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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Vedanta Women's Football League ready to soar**

Panaji, 18th November 2017: Vedanta Sesa Goa Iron Ore is committed to foster skill development through sports and the Sesa Football Academy (SFA) has been doing this since its inception in 1999. Sesa Football Academy alumni have made Goa proud with its boys playing in National level as well as I-League matches.

Taking forward this commitment and passion to nurture skill development with the objective of empowering the girl child through sports, Vedanta launched the 'Vedanta Women's Football League' on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 with the support of Goa Football Association.

The kick off match today was played at Duler Stadium, Mapusa under flood lights giving the girls the first of a kind opportunity never seen before in the state. Sharing his vision passionately for Goan football, Mr. Annanya Agarwal, President Vedanta Football Project said, "Football lies and echoes in the heart of Goa. We sincerely hope to see the girls of the community create history for the state. We endeavor to create a wealth of opportunities for the girls across various skilled areas of football like Coaches, Sports columnists, analysts, commentators, physiotherapists etc. by extending our already existing infrastructure facilities and resources at Sesa Football Academy."

Mr. Kishore Kumar- CEO Vedanta Sesa Goa Iron Ore said " It is very heartening to see such a tremendous response within such a short time for the Vedanta Women's League. We firmly believe we have everything in our Goan girls to make it big and they are ready to take off. I hope in the next few years we can see young women players on the big football arena of the nation"

The kick off match started with Albert's Princesses locking horns with Flaming oranje.

The event witnessed the unveiling of Team flags by the Team captains along with a enthralling performance of the League anthem 'Mukhar Chal Chedwa' by famous Gaon singer Varun Carvalho and Irina.

Also present on the occasion were Mr. Sukhvinder Singh- CEO Vedanta Football Project, Mr. Elvis Gomes- President, Goa Football Association, Ms. Juliana Gurjao- Chairman Women's Committee, GFA, Mr. Brahmanand Sankhwalkar- Arjuna Awardee, Ex India Captain Football Team, Players from all participating teams, Members from Goa Football Association along with the staff and employees of Vedanta Sesa Goa.

137 female players from all over Goa were drafted into six clubs through a draw of lots. The participating teams include Flaming Orange by Sporting Club de Goa, Panjim Dolphins by Panjim Footballers, Cuncolim Warriors by Cuncolim Union, SCC SOWS Football, Goa Velha Saints by Goa Velha SC and Albert's Princesses by Albert Developers Sports Club.

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On May 09<sup>th</sup> this year, the multinational natural resources conglomerate, announced a strategic roadmap to actively foster skill development in sports across the country. Sesa Football Academy (SFA) has contributed immensely to the development of football players in Goa and has now opened doors of the academy to develop budding players in football from across the nation and Africa. The skill development model that the company has adopted is to scout young talent and hone them in the sport and equip them with sports related skills that could help carve professionalism. 22 boys in the age group of 14 – 17 have been selected from Rajasthan, Punjab,

Kerala, Manipur, Sikkim, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Zambia (where the Group has its operations), apart from the 36 boys from Goa who are already being trained.

**About SFA:** Vedanta – Sesa Goa Iron Ore as part of its commitment to serve the community established Sesa Football Academy (SFA) in the year 1999, with the prime objective of nurturing young football talent from Goa. SFA is built on the reclaimed mine at Sankhali-Goa and is run on a residential basis and imparts systematic and scientific training and lays emphasis to develop the potential and grooms the youngsters to become full-fledged professional players. SFA takes care of the formal education of the trainees during the four year training period. Within a span of 17 years, SFA has made tremendous impact on the football fraternity in Goa and across the nation. Young football enthusiasts aspiring to become professionals show keen interest to join the academy. From the inception of SFA around 123 trainees benefitted from the Academy. The Academy is proud of the budding sportsmen who passed out from the institution and are most sought after with some of them playing for India’s senior team, I-League clubs of India and local clubs in Goa. SFA patronized and mentored the sportsmen even during the critical times of the mining ban.

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**Photo caption:**

**Vedanta Women’s Football League ready to soar.**

### **About Vedanta Limited**

Vedanta Limited is a diversified natural resources company, with a market cap of US\$ 14 billion & US\$ 7 billion free float, 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, 6<sup>th</sup> largest natural resources company, globally. 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://sd.vedantaresources.com/SustainableDevelopment2015-16/>

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.  
For more information please visit [www.vedantalimited.com](http://www.vedantalimited.com)

**For further information, please contact:**

**Sangeetha R Chakravarthy**

Head – Corporate Communications, Sesa Goa Iron Ore Division

Tel: +91 832 2460613

[Sangeetha.Chakravarthy@vedanta.co.in](mailto:Sangeetha.Chakravarthy@vedanta.co.in)

**Sukhvinder Singh**

CEO – Sesa Football Academy

Tel: +91 9871720351

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