

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT SIEMENS GAMESA SOCCER LEAGUE AT
CHENNAI ON 17.05.2018**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. RameshKymal

Thiru. Vijay Barse

Thiru. R. Venkatesh

Dr. Abhijeet Barse

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here at the inauguration of the Siemens Gamesa Soccer League being organized for the benefit of youth from the slums and villages by the Krida Vikas Sanstha.

Krida Vikas Sanstha, a Non Governmental Organization engaged in bringing about a refreshing change in the lives of marginalized youth living in slums and villages, uses foot ball as a medium for their activities. They have partnered with Siemens Gamesa which is a manufacturing company principally involved in the fabrication of wind turbines and in the construction of wind farms. Siemens Gamesa is sponsoring this soccer league as a part of its activities under corporate social responsibility.

Corporate social responsibility represents the ethical side of a company and is based on the idea that Corporate success and social welfare are inter-dependent.

The idea about using foot ball as a means to change lives came to Prof. Vijay Barse about 15 years back. Being Sports Teacher, he realized that slum soccer can help to shrug off the limitations of poverty and help in creating a new identity in youth by building confidence and creating vitality. He then roped in youngsters who had backgrounds of drug abuse, anti social activities, personal conflicts, struggles, etc. to play a game of soccer together. The

participants soon found in foot ball, joy and fun and most importantly emancipation and transformation. The saga of success then continued with greater gusto and with more youth being covered.

There are many youths here who have come to play just for the joy of it. This tournament will change their lives by giving them the confidence to face challenges. As Swami Vivekananda said, 'We want that education, by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet.' Tournaments such as this give meaning to this definition of education. They help the youth to stand on their own feet. They give them a purpose in life and the desire to work with team spirit to achieve progress in the pursuit of some constructive activity in one's life.

I wish to conclude by requesting the Corporates located in Tamil Nadu to engage in Corporate social responsibility activities which are meaningful to the society and the nation.

I thank the organizers for having invited me to this event. I assure them all of my support in their activities aimed at enabling India in realizing the benefits of its demographic dividend. My best wishes to all the youth who have come to participate in the soccer league. May success greet them at every step along the way.

Nandri Vanakkam.

Jai Hind.