“Starting with just organizing Zhoppadpatti (Slum) Football Tournaments, Slum Soccer has matured into a change agent which is socially empowering the underprivileged in Indian community through the medium of football. From this year we would like to reach out to all our well-wishers & friends through Inside-Out – a quarterly update on activities at Slum Soccer so that we are closely connected. Thanks for your continuous support and wish you all a kicking New Year!!!”

Dr. ABHIJEET BARSE  
CEO- SLUM SOCCER

Plaza De La Ciudadania in the beautiful city of Santiago, Chile was all set to host the 12th Annual Homeless World Cup. Over 500 players from 42 different countries were to travel to the South American continent to show the world how a ball changed lives. Team India’s road to Homeless World Cup was full of hurdles but Slum Soccer and its Sponsors made it possible at the end. Special thanks to our Main Supporter- Ashok Leyland- who generously funded Team India and helped the participants experience a magical escapade.

Road to Homeless World Cup was paved through the ward, district, state and national level tournaments for underprivileged, which Slum Soccer hosts round the year. These tournaments served as ground for selection of final team to represent India at Chile for the Homeless World Cup.

Two training camps preceding the final selection of Team India saw participants groom themselves, improve their communication skills, learn about culture and language in Chile and India and hone their leadership skills through off field sessions. The participants also took basic Spanish sessions. On-field practice comprised of sessions on improving endurance, fitness and 4-a-side tactics.

The Homeless World Cup expedition for Team India was quite a success as the Team-India Girls were the most loved and admired group, Team-India Boys won the “Football Calle Cup” and Team-India Coaches - Akshay and Dhaval won the “UEFA Best Coach” Award. The Team India participants after experiencing the Homeless World Cup are confident enough to act as catalysts of change in their respective communities.

The Gamesa Soccer League kicked off on 5th October, at Santhome Beach, Chennai. This marked the start of the six month project between Slum Soccer and Gamesa, to open community centres in several locations across Tamil Nadu. The program will focus on using football to inculcate valuable life skills and address social issues like nutrition, gender equality, environmental awareness etc, and will also involve monthly tournaments at all the centres with a pan-India football tournament to culminate the program.

The program was kicked off by representatives from Gamesa – ArunPrasad, Guru and Arun. They observed how a typical Slum Soccer coaching session uses football to inculcate essential life skills like teamwork, communication and leadership. Arunprasad had an open talk with the participant kids at the end of the session, discussing about their expectations.

The opening episode of Satyamev Jayate – Season 3, which focused on the tremendous potential of sports to bring about a change- A promise that India is yet to wake up featured Prof. Vijay Barse, founder of Krida Vikas Sanstha and Slum Soccer’s Akhilesh Paul to share his success story. The episode helped to set an example to the society explaining how sports is about so much than just winning medals and that sports has immense transformative potential. This change is possible for all of us – we just need to get out and play!
Our friends from Coaches Across Continents were back. This time around they first visited our Chennai Project which is a part of Slum Soccer’s exciting partnership with Gamesa Corporación. The esteemed coaches Brian, Nora and Alison witnessed The Gamesa Soccer League and also worked with 40 aspiring coaches. These coaches learnt the basics of community engagement and development, the CAC games and how to adapt them to the Slum Soccer way.

Second Leg of the CAC training saw Sophie and Billy (CAC Coaches) visit our Nagpur center for grooming the second batch of Young Leaders. CAC games being regular feature in Slum Soccer curriculum, YLs batch at Nagpur were insatiable and by the end of the camp were equipped with the skills to design games based on the problems faced in their communities. We had special coach back session were the brilliant group of young leaders had designed new games and conducted coaching sessions.

Advanced training for coaches and assistant coaches and management training was another special feature during this visit of coaches across continents at Nagpur. The Slum Soccer staff underwent extensive training of handling difficult and sensitive subjects like women empowerment, child rights, gender equality to learning about how to function as organization, vision-mission objectives and building a brand.

Slum Soccer U-14 team was invited to play a exhibition match for the launch of Young Champs program by Reliance Foundation at Dhirubhai Ambani International School Ground, BKC, Mumbai.

The team from Slum Soccer was playing as Salman Khan’s 7 which defeated Nita Ambani’s 7 by 3-1 to emerge winners. After the match, there was a charity event wherein Salman Khan shot 5 penalty kicks to the goal keeper Kshitij Sarmokadam from Slum Soccer and raised an amount of 10 lacs that would be distributed among 3 NGOs.

The team got a lifetime opportunity to interact with both the celebrity Mrs. Nita Ambani and Mr. Salman Khan wherein they shared their happiness on the experience they had during their stay, travel and the match. These players had never ever even travelled in train and because of this event they got a lifetime opportunity to fly to Mumbai and back. We would like to thank Reliance Foundation and Star TV for taking care of us during our entire stay.

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