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The Shri Ram Schools to open first branch in Mumbai from April 2017

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The Shri Ram School - Aravali campus at Gurgaon, Delhi. HT PHOTO

MUMBAI: The city's list of premium schools will have a new entrant from the academic year 2017-18. One of the most sought-after schools in Delhi, The Shri Ram Schools, offering ICSE curriculum, have decided to open a branch in the city for the first time.

After operating in Delhi for around 25 years, Shri Educare Limited, the administrative body behind the schools, has decided to expand to Mumbai as well.

Through an alliance with the Lodha Group, The Shri Ram Universal School, will be set up in Palava and will be open from April, 2017.

"The school will be operated by the real estate group with very thorough subject matter inputs given by Shri Educare Limited," said Kartik Bharat Ram, director of the school group.

"Our target will be students from the township and Navi Mumbai, Dombivli and Kalyan locations."

The school will offer a teacher student ratio of 1:10 and more sports facilities. In Delhi, the schools are known for their spacious campus and teaching staff. "Space is the key constraint in Mumbai, that influenced our choice of location," said Ram.

The number of ICSE schools in Maharashtra has increased by more than 33% in the last three years. In 2015, as many as 210 schools took the Class 10 and 12 board exams. This number was just 159 in 2012.

Even the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools have jumped from 300 to 544 in Maharashtra in the last three years, but most of them are located in Nagpur and other cities outside of Mumbai.

A primary study conducted by the school to understand the market in the city also found ICSE to be the most preferred board up to Class 10. "There is a demographic of young working parents who are aspiring for high-quality schools and ICSE seems to the board of choice," found the study.

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> STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE SCHOOL

The study also found that parents are looking for a more holistic learning for the child against only focus on academics. Infrastructure and sports amenities available in school are an important factor in decision-making stated the study.