

# Parikrma Champions League kicks off on Nov 24

**Bengaluru, DHNS:** The sixth edition of the Parikrma Champions League, an U-16 inter-school football competition, will kick-off on November 24 at the Bangalore Football Stadium.

The tournament, featuring 16 teams from across the country, will be a knock-out competition. The matches in the initial two rounds will be a 40-minute affair (two halves of 20 minutes), while the semifinals and the final being hour-long games (two halves of 30 minutes).

Talent scouts from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) are likely to be in attendance as they continue their search for players to represent the nation at the FIFA U-17 World Cup next year.

Defending champions Farook Higher Secondary School, Kerala, along with St Ann's School, St Loyola High School (both from Goa) and 13 school teams from the city make up the 16 teams.

"Parikrma believe sports plays a significant role in the overall development of a child and through competition like these, we are trying spread the message that sports too can be really good career option. If not as an athlete, one can get into sports management, coach and so on," said Shukla Bose, CEO Parikrma Foundation.

A coaches' training workshop will also be conducted on the sidelines of the tournament. The foundation has joined hands with Coaches Across Continents (CAC), an NGO based out of the US, for it.

"This programme will cater to coaches who work with age-group teams. When it comes to kids, there are a lot of stuff that we need to take into account. It's not only about how you coach a 12 or 14-year-old player on the pitch, but the education you impart outside of it," said Brain Suskiewicz, Chief Executive Strategist, CAC.

CAC has been working around the world in collaboration with various organisations, helping football as a tool to educate children about various social evils.

**Participating teams:** Parikrma Humanity Foundation, Delhi Public School, North, delhi Public School, East, Vidyashilp Academy, Vidya Niketan School, St Joseph's Boys High School, ST Aloysius High School, Stonehill Government School, Greenwood High School, Indus International School, Inventure Academy, Ryan International, Jain International School, St Ann's School, St Loyola School, Farook Higher Secondary School.