

Parikrma Champions League to kick off on Nov 24

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BENGALURU Parikrma Humanity Foundation's infectious enthusiasm for sport will be on display when the curtains go up on the sixth edition of the Parikrma Champions League U-16 tournament on Nov 24. True to its aim of making the tournament as close to professional as possible, the tournament, to be conducted in conjunction with the All India Football Federation and the Karnataka State Football Association, will see the matches screened live on giant LED screens around the stadium. There will also be exhibition matches involving a mixed team of boys and girls under-13.

In a step up from the last season, this year Parikrma has collaborated with Coaches Across Continents, a global leader in the sport for the social impact movement. Their aim is to bring about social change through football. "Five of their coaches from across the globe will conduct a five-day training workshop for our coaches and

coaches from other schools across Bengaluru," Shukla Bose, founder and CEO of Parikrma foundation, said. "The theme is on how to take sports into communities and improve quality of life and career planning. Today, sport offers attractive career options. The fact that we have been running this highly successful and popular football tournament for six years goes to show our interest and support for football."

Coaches Across Continents partners with local organisations all over the world and implements their methodology and curriculum. "Our goal is to create social change through sports," said Brian Suskiewicz, chief executive strategist, Coaches Across Continents. "We have football-based games to help with health and hygiene, drugs, alcohol and sexually transmitted diseases. We work on English literacy, numeracy, gender inequality, social exclusion, all things which we are able to teach on sports field. It's a non-traditional education, something we call education outside the classrooms."

He added: "We are happy to part-



Parikrma Humanity Foundation officials during the unveiling of the Parikrma Champions League at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Thursday

ner Parikrma. They have the same vision as we do. Sport is more than 'did I lose, or did I win'. It is about learning more in every field. Research shows that physically active students perform better in academics than those who don't. It teaches them not

only team work, but also hard work and respect for others and care for the environment."

The under-16 tournament proper has attracted a total of 16 teams including a team from Kerala and two from Goa. The fray will include

Parikrma Humanity Foundation team, DPS North, DPS East, Vidyashilp Academy, Vidya Niketan School, St Joseph's Boys High School, St Aloysius High School and Stonehill Government School.

This year, matches will have two halves of 20 minutes each, while the semifinals and final will comprise 30-minute halves. The top eight teams will qualify for the quarterfinals after the league stage.

Outstanding individual performances and skill will be awarded with prizes and the school with best spirit of sportsmanship that creates a high energy atmosphere at the stadium will also receive an award.

"We launched the Parikrma Champions League because we wanted to show that talent cannot be bound by community and households," Bose said. "So now those schools who didn't invite us for their tournaments are changing their calendar according to PCL timings, because they want to be a part of it. This is a great achievement for us and we are immensely proud about it."