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2017 a mixed bag of highs and lows for Gurgaon students, parents

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GURGAON: Being a mixed bag for the city schools and parents alike, in 2017, the schools across the city witnessed huge protest against fee hike but the end of the year turned unfruitful for them following the high court's order to the parents to pay the hiked fees.

Concerns about safety and security of students in schools were raised after the Ryan murder that led to various guidelines to be followed by schools.

The year left parents questioning the safety guidelines in schools after a seven-year-old Pradyumn Thakur from Ryan International School was brutally murdered in the school campus.

The parents of Blue Bells also faced a setback when the additional chief secretary (ACS), school education, Haryana okayed the fee hike executed by the Blue Bells School, Gurgaon.

The state education department said they were willing to form a child protection wing with the help of Haryana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the wake of the murder of Pradyumn Thakur. Members of the proposed wing decided to visit all government schools and create awareness among children about how to protect themselves against various forms of abuses.

The rising air pollution and school children facing health concerns also led to the government ordering the schools to shut down.

The decisions of shutting down the schools at the last hour, however, didn't go well with some schools. The parents and school authorities both felt that instead of shutting down the school's government should take bigger actions to curb the rising pollution.

With a rise in cybercrime incidents in the city, the Gurgaon police had conducted several awareness campaigns to educate the masses on the dangers of the cyber world. According to officials, the majority of cybercrime cases where students were booked, the motive was to disrepute classmates or girlfriends on social media to take revenge. These sessions helped sensitizing students.

However, the year also saw some milestones that were achieved by the schools.

Sector 56 based Suncity School took the safety and security to a next level by introducing a unique indoor tracking system in the entire school campus. This Indoor Location Tracking system uses Bluetooth devices within the school premises to provide near real-time information to parents, which is being done for the first time in India.

The school also pioneered by becoming the first school in Delhi NCR to install air purifiers in the entire campus. The purifiers function on ESP (Electro Static Precipitation) technology that can capture particles even smaller than 0.3 microns.