

Jersey Unveiling Marks the Launch of 8th Vedanta Women's League

The Vedanta Women's League 2024 is all set for a launch on 22 Nov 24 and the official commencement of the event was marked by the Jersey Unveiling Ceremony held at the Sesa Goa Head Office at Panjim. The participating teams include Sesa Football Academy, Calangute Association, Guardian Angels SC, Livval Sports Club, Patrong Sports Club & Maina Sports Club. The launch of the VWL underscores Vedanta Sesa Goa's commitment to supporting women's football & empowering women through meaningful initiatives.

The event was graced by Ms. Maymol Rocky, former Head Coach of the Indian Senior Women's Football Team and Chairperson of the GFA Women's Committee, Mr. Anthony Pango, Senior Vice-President, Goa Football Association, Mr. Jonathan De Souza, Vice President, Goa Football Association, Mr. Laxman Hadfadkar, GFA Executive Committee Member, North Goa, Mr. P K Mukherjee, Independent Director, Vedanta Limited & Sesa Community Development Foundation (SCDF) & Mr. Navin Jaju, CEO, Vedanta Sesa Goa. The jerseys were unveiled in the presence of the six team captains who proudly displayed the jerseys and logos, symbolizing their commitment and readiness for the season.

Expressing his thoughts on the occasion, **Mr. Navin Jaju**, CEO, Vedanta Sesa Goa, said "Vedanta Women's League is a powerful platform that empowers young women in football while fostering their personal and professional growth. We are thankful to Goa Football Association for providing us the opportunity to contribute to women's football in Goa and at the national level. The League has proven to be a powerful vessel of change with over 1100 players having found a platform through its conduct over the past seven seasons. This initiative, alongside programs like our Computer Centre and Women's Tailoring Centre, reflects our commitment to giving back to society by creating opportunities that support women's empowerment. At Vedanta, we believe in #TransformingSports and providing women with the resources to succeed, helping build a future where they have equal opportunities to lead, excel, and inspire. I wish all participating teams the very best."

Mr. Anthony Pango, Senior Vice President, GFA, lauded the league's growth: *"The Vedanta Women's League has set a benchmark for the promotion of women's football in Goa. It is heartening to witness the league grow stronger every year, empowering young athletes and fostering a spirit of determination and excellence. The team captains present today symbolize leadership and the unwavering commitment required to elevate the game to new heights. Together with Vedanta, we are building a robust ecosystem that inspires not just players but the entire community to believe in the transformative power of sports."*

Ms. Maymol Rocky, a pioneer in Indian women's football, shared her insights: *"The Vedanta Women's League is a shining example of how grassroots initiatives can create a profound impact. The presence of the team captains today highlights the strong foundation being laid for the future of women's football in Goa. Initiatives like this are instrumental in nurturing talent and inspiring countless young girls to pursue their dreams."*

Sharing his thoughts, **Mr PK Mukherjee**, Independent Director, Vedanta Ltd & Chairman SCDF, said *"The Vedanta Women's League is a remarkable initiative that aligns seamlessly with our vision and the government's goal of fostering a diverse workforce, aiming for 30% representation. Empowering women through sports not only enhances their confidence and skills but also contributes significantly to building an inclusive society. At Vedanta, we are committed to driving such transformative efforts that pave the way for a brighter future. Let's continue to support and celebrate women in football. #LetsFootballForIndia"*

Speaking on the occasion, **Sushmita Jadhav**, Captain Sesa Football Academy expressed "Participating in the Vedanta Women's League is a tremendous opportunity for players to gain

valuable experience and showcase their skills on a competitive platform. It's a stepping stone for us to grow as athletes and push our limits. We've been working very hard as a team, and we are confident in our preparation and determination to perform well in this league."

Since its launch in 2017, the Vedanta Women's League has provided a platform for over 1100 women footballers, with several participants going on to represent Goa and India on national and international stages. The 2024 season promises exhilarating matches and inspiring stories of resilience and teamwork. The opening matches scheduled for 22nd November 24, at 3:45 pm with Sesa Football Academy taking on Patrong SC at Sirsaim, Maina SC against Guardian Angel SC at DBO Fatorda & Calangute Association facing Livvals SC at Poriat.