

FROM GRIM TO GLAM

A six-member team from Chhattisgarh, including five orphans, hailing from war-ravaged Dantewada and Bijapur districts, posing for a group photo, as they look visibly excited on being hand-picked for the chance of experiencing and seeing the iconic FIFA World Cup Trophy during their five-day tour to France (Paris) fully sponsored by Chhattisgarh Government's Sports Department. While the five children, including three girls and two boys, are Manisha Madkam (Dornapal), Jogi Madvi (Bhelwapal), Budri Sodi (Dantewada), Bakrishna Lekam (Bijapur), and Santosh Gali (Bijapur Ashram), the team is also being accompanied by Bhagwati Netam as Manager. The underprivileged children, who are being raised by Tomorrow's Foundation, an NGO, which runs ashrams in these two restive districts, the rare opportunity has been brought by collective efforts of Football Associations (FIFA), Tomorrow's Foundation, Eric Carpentier, A Cup of World (a French-based charity), Coca Cola France, Government of Chhattisgarh and most importantly, the state's Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh. The France tour is part of Eric Carpentier's 2012 project that aims at bringing together orphanages and soccer- a new opportunity- to reward the children as well as promote football within Chhattisgarh.

