## O HERALDO

## voice of goa

## **Priol's political scene** heats up with Sawant's veiled ultimatum to MGP

#### **SANTOSH NAIK**

PONDA: On the occasion of Gudi Padwa, considered an auspicious day for launching new ventures, political parties also made significant announcements, signalling the beginning of election debates. With the 2027 Assembly elections still a year-and-a half-away, discussions have already gained momentum in Ponda. However, it was Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's recent statement that caught political analysts off guard, adding further heat to the already intense summer. Addressing a BJP Karyakarta Melava in Priol on Sunday, Sawant, without directly naming MGP, issued a stern warning to the party. He stated that if the alliance partner did not agree to BIP's terms for Priol, they should consider breaking away immediately.

"If alliance terms with the BJP for Priol is not agreed to, then today itself, they should break away. Priol will remain with BJP. No compromise of whatsoever nature for Priol.

If alliance terms with the BJP for Priol is not agreed to, then today itself, they should break away. Priol will remain with BJP. No compromise of whatsoever nature for Priol. If anyone has issues, then they should break away. I do not fear anyone. Our double-engine government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, supports Goa's development and provides funds for various projects

-Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister

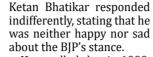
I have no idea what exactly has happened, but I will believe any change in alliance only if PM Modi, Amit Shah, or Fadnavis personally inform me of their decision. The Chief Minister may have made this statement just to motivate BJP workers

circle.

- Sudin Dhavalikar, MGP chief

If anyone has issues then they should break away. I do not fear anyone. Our double-engine government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, supports Goa's development and provides funds for various projects," Sawant declared.

Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude welcomed the Chief Minister's statement, saying it gave him the strength of "ten elephants." Reacting to the remarks, MGP Supremo Sudin Dha-



He recalled that in 1999, BJP had broken its alliance with MGP. which ultimately helped Dhavalikar win. He hinted that similar political developments could unfold if the alliance falls apart. Interestingly, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane had recently praised Dhavalikar during a health camp in Marcaim, referring to him as a longtime friend and an elder brother, while expressing confidence that the BIP-MGP alliance would remain intact.

Adding to the political valikar said that the BIPintrigue, MGP President MGP alliance was a decision taken at the highest level by Deepak Dhavalikar had PM Narendra Modi's inner previously announced his intention to contest from Priol in the upcoming elec-"I have no idea what exactly has happened, but I tions. Meanwhile, in Ponwill believe any change in da, political activity is also alliance only if PM Modi, heating up, with leaders en-Amit Shah, or Fadnavis pergaging in debates over key issues such as the ongoing sonally inform me of their decision. The Chief Minwater crisis. Many have ister may have made this started sponsoring sports statement just to motivate tournaments and health BJP workers," Dhavalikar camps, with an eye on the said. MGP youth leader Dr. 2027 Assembly elections.

Varca villagers oppose Velsao to Cavelossim road expansion, jetties in Sal Team Herald

MARGAO: At the Varca gram sabha that was chaired by Sarpanch Flavia Barreto, the villagers engaged in extensive discussions on multiple pressing issues, with two resolutions passed opposing the contentious road expansion from Velsao to Cavelossim and the proposed construction of three new jetties in River Sal. It is to be

noted that several other coastal panchayats have also opposed these two proposed infrastructure projects. Earlier, the gram sabha approved its budget, which included increased

provisions to tackle the stray animal menace. A contract is set to be signed with Goa Animal Welfare Trust (GWAT) for the sterilisation of stray dogs, a move aimed at controlling their population more effectively.

The recent High Court's order on illegal constructions also took center stage, prompting the panchayat body to consider organising a special session with a legal expert to guide villagers on the matter.

## Loud music, stray cattle, destruction of sand dunes dominate Anjuna gram sabha Villagers object to CRZ violations, call to protect turtle nesting sites along the coast

#### **Team Herald**

PANJIM: The Anjuna gram sabha that was held on Sunday initially witnessed chaotic scenes over the passage of the annual budget but later the Sarpanch accepted the suggestions of the locals and assured to do the needful.

Major issues discussed were destruction of sand dunes on the beach, stray cattle.

The gram sabha witnessed chaotic scenes as the budget of Rs 14.6 crore was sought to be passed in a huff. The villagers objected to this and said that the budget cannot be pushed through and needs proper study and observation and whatever needs to be changed should then be incorporated, such a budget cannot be passed in a huff and hurry style.

Ramesh Naik, a local sought to know what was the hurry and why no proper public awareness was made with regards to the budget. He was supported by other villagers also. Sarpanch Chimulkar accepted the suggestions of the locals and said that whatever



A gram sabha members questioning the sarpanch over illegalities in the CRZ at Anjuna

and the police needs to be inhas discussed is being noted and necessary steps will formed and enforce the law. be taken.

Another issue which was Sagar Bhosle raised the hotly discussed was the deissue of stray cattle and struction of sand dunes and wondered what was prethe construction of a road venting the panchayat to act in survey number 354/1 at Vagator and Biodiversisince last so many months. Sarpanch Chimulkar inty members Ramesh Naik formed that discussions and Satyawan Harmalkar are on with some gaushalas questioned as to how these and finally there are higher illegalites were permitted authorities who also need at the cost of nature. to approve this action of the panchayat and therefore ioined the discussion and panchayat actions need to

pointed out that this was be in accordance with that. in CRZ violation and now Another gram sabha Vagator is a turtle nesting site and should be protectmember Jeremy raised the issue of loud music in clubs ed. Chimulkar said that he as usual and sought prompt action in the matter. Sar-

would issue notices to the party concerned and arpanch as usual said that the range for a joint inspection panchayat cannot do much to check for illegallities.

Other villagers also



# Carmona opposes bid to fence area under NDZ

The panchayat had already written to

the proprietor seeking

discrepancies they had

- Sandra Fernandes,

The locals also questioned

why the GCZMA had not con-

the panchayat had called for

responses to certain

found

Sarpanch

### **Team Herald**

MARGAO: The Carmona village panchayat gram sabha has unanimously opposed a proposal to carry out fencing in a Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) area on land that is privately owned by the family of a politician.

discussion, demanding full The extraordinary meeting, held on Sunday for the clarification from the Goa purpose of discussing a single Coastal Zone Management proposal related to the land in Authority (GCZMA) before any permissions could be question, saw strong resistance from the villagers amid considered. The villagers concerns over potential violaalso pointed out that the CRZ 2011 notification has to be tions of environmental norms. The controversial proposread together with the Regional Plan 2021 while makal sought permission to construct a temporary fishing ing decisions on the matter. shed and install fencing in ar-

ter the meeting, Sarpanch Sandra Fernandes said the meeting was called as these proposed works were on a notified bundh and thus it was a public issue.

"The panchayat had already written to the proprietor seeking responses to certain discrepancies they had found." said the sarpanch. On the gram sabha demands, the Sarpanch said the panchayat would discuss the matter at its panchayat body meeting and then write to the GCZMA about the CRZ-related clarifications.

It is to be noted that when the Minister was recently asked about this issue by media persons at the weekly public grievance meetings held at the South District Collectorate, he had strong-

JIH wishes all

**Goans Eid-ul-**

**Fitr Mubarak** 

PANJIM: Jamaat-e-Isla-

mi Hind has wished all

the Goans an Eid-ul-Fitr

In a message, Asif Hus-

Hind.

sain, State President of

wished all Goan brothers

and sisters a Eid-ul-Fitr

Mubarak and praved that

the message of the holy

month of Ramadhan guide

us to build an inclusive

society working for the

welfare of mankind irre-

spective of caste, creed

Mubarak.

Jamaat-e-Islami

and region.

## Shiroda celebrates palanquinborne Goddess with Gulalotsav

#### **Team Herald**

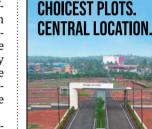
MARGAO: The Shiroda Gulalotsav of Shree Kamakshi Devi, a vibrant part of the Shigmo festivities, was celebrated on Sunday in Shiroda with great pomp and gaiety, featuring the enthusiastic exchange of colorful gulal.

The famous Gulal Utsav of Shree Kamakshi Devi at Shiroda has been celebrated by Shree Kamakshi Saunsthan Shiroda for several years and remains a popular event, drawing a large number of devotees from across Goa, Karnataka, and beyond. The festival began in the evening after the completion of religious ceremonies at the temple.



changing gulal with one another, chanting "Jai Kamakshi!" A large number of devotees gathered in Shiroda on Sunday afternoon to participate in the religious rituals, seeking the blessings of Shree Kamakshi. Later, they actively took part in the gulal celebrations, transcending barriers of caste and creed.

Earlier, after the com-



**ANAND UPTOWN** 

A little boy from Quitla Aldona placing a Gudi on the occasion of Gudi Padwa, the beginning of the New Year according to Hindu calendar

al Regulation Zone (CZ) reguducted site inspections when lations. These areas have two survey numbers.

eas that fall under the Coast-

the same. The villagers also As per the notice that was challenged the need for fencpublished by the panchayat ing when traditional fishing prior to the gram sabha, one activities elsewhere in the of the two areas is zoned as village operate without such barriers. They emphasised paddy fields and partly as river/nalla/pond, while the that no development should be permitted in khazan lands other area is zoned as mangrove forest and river/nalas per existing regulations and lah/pond.

He explained that as

per Article 181-A, he is required to gather detailed

reports from the Escrivaos regarding comunidades

where elections did not oc-

cur. Once these reports are

compiled, they will be for-

warded to the government

WHowever, he empha-

sized that the Adminis-

for further action.

that the area falls under a No Villagers raised 13 specific Development Zone (NDZ). Speaking to the media afobjections during the heated

Comunidades urge caution as govt moves to appoint custodians

#### **Team Herald**

MARGAO: Comunidades in South Goa have voiced concerns over the state government's move to appoint Mamlatdars or Joint Mamlatdars as custodians of comunidades where elections have not taken place. The apprehensions stem from the recently amended Article 181-A of the Code of Comunidades, which enables the government to step in under such circumstances. While the process to implement this amendment has been set in motion by South Goa's Administrator of Comunidades, Ganesh Barve, comunidade leaders are calling for a cautious approach to prevent excessive government control.

Savio Correia, President of the Margao Comunidade, underscored the need to first explore the appointment of suitable components from within the comunidade before resorting to state intervention. allows the government to

While the amendment allows the government to take over the custody of comunidades that have not held elections, this should only be a last resort. Efforts must be made to identify competent individuals willing to serve on the managing committees, as was previously done

- Savio Correia, President, Margao Comunidade

take over the custody of comunidades that have not held elections, this should only be a last resort. Efforts must be made to identify competent individuals willing to serve on the managing committees, as was previously done," said Correia. Following the amendment's introduction, the Administrator of Comuni-

dades has issued a directrator's role in this matter tive to Escrivaos, instructends with the submission ing them to compile a list of the reports, adding that of comunidade bodies that the final decision on how to proceed with these defaultfailed to elect their managing committees within ing comunidade bodies lies the time frame mandated with the government. by Article 47 of the Code. Currently, nearly onethird of the 90 comunidade Addressing media inquir-

ies, Administrator Barve bodies in South Goa have clarified that the ongoing defaulted in holding elecprocess is meant to facilitions. Of these, 20 are in While the amendment tate the amendment's im-Salcete, six in Mormugao, plementation. three in Quepem, and one

IMD predicts rainfall till Apr 3 **Team Herald** 

PANJIM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa on Sunday issued a yellow alert for the state till April 3, forecasting thunderstorm accompanied with winds gusting to 30-40 kmph at isolated places across Goa.

## Counterfeit Apple products seized in Mapusa **Team Herald**

PANJIM: The Goa Crime Branch, along with Apple Inc. officials, seized counterfeit Apple products worth approximately Rs 1 crore from three shops in Mapusa Municipal Market on March 27. The raid, led to the seizure of fake mobile accessories such as batteries, chargers, earphones, and data cables.

The accused Arjun Kumar, Karmi Bharti, and Dashrath Puri, all hailing from Rajasthan, were caught selling the counterfeit items.

ly denied all allegations of there being any wrongdoings regarding his property.

Devotees first offered pletion of the rituals, a gulal to Shree Kamakshi palki (palanquin) carry-Devi before joyfully exing Shree Kamakshi Devi

## Archbishop extends **Eid-ul-Fitr** greetings

#### **Team Herald**

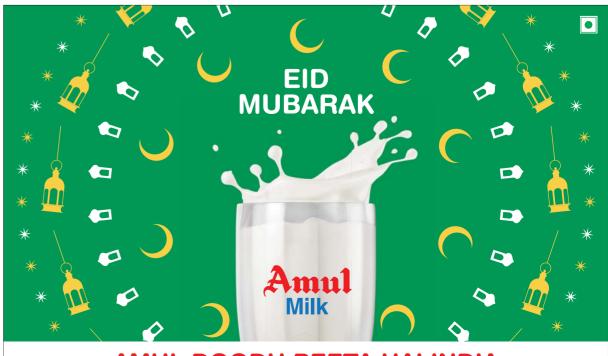
PANIIM: Archbishop Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao has extended his greetings on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In his message, the Archbishop said, "As they end their monthlong fast, our Muslim brothers and sisters are beginning today a new life of peace and of restoration of ties with family and community. In the name of the Christian community

in Goa and in my own name. I share in their iov. He said, "May this feast be an occasion for fraternal encounters between all humans, in which we can celebrate together God's goodness. Echoing

the Vatican Message for Eid-ul-Fitr, "such simple but profound moments of sharing are seeds of hope that can transform our communities and our world". Wishing all our Muslim brethren a happy Eid!"





## AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA