



**For the Ordinary Gram Sabha  
Of V.P. Chinchinim – Deussua  
25/11/2023**



**Illego Panchayat  
Kochinim - Deussua**  
celebrates  
*Independence Day*  
15th August 2023  
**Maati Mera  
Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vadam**  
with the Students of St. Mary of the Angels Convent School, Mount Mary High School, and St. Mary Higher Secondary School







# Chinchinim P'yat takes the lead, holds farmers' meet to discuss impact of Agri Policy

**Team Herald**

**MARGAO:** Expressing serious concern regarding the implications of the proposed draft agricultural policy, the village panchayat of Chinchinim-Deussa has taken the lead in raising awareness among stakeholders within the village and collecting suggestions for improvements to the policy.

On Wednesday, the Chinchinim-Deussa panchayat organised an awareness meeting centred on the draft agricultural policy. The meeting featured the participation of Goyche Fuddle Pillge Khatir (GFPK), a non-governmental organisation dedicated to addressing agricultural issues. The event aimed to elaborate on the details of the draft policy, and to engage local farmers' clubs in a discussion about its potential

The event was part of GFPK's series of awareness campaigns across the State, designed to educate and empower farmers about the Goa Agriculture Policy's vision to transform the region into an agro-tourism destination



effects on livelihoods.

Valentino Barretto, the Sarpanch of Chinchinim-Deussa Village Panchayat, informed *O Herald* that the panchayat intends to gather inputs from all stakeholders and hold a subsequent meeting. "We have a meeting planned to collate inputs from the concerned stakeholders in Chinchinim. Once we have

the inputs, we will submit our suggestions to the relevant department," he stated.

During the meeting, several speakers shed light on the draft agricultural policy and its implications. Present were Assistant Agriculture Director Amancio Fernandes, Former Curator Zilla Panchayat Member J Santano Ro-

drigues, and GFPK President Jack Mascarenhas. They emphasised the significance of embracing technology to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability in Goa.

Jack Mascarenhas highlighted examples from Saudi Arabia, demonstrating how technology and innovation enabled wheat and other crops to be exported despite scarce water and arable land. The speakers stressed that by protecting its land today, Goa can leverage technology to produce ample agricultural products, supporting the millions of tourists who visit the State annually.

Mascarenhas underscored the potential for Goa to become self-reliant in terms of food security, reducing dependency on imports from other States. He emphasised the impor-

**“** If Goa protects its land today, then its future generations will be able to use technology and produce enough agricultural products to support the 81 lakh tourists who visit the State every year

**Jack Mascarenhas,**  
President, GFPK

tance of community farming as a means of achieving sustainable agriculture, promoting social harmony among farmers and improving efficiency.

The meeting drew a substantial turnout of villagers who displayed keen interest in understanding the Agriculture Policy's implications for their livelihoods. They actively participated by asking questions and seeking clarifications on various aspects of the policy.



# Chinchinim locals oppose proposed declaration of Durga bundh as 'wetland'

## Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The locals of Chinchinim-Deussua, along with their panchayat, have continued to oppose the proposal of the State government to declare a water body in the village located at Durga, as a wetland.

This issue came up during the recent meeting held with farmers and other villagers while discussing the draft agricultural policy.

While the panch of the concerned wards Gerson Gomes has accused the authorities of being at fault in the way they 'wrongfully 'carried out the process', the village's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Chairperson Evonne Cardozo pointed out that during the stakeholder consultation with Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA), several ob-

jections were raised by the villagers and farmers. It was Gomes' assertion that the authorities just used Google images without undertaking any ground survey and that fields as well as houses located in the buffer zone would get affected.

Cardozo added that they had already informed GSWA

## ARBITRARY DECISION

that the Durga bundh is not a lake and cannot be converted to wetland.

"The panchayat, BMC and farmers all opposed the draft notification of Durga Lake as 99% of the notified land are agricultural fields and not even 1% represents the actual water body. The area was not cultivated because of cattle menace," Cardozo added.

Sarpanch Valentino Bar-

retto added that one lakh square meters has been identified as a wetland and that the proposed buffer zone and zone of influence are problematic as even the Durga Chapel stands to be affected.

He added that they are prepared to go to court even and had even done a survey using a drone where it showed that what is being notified as a wetland is just a water channel known as Durga bundh, and even shown as a water channel in the survey plans.

Barretto recalled that in the past the Water Resources Department (WRD) had built retaining walls to retain water after the kharif crops but that does not mean this area was a lake and lamented that this issue is yet to be rectified despite the numerous objections.

For commissioning of

# CCTV Surveillance

From Palmargrande Junction- Sucaldem- Assolna Bridge.

Date- 08/09/2023 Time- 10 am  
Venue- Near Nusi Maritime Academy.

Project- UNDER MPLAD SCHEME  
In Ward no.7 Palmargrande/Sucaldem.

Blessings at the hands of  
**Fr.Victor Viegas.**

In the presence of

Chief Guest- **Shri- Francisco Sardinha**  
(Lok Sabha MP South-Goa)

Guest of honours- **Engr. Cruz Silva**  
(MLA Velim Constituency)

**Shri- Julio Fernandes** (Zilla Member)

**Shri- Neeraj Aguiar** (Administrator NUSI)

**Shri- Tukaram Chavan**  
(PI Cuncolim Police Station)

**Shri- Gautam Salunke** (PI Traffic Margao)

All Panch Members

V.P Chinchinim- Deussua.



























