

## Press Release

### **Vedanta Sesa Goa Felicitates the achievements of Iron Ladies at Bicholim**

**Goa, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024:** Vedanta Sesa Goa's Iron Ore Goa Business, in line with its commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, felicitated the women achievers from Bicholim and surrounding villages as part of the #IronLadiesIndia2.0 campaign, at a felicitation ceremony held at Our Lady Of Grace High School, Bicholim. The event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Kundan Falari, Chairperson, Bicholim Municipal Council, Senior management from Vedanta Sesa Goa including Mr. Dhirajkumar Jagdish, Dy. CEO-Iron Ore Goa (IOG), Ms. Sandhya Malik, Chief Communications Officer, Sesa Goa, Mr. Santosh Mandrekar, Head North & Central Cluster- IOG, Ms. Ivy Arifa Mascarenhas Pereira, Principal, Our Lady of Grace High School, Bicholim and officials of Sesa Goa.

The event was aimed at acknowledging the indomitable spirit and exceptional contributions of women achievers for their 'Iron Will' in driving transformational changes across various fields such as healthcare, education, social service, entrepreneurship and their commitment towards societal progress.

**Mr. Kundan Falari, Chairperson Bicholim Municipal Council** expressed his admiration for the women achievers who were felicitated and emphasized upon the importance of their efforts in bringing about meaningful societal changes & progress. He commended Vedanta Sesa Goa for recognizing the efforts of the women community members through its #IronLadiesIndia campaign & for being an upright corporate citizen, working tirelessly towards the welfare of the community especially through its initiatives which are intended at 'Saving the Environment'. He also expressed that it was noteworthy that the company disbursed salaries to all its workers even when mining was halted and yet looked after their well-being.

Expressing his views on the significance of the contributions of women, **Navin Jaju, CEO , Vedanta Sesa Goa** , said that "At Vedanta Sesa Goa, we're committed to creating an environment where women not only excel but lead on regional, national, and international stages. Our #IronLadiesIndia2.0 campaign epitomizes this dedication, celebrating the unyielding 'Iron will' of women within and beyond our organization. We power women power through various initiatives aimed at fostering economic self-reliance such as Project Jivika & SHGs, promoting inclusivity through sports such as Vedanta Women's Football League & Sesa Football Academy, alongside technical skill development such as ITI & computer courses. Proud catalysts of their metamorphosis, we shape personal and professional growth, nurturing sustainable societal advancements."

The event at Bicholim has served as a platform to showcase the inspiring stories and achievements of women in Bicholim and surrounding villages like Maem, Lamgoa, Piligao etc and this recognition will surely inspire others to emulate the efforts of such Iron Ladies as well.

**Mr. Dhirajkumar Jagdish-Dy. CEO-Iron Ore Goa, said,** "Sesa Goa has a long tradition of supporting women in realising their dreams & potential. We have taken numerous women centric initiatives focussing on empowering women with business and entrepreneurship skills, sports & are also regularly conducting health camps for women among many others. We are very proud of the achievements and contributions of women & through this felicitation ceremony, we, at Vedanta Sesa Goa would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for their efforts."

**Ms. Sandhya Malik, Chief Corporate Communications Officer, Vedanta Sesa Goa, stated:** “It has been an absolute honour to witness that the #IronLadiesIndia2.0 campaign has evoked unprecedented, genuine engagement & support from the #SesaGoaCommunity & beyond, which salutes the ‘Iron Will’ of women & is a celebration of their remarkable resilience & strength. For us, it has always been about recognizing women who’ve broken countless barriers to reach the pinnacle of their respective fields, the glass ceilings they have shattered, and the invaluable impact they have had in inspiring us all. Through this campaign, we want to commemorate these women as we aim to inspire a new generation of women leaders, innovators, and changemakers who are unafraid to challenge the status quo.”

The company effectively highlighted the outstanding accomplishments of its women employees as well as those of women achievers from all backgrounds across the communities through its #IronLadiesIndia2.0 campaign that was launched on all its digital and other communication platforms spotlighting the same through story telling. Ms. Deepa Malik, a para-athlete and Paralympian who won silver in the World Cup, Sakshi Kale, a gold medallist and national level para-athlete, and Cecille Rodrigues, a performer were recently honored by the company. With the help of this campaign, Vedanta is inviting everyone to take part in honoring and commemorating the "Iron Will of Women," who motivate and uplift countless others.

The campaign has received an overwhelming response from employees and business partners of Sesa Goa as well as the community at large across all Sesa Goa locations in India and West Africa namely, Goa, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Gujarat and Liberia.

The Vedanta Group demonstrates a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), exemplified by recent initiatives such as the recruitment of women from defence services. Through DEI, the company fosters creativity, broader thinking, and fresh perspectives, contributing to enhanced performance and growth. Several programs have been designed to promote inclusiveness and develop women leaders, including initiatives in corporate and industrial security.