

SFA NEWSLETTER

JULY '23 EDITION



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FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK

ANNANYA AGARWAL, PRESIDENT, VEDANTA SPORTS

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to connect with all of you through the SFA newsletter for Q1 FY-24. As we set course for another exciting year, I am happy to share and celebrate the achievements of our Sesa Football Academy (SFA). Your continued support to us at the SFA strengthens our resolve to scale even greater heights during the upcoming season.

To set the stage, at the very outset, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the 16 bright SFA graduates from the 2018-23 batch who are now poised to spread their wings in their quest for professional footballing excellence at the national and international levels.

I am delighted to inform you about the exceptional performance of 'Team SFA' in securing the hard-fought 'Runners-up' position in the GFA U-18 Div-1 league. The spirited, committed, and lionhearted efforts of our young achievers left an indelible mark, evident through the warm and emphatic cheering they received during the awards ceremony. Moreover, our academy showcased its excellent credentials and prowess as our U15 team were crowned Champions in the U-15 First Division League as well.

At Vedanta Sports, we are committed to continuously expanding the reach of our sports development initiatives nationally through meaningful grassroots training programs and interventions. SFA, being a significant component of Vedanta Sports, is continuously scouting for 'uncut diamonds' among the vast pool of budding footballers in the country. In the 24 years since its inception, we at SFA are proud to have shaped 183 young footballers into proficient sportsmen and, in our own small way, contributed to the well-being of the community and the growth of Indian football.

To every member of the SFA family, I extend my sincere appreciation for your unwavering commitment, zeal, and outstanding accomplishments. Let us pledge to continue working together in our pursuit of even greater sporting excellence and accomplishments in the future.

Happy Reading!

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SFA CONVOCATION DAY: 27 JUN 23

FELICITATION OF 16 SFA PLAYERS BY SHRI. GOVIND GAUDE, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR SPORTS, GOA



In our quest to nurture talent, we successfully accomplished the graduation of 16 players who completed their residential football training program and are now ready to grab opportunities in the arena of professional football at the national and international levels. During the convocation ceremony held at SFA, Sirsaim, the graduating players were felicitated by Shri. Govind Gaude, Hon'ble Sports Minister, Government of Goa, Mr. Navin Jaju, CEO of Sesa Goa-Vedanta Limited, Mr. P. K. Mukherjee, Non-Executive Independent Director, SCDF, Mr. Saptesh Sardesai, CEO of VAB, Vedanta Limited, and Padma Shri Brahmanand Sankhwalkar. All attending dignitaries acknowledged the efforts of the young graduates and encouraged them to set their sights on and achieve their aims and goals. The Hon'ble Sports Minister also acknowledged the efficacy of the program being run by SFA and appreciated it for the outstanding training facilities that it provides to the young footballers.



"I appreciate the contribution of Sesa Football academy in the field of Grassroot football development through their residential football academy. I also urge all the aspiring youngsters from Goa to take the benefit of this amazing football training facility."

-Shri. Govind Gaude, Hon'ble Sports Minister of Goa.

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EXCITING CELEBRATIONS MARK AIFF GRASSROOTS DAY AT SFA



Team SFA, Sirsaim



Team SFA, Sankhali

SFA organized a series of exhilarating events to mark the AIFF Grassroots Day on June 23, 2023. To kick off the celebrations, SFA Sirsaim and Sankhali engaged in a thrilling friendly match. After an intense but skillful contest, SFA Sirsaim secured a hard-fought 4-3 win over their counterparts from Sankhali. As part of the festivities, a seven-a-side match was also organized at the Vedanta Football Centre in Nuvem, which captivated the audience with its extremely fast pace.



What stood out during the matches were the high-order skills of the young players, their tremendous talent, and enthusiasm. This also served as a reminder of the vibrant grassroots football culture and the efforts put in by SFA to nurture it. These activities also provided competitive match exposure to the players, which will hold them in good stead and condition them for tougher tests ahead.



A SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE AT THE GFA U-18 FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE



Sesa Football Academy U-18 squad

Team SFA performed admirably throughout the tournament and displayed immense skill and determination, winning 3 out of 4 matches and drawing with Dempo FC. The league was conducted in a 'single leg' basis, and Team SFA tied with Dempo FC for the top position on points and goal difference. Eventually, they were declared 'runners-up' only on the basis of a fortuitous coin toss! The experience gained by the young players was invaluable, as they proved their credentials to be on par with the very best by performing well in such a prestigious tournament.



SFA IMPRESSES IN GFA LEAGUES RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

We are immensely proud to share the heartening achievements of Team SFA in the recently concluded regional qualifying rounds of the Reliance Foundation Development League, which took place between March 16 and April 22, 2023. In this intensely competitive tournament, teams were divided into nine zones, and SFA proudly represented the GOA zone. Going up against renowned Goan teams like FC Goa, Churchill Brothers, and Dempo FC, among others, Team SFA held their own based on refined skills and a never-say-die attitude that was assiduously developed at the Academy.



GFA TACA GOA U-20 TOURNAMENT



Team SFA displayed their abilities, strength, and tenacity as one of the five teams in the GFA Taca Goa U-20 tournament held at the Sirsaim ground from April 29 to May 18, 2023. The teams were divided into two groups. Team SFA finished their league matches with a 4-1 win-loss record and progressed as far as the last-four stage. In the semifinals, Team SFA put up a spirited fight but narrowly missed being edged out by Dempo FC. Throughout the tournament, Team SFA posed a formidable challenge to their opponents, and their efforts deserve recognition and praise.

SFA SHINES AT GFA AWARDS NIGHT !



Dazzling the football community with their exceptional skills and unwavering dedication, SFA teams secured creditable 'runners-up' finishes in both the GFA U-18 and U-15 First Division Leagues. Their remarkable achievements were recognized and honored during the prestigious GFA Awards Night, affirming SFA's status as a formidable presence in Goan football. These accolades serve as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the SFA players, coaches, and support staff and will inspire them to scale even greater heights in the future. Mr. Charles Dias, Head Coach, received awards on behalf of the SFA team.

'FOOTBALL SUMMER CAMP' EMPOWERS YOUNG TALENTS AT SESA FOOTBALL ACADEMY



Students of Govt High School Navelim attending Football Summer Camp

SFA's 'Football Summer Camp 2023', a talent scouting event focused on developing and strengthening football, was held at Government High School, Navelim, between April 17th and April 26th, 2023. The initiative attracted 60 students from Govt. High School, Navelim, in the age groups of 11 and 15.



Mr. Kalidas Gauns, Navelim Sarpanch, Mr. Saptesh Sardesai, CEO of VAB & Cement and others

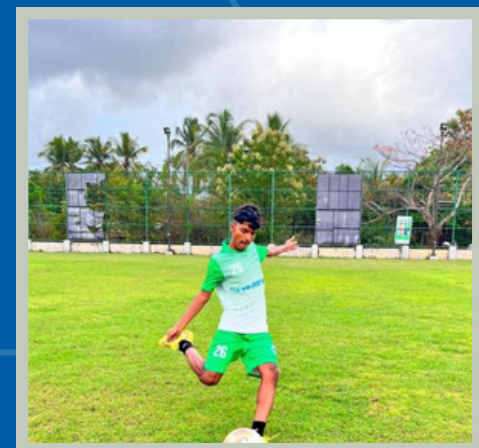
The camp fostered skills, passion, and knowledge through training under the keen and watchful eyes of the SFA coaches. Mr. Kalidas Gauns, renowned Sarpanch of Navelim, and Mr. Saptesh Sardesai, CEO of VAB & Cement, showcased their support to the initiative by gracing the closing ceremony.

PROMISING PERFORMANCE BY SFA PLAYERS CLARISON FERNANDES AND MAHAMMAD ALI AT SAFF U-20 CAMP 2023



Two exceptionally talented SFA players, Clarison Fernandes (18) and Mohd MansurAli Mantagi (18), participated in the selection trials for the India SAFF U-20 Camp at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on June 30, 2023. During the trials, these young footballers showcased their remarkable skills and wholeheartedly embraced this opportunity as a valuable experience in their learning curve. Through their participation, the two boys inspired others at SFA to continue striving towards developing and honing their skill sets.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



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In our transformational journey towards sustainable growth, we are committed to the progress and development of the nation!