
VEDANTA'S SESA FOOTBALL ACADEMY LEADS ITS VISION TO MENTOR YOUNG FOOTBALL TALENT IN GOA

- Convocation Ceremony felicitated SFA's graduating students of batch 2014-2018
- Vedanta to continue its strategic roadmap to actively foster skill development in sports across the country through SESA Football Academy

PANAJI, JUNE 22, 2018: In a classic example of mentor them young and watch them grow, Vedanta's SESA Football Academy (SFA) felicitated young graduating students of its academy at a high energy Convocation Ceremony event held today at the International Centre of Goa.

SESA Football Academy, which aims to spot, nurture, and create conditions for discovering, and building talent for Indian football, is the CSR flagship brand of the multinational conglomerate, Vedanta. The organization through its SESA Football Academy (SFA), has contributed immensely to the development of football players in Goa since its inception in 1999. The academy, which runs on a residential basis, imparts systematic and scientific football training through its team of national and international football experts, grooming youngsters to become full-fledged professional players. The academy takes care of the formal education of the trainees, during the four-year training period, at its Sankhali premises.

The Convocation Ceremony attended by core team leaders of SESA Football Academy and Goa's star football and sports enthusiasts, felicitated 15 students of 2014-18 batch. Namely, **Ashley Cardozo, Kanta Alisas Dravin Sunil Mandrekar,**

Dhiraj Chauhan, Vighnesh G. Shetgaonkar, Vishnu Sazro Gosavi, Kunal S. Salgaonkar, Cyrus Canvi Noronha, Dylan Fernandes, Malcolm Mervin Gonsalves, Cavin Soares, Lionel D'souza, Mark Agnelo Barreto, Anil Subhash Chawan, Gaunkar Roanal Camilo and Rocky Jovhan Fernandes.

Taking forward the Vedanta Group's vision in equipping participants with skills in sports in technical and non-technical areas of development, and achieving the milestone of being the best football academy in India by 2019, **President, SESA Football Academy, Mr Annanya Agarwal** said, "Sports can inspire and engage youth in a tremendous way, and with the growing interest around sports we at SFA have taken significant steps in providing professional training to budding footballers and nurture them to be the next heroes of the nation. Sesa Community Development Foundation (SCDF) has immensely contributed through various CSR initiatives to the local communities in the past and would continue to do so."

Since inception, SFA has trained more than 150 footballers at the residential academy and has made tremendous impact on the football fraternity in Goa as well as across India. Past graduates from SFA today served in the national teams, Indian Super League (ISL) clubs, I-League clubs of India and football clubs in Goa. Including seven players who have earned the national team cap and six players who played the elite ISL last season. Presently 38 boys from Goa and 28 youngsters from across the country and Zambia are a part of the 2017 batch.

Former Indian skipper and Advisor to SESA Football Academy, **Mr Bhaichung Bhutia, present during the Convocation Ceremony also said,** 'Goa brings back a bundle of childhood memories. SFA has been doing some great work for the football community by grooming young players and producing good football talent. It is good to see these young players get such amazing guidance and facilities.'

Addressing the gathering on the occasion Mr. Michael Lobo, Dy. Speaker Goa Legislative Assembly said “Sesa Football Academy is providing a platform to local talent to groom them as footballers and imparting training in the most professional way. The academy has developed many Goan footballers since its inception who have performed phenomenally well at State, National level and for renowned football clubs. It also rests upon the youth to be focused and excel in the sports arena. We are thankful to Vedanta for this initiative and I am hopeful that we shall one day see our Goan boys play for the FIFA World cup”

The academy which also has a strong focus on empowering girls and women through their engagement in football training and coaching, will continue its sponsorship association for the Second Edition **Women’s Football League**, which kicks-off soon.

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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Vedanta Limited is the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, a London-listed, 6th 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/>

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