**PRESS RELEASE**

**Vedanta launches Training Program for Drivers to Foster Safety Culture**

**Panaji, September 14, 2016:** Vedanta – Sesa Goa Iron Ore in collaboration with the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) launched a Defensive Driving Training Programme at its Codli Mine. The program was launched by Mr. Ganesh Gaonkar, MLA Sanvordem Constituency, in the presence of Mr. BL Meena, Director Mines Safety, Mr. Edwin Colaco, Police Inspector Traffic- Curchorem, Mrs. Arushi, IRTE representative, Mr. Deepak Pauskar – Sarpanch Kirlapal, Mr. Ramesh Sinari – General Secretary Sesa Goa Workers Union, Mr. Ramnath Dangui –Sarpanch- Usgao Panchayat, Mr. Sanjay Naik- Sarpanch Sanvordem Panchayat, Sarpanches of surrounding villages of Codli, Panch members, truck owners, drivers and company officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ganesh Gaonkar – MLA Sanvordem said, “Before any act is made compulsory by way of law, Vedanta Sesa Goa has always been a trend setter of good practices and this great initiative of the company must be applauded for shouldering the social responsibility.” He urged Vedanta - Sesa to include more drivers so that we have an experienced fleet of trained and certified drivers. He emphasized on the need to have mandatory certification for all drivers plying heavy vehicles. Safety culture as a way of life must be inculcated through refresher trainings he said.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vijay Kumar – Head Iron Ore Goa said, “This initiative by Vedanta Sesa Goa Iron Ore is to inculcate and foster safety as a culture in our drivers. Our objective is to have safe transportation on the road with zero harm to people and assets in Goa. Sesa Goa Iron Ore engages the local tipper trucks for the transportation of iron ore from Mine to Jetty. The absence of dedicated mining corridors leads to traffic congestion on the roads in the mining belts. The program is customized to train drivers engaged in ore transportation on defensive driving techniques. We have a robust safety mechanism in place for our operations and this is taking it a step further to foster and inculcate safety awareness.” He added, “We at Vedanta believe in zero harm. Initially 500 drivers will be trained and the program will be extended further to cover all the drivers who are engaged with the company.”

Mr. BL Meena, Director Mines Safety said, “I congratulate Vedanta – Sesa Goa Iron Ore for this unique initiative and it is important that non mining vehicles should also inculcate the safety habits like seat belts, adhere to speed limits, no mobile usage while driving etc.”

 “I am pleased that Vedanta has engaged IRTE for inculcating Defensive Driving Training and must be appreciated,” said Mr. Edwin Colaco – Police Inspector – Curchorem. “Goa is the smallest state in India having the highest vehicle population. The State ranks 15th in the world as per World Bank Institute 2010 rankings with 613 motor vehicles per 1000 people, which has further increased in last five years. Despite the mining ban in the last three years the road accidents have not seen a fall” he said.

The program on Defensive Driving will run initially for one month covering about 500 Drivers in the first phase. The 8 hour training sessions will be highly interactive and encourage active participation from the trainees through discussion, simulated experiences and open feedback mechanism. The training aids include specialized superior quality audio-visual content like animations, photographs, videos, related graphical representations, making the training program conducive for various literacy levels.

Mr. Joseph Coelho, Head – Iron Ore Operations delivered the vote of thanks.

**About Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE)**: IRTEis a member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and the Commission for Global Road Safety representing India. The Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) has earned a Roster Consultative Status from the United Nations Economic & Social Council. The driver training systems developed at IRTE are a result of continuous research over the last 25 years in field of Road Traffic Management. With its global associations and partnerships, IRTE has gained vast experience and an edge in the research and development of these programmes.

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**Photo caption:**

**Picture 1**: Launching of the Defensive Driving Program by Mr.Ganesh Gaonkar, Mr. BL Meena, Mr. Edwin Colaco and other dignitaries.

 **Picture 2**: Mr. Edwin Colaco, PI Traffic speaking at the Defensive Driving event launched by Vedanta – Sesa Goa Iron Ore.

 **About Vedanta Limited (Formerly Sesa Sterlite Limited.)**

Vedanta Limited is a diversified natural resources company, whose business primarily involves producing oil & gas, zinc - lead - silver, copper, iron ore, aluminium and commercial power. The company has a presence across India, South Africa, Namibia, Australia and Ireland.

Vedanta Limited is the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, a London-listed company. Governance and Sustainable Development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities. The company is conferred with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) ‘Sustainable Plus Platinum label’, ranking among the top 10 most sustainable companies in India. To access the Vedanta Sustainable Development Report 2016, please visit <http://sustainabledevelopment.vedantaresources.com/content/dam/vedanta/corporate/documents/Otherdocuments/SDreport2015-16/Vedanta%20SDR%20FY%2015-16.pdf>

Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange in India and has ADRs listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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