

## **NSS Students Join Vedanta Sesa Goa in**

### **Promoting Environmental Sustainability**

As part of its ongoing **#IronWill4GreenerPlanet** campaign, Vedanta Sesa Goa organized an educational visit to the Sanquelim Reclaimed Mines (SRM) for students of the National Service Scheme (NSS) from Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce (GCASC), Khandola, along with employees of the company. This visit aimed to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices & provided a valuable learning experience for all participants.

During the visit, the group explored the expanse of the SRM and discovered how an erstwhile mine cluster has been sustainably reclaimed and converted into a verdant & lush 'green-scape' supporting endemic flora & fauna. The SRM today comprises the 'Nakshatra Van' , a medicinal garden that combines the beauty of nature with the healing power of plants, and the 'Charak Vatika' , another garden focused on traditional medicinal plants. The visiting group also familiarised themselves with the 'Pisciculture Pond' , which promotes water conservation and sustainable fish farming, demonstrating Vedanta Sesa Goa's commitment to eco-friendly agricultural practices. The students were particularly impressed by the 'Bamboo Pavilion' , an eco-friendly structure built using sustainable materials, which highlights the company's innovative approach to creating green, sustainable spaces.

The students were introduced to the Sesa Football Academy and Sesa Technical School, both established on the reclaimed land utilising the one time workshop and other built up area at the erstwhile mine cluster. As part of this initiative, the NSS students from GCASC have volunteered to become **#SesaGreenWarriors**, and will play an active role in spreading awareness about eco-conscious behaviors and sustainable practices within their communities around Goa.

The SRM was developed by Sesa Goa in the late 90s when no regulatory or statutory requirements existed for mine closure, today the SRM has emerged as a model mine closure project having earned accolades at national & international level. Recently, Shri G Kishan Reddy, Hon' ble Minister for Coal & Mines, Govt of India, had visited the SRM and praised the effort having gone into the project, terming it as a role model for all mining companies.

**Dr. Sapna, NSS In-Charge at GCASC,** shared, *"The visit to the Sanquelim Reclaimed Mines was an eye-opening experience for our students. It demonstrated how industry can contribute to environmental conservation and biodiversity restoration. By empowering our NSS students as #SesaGreenWarriors, we are equipping them with the knowledge and passion to drive positive change in their communities and inspire others to adopt sustainable practices."*

**Mr Rajesh Kumar, Head ESG, Vedanta Sesa Goa,** said, *"The #IronWill4GreenerPlanet campaign is about more than just corporate responsibility; it's about empowering the community to actively engage in the protection of our environment. By partnering with the GCASC NSS students and involving them in this transformative experience, we're creating future leaders who will champion sustainability. The Sanquelim Reclaimed Mines is a testament to how industry and nature can work in harmony, and through initiatives like these, we reaffirm our commitment to environmental stewardship."*

Through such initiatives, Vedanta Sesa Goa continues to reinforce its commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation. The company's efforts are part of a larger vision to contribute to **Swayampurna Goa and #ViksitBharat**, ensuring ecologically sustainable businesses are also economically viable. Vedanta Sesa Goa's commitment to innovative mining practices, renewable energy, and community engagement highlights the company's role in driving a greener future for Goa, India, and the world.