

NALANDA MODERN PUBLIC SCHOOL , BURARI

WHAT IS BLUE WHALE?

- BLUE WHALE, started by Phillip Budeikin, is a game allegedly consisting of a series of tasks over a 50 day period, that recently created a panic wave in Russia and is now spreading all over the world.
- The inventor claims that he started the game to “clean” the society by pushing to suicide those he deemed as having no value.
- The challenge consists of tasks ranging from self- harm, watching horror movies to waking up at unusual hours, the last task being to kill oneself.
- It targets young children and teenagers, who seek validation from others, even strangers, and is spreading via social media sites, such as Instagram.
- It is yet unknown as to how the game is played online or any app is to be downloaded.
- It is now amidst us and is reaching out to vulnerable teens, who are online but not quite mature enough to process all the information out there.

CASE STUDY IN INDIA

A teenage boy comes across a link online, where he is given one challenge after the other. He accomplishes every task and keeps on moving to the subsequent levels. The final and concluding challenge asks him to commit suicide. He clicks himself on top of a building and jumps. The police claim that this is what led to the death of the 14-year-old Mumbai boy. This is the first death in India, which is being linked to the infamous **Blue Whale challenge**

Many children have been prey to the suicide game.

It is also the cause behind the death of 150 teenagers in Russia, in 2013.

PRECAUTIONS

- ✓ Parents should inculcate self-esteem and the confidence to say “no” in their children.
- ✓ Experts advise parents to help in strengthening the children mentally and to educate them against suicide.
- ✓ Children should be confident that they will be accepted even if they don’t follow the crowd.
- ✓ Children should be taught to never blindly trust any stranger they meet online.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE (*Times Of India ,headlines dated 16th August 2017*)

Concerned over children being prodded to commit suicide on the Blue Whale Challenge game, the government has directed top internet platforms - Google, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo - to immediately remove the links to the

notorious online game. The electronics and IT ministry has asked the companies to "ensure" that any link leading to the "deadly game" is immediately taken down.

Expressing concern over availability of such deadly games on the internet, the ministry's note said, *"It is understood that an administrator of the game uses social media platform to invite /incite children to play this game, which may eventually lead them to take extreme steps for self-inflicting injuries including suicide"*.

The menace was also flagged off by other sections of the government. Union minister Maneka Gandhi had also written to home and IT ministers, asking them to remove the game from social media.