
PRESS RELEASE

SESA FOOTBALL ACADEMY AND AIFF LAUNCH VEDANTA SESA YOUNG BUDS LEAGUE IN GOA

- To be played in Under-10 and Under-12 categories, with an aim to promote and develop junior football in the state
- More than 100 young footballers from Goa to take part

Panjim, February 16: SESA Football Academy launched the Vedanta Sesa Young Buds League with the support of All India Football Federation (AIFF) at Sirsaim Goa, with an objective to give a boost to junior football in the state.

The league, which is under the AIFF Baby Leagues project, was kicked-off in the presence of Mr. Dominic Pereira- GFA Executive member, North Goa, and Mr. Brahmanand Sankhwalkar, Former Indian Football Team captain and Arjuna awardee.

The league has invited participation from teams across all parts of Goa state wherein six teams in Under-10 and eight teams in the under-12 category will battle for the title.

The initiative is yet another step undertaken by Sesa Football Academy to develop football at an early age among children and promote grassroots football. More than 100 young footballers are set to be a part of the league, which will be held over a period of three months. The entire league will have an end-to-end app based organization which starts from registration to fixtures and the records of results and other stats.

Mr. Annanya Agarwal, President of Sesa Football Academy and Vedanta Football Project, said, *"We see the Vedanta SESA Young Buds League as a great opportunity to disseminate footballing knowledge and skills at the grassroots level. SESA Football Academy remains committed to youth development, promoting early interventions among children and sustaining the football ecosystem in Goa as well as India. We are excited to see the kind of talent that comes up through the league. We thank AIFF and GFA for their support."*

Eduard Batlle Basart, Technical Director, Sesa Football Academy said, *"It is amazing to see the talent and enthusiasm of young athletes who have the potential to become professional footballers if the right platform like Vedanta Football Schools and Vedanta Sesa Young Buds League is provided."*

Launched last year, the AIFF Baby League initiative envisages to engage around 25,000 children across the country between the ages of 4 and 13 to engage with the game over the duration of the respective leagues which last for an average of around 3 (three) months each. The project proposes to introduce them to the experience of participating in a competitive league environment for a prolonged period and continue giving them such a platform.

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.

###

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, 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/>

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

For further information, please contact:

Leena Verenkar

Head – Corporate Affairs and Community Relation , Sesa Goa Iron Ore Division

Tel: +91 832 2460862

Leena.verenkar@Vedanta.co.in

Sukhvinder Singh

CEO – Sesa Football Academy

Tel: +91 9871720351

Sukhvinder.Singh@vedanta.co.in