centre of quality education and that it will once again regain its position as a premier educational institution of Afghanistan.

In future, the partnership between Habibia High School and Sanskriti School will grow with Indian teachers from Sanskriti School coming to run semester courses at Habibia High School and vice-versa, besides having student exchanges, joint sports and cultural events.

Reconstruction of Habibia High School in Kabul

abibia High School, founded in 1903 by King Amir Habibullah, is located near the famous Darulaman, just in front of Babur's mausoleum. The country's luminaries like President Hamid Karzai and Baba-e-Millat studied in this prestigious school.

The IOO-room school was extensively damaged during the decades of strife when its facade was dismantled, its furniture burnt, its ceiling lined with rocket shots and its walls punctured with bullets. Gaping holes stood in the place of the once well built windows.

India took up the task of rebuilding the school in September 2003 as New Delhi committed over \$5 million for the restoration. In less than two years, the work was completed.

The facade now looks elegant and the school has regained its lost glory. The destroyed laboratories don a new look.

Computers are being set up for the kids, with the innovative approach of 'Hole in the Wall' project. This will allow children to learn skills on outdoor computers.

Most facilities, including a new electric substation with transformers, and power back-up with generators in acoustic enclosures are functional. To encourage sports amongst children, a football field and a basketball court have been laid.

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had jointly inaugurated the rehabilitated Habibia High School on August 28, 2005.

Currently, the school has 17,000 students studying in three shifts.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh inaugurating the building of the Habibia School in Kabul on August 28, 2005.

Besides the principal, three vice-principals and 300 teachers form the faculty of the school.

Sayed Naasir Askarzada, the principal of the school and a much respected man in Kabul, wears a happy expression on his face and a special sparkle in his eyes, as he expresses satisfaction over India's help.

When the new school session begins after winter on Navroj, the students will return to a new building, new laboratories and new playing fields, adding one more page to the long saga of India-Afghanistan friendship.