



A month after panel formed, 15 schools picked for safety check

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Gurgaon: The district education officer (DEO) finally organised a draw of lots on Wednesday and selected 15 schools where the school safety committee will carry out checks from January 23. The committee members, however, told TOI that the DEO held the draw without informing them about it.

The district administration had formed a school safety committee to check security arrangements in schools in December. On December 5, the committee came up with safety guidelines for schools and planned random inspections. The schools to be inspected were to be selected by a draw of lots by the DEO before January 5. It was to be held in the presence of two members of the

DELAY | The schools were to be selected by a draw of lots by the DEO before January 5. It was to be held in the presence of two members of the safety committee

committee and two others who were not part of it.

DEO Ram Kumar said, "The draw of lots could not take place on time because the members of the committee were not available. When I tried contacting them, I could not get hold of two of them together. However, now, we have conducted the draw of lots and the inspection of schools will

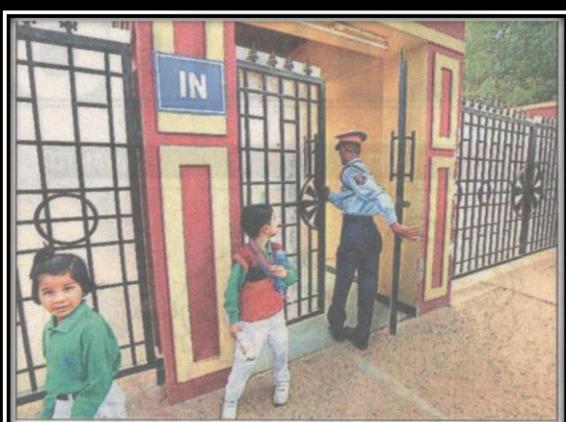
start soon." Initially, the DEO said the inspection would start from Thursday. However, late on Wednesday night, he revised the date so that the designated safety team can organise itself and devise the audit format. The team will have three members, including representatives of the DEO, the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and the police.

Refuting Ram Kumar's claim, Dr Shweta Sharma, member of the committee, said, "We had been left in the dark by the DEO. He is saying that the committee members were not available but when did he contact us? All of us have been there, he just did not call us for the draw of lots."

Capt Gurmeet, a committee member, said, "I was assigned the task of forming the transport guidelines and I ha-

ve submitted my report. The draw of lots was proposed at the meeting but it didn't happen within the proposed time." Smriti Chabra, another member, said, "We were told that the draw of lots would be conducted by the district education officer by January 5, but nothing was done within the deadline."

The school safety committee has at least 15 members, including representatives from the school management, the education department, the police, the RTA, the parents, a clinical psychologist and a consultant from Security Sector Skill Development Council (SSSDC). The district administration wants all private schools to adhere to at least eight basic safety norms, as mandated by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Haryana School Education Act.



Deputy commissioner directed all schools in September last year to ascertain students' safety and give an undertaking. HT FILE

District admin to inspect 15 schools in city for safety

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GURGAON: The district administration selected 15 schools on Wednesday through the draw of lots with a view to check the safety measures at various schools in the city. These schools will be inspected between January 18 and February 6.

The administration prepared an inspection calendar and shared it with schools.

The representatives of the schools will also accompany the inspection team.

On Wednesday, the draw was conducted for checking school safety measures in 217 schools in the district, during which principals of nearly 100 schools were present. "All the schools will be covered under the plan in a phased manner," district administration spokesperson said.

This checking will be conducted with the in-charge of the nearest police station along with two representatives of private schools.

On September 16, 2017, a communiqué was sent to all district schools under Section 144 CrPC by the deputy commissioner. The schools were asked to ascertain the safety of students and give an undertaking in this regard.

The drive to ensure the safety of schoolchildren arose after a class 2 student was murdered in a private school last year.

NEXT IN LINE

Jan 18-19: Salwan Public School, KDM Public School Sohna, Shalom Hills International School

Jan 23-25: DAV School, Bal Bharti School, IMT Manesar, Ryan International, Bhonds

Jan 29-30: Rabindranath World School, GD Goenka World School and DPS

Feb 1-2: Ajanta Public School, MM Public School and Jams International School

Feb 5-6: CCA School, Lancers International School, and Rockford Convent School.

Deputy commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh held the meeting with the principals of private schools and the decision was taken to check the safety measures in the schools. Singh said the safety of children is a priority for the administration.

Earlier, the district administration had given time to all the schools to make arrangements for the protection of children in all schools.

A school safety committee was formed which consisted of school management, clinical psychologist, consultant from Security Sector Skill Development Council, officials from education department, police and Regional Transport Authority and parents.