

## Indian ship capt, crew bag maritime award for 'bravery'

PTI, LONDON: Captain Avhilash Rawat and his crew of an oil tanker have been named among the winners of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) 2024 Award for Sea for their "extraordinary courage" shown in a Red Sea rescue mission.

Rawat and his crew were declared winners by the IMO for the "determination and endurance" demonstrated while coordinating firefighting and damage control efforts to combat a fire that broke out after an anti-ship missile reportedly fired by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels struck their vessel 'Marlin Luanda' earlier this year.

Captain Brijesh Nambiar and the crew of the Indian Navy ship INS Visakhapatnam have been conferred a Letter of Commendation.

# Truck driver booked for murder, but autopsy report shows 'murder' happened before 'corpse' was run over by truck

BASURI DESAI

**MAINA-CURTORIM:** The Maina-Curtorim police on Thursday arrested one Vasudev Hanumant Madar (59) resident of Khanapur, Karnataka, in mysterious death case of Kanhaiya Kumar Mondal at Loutolim in suspicious circumstances.

However, the Ponda police, who belatedly confirmed that the deceased was in their custody, have failed to provide CCTV footage of that period leading upto the mysterious journey that Vasudev Hanumant Madar was made to undergo in the Ponda police vehicle and dumped on the road in the Maina-Curtorim jurisdiction.

It's been 15 days since the death had occurred at Lou-

## THE VERY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OF THE PONDA POLICE

1. Dropped the deceased to Loutolim (Maina-Curtorim PS) crossing its own Police Station jurisdiction
2. First statement of suspended policemen claimed they dropped him at Borim junction (Under Ponda PS) whereas the statement was 'rectified' later and the location changes to Loutolim (after CCTV footage clearly showed the presence of the Ponda police PCR van at Loutolim)

3. The station diary at Ponda has no mention of this vehicle movement and dropping off of Vasudev Hanumant Madar, the deceased at Loutolim
4. CCTV footage is not available from June 20 till July 11 of Ponda Police Station
5. There is no mention of CCTV breakdown in the station diary as required by the department

tolim where the labourer, Mondal was dropped by the PCR van of the Ponda Police Station to Loutolim by crossing the jurisdiction of station. Crucially, the autopsy report clearly indicates the death has happened before

the deceased came under the running truck. According to the autopsy, there are multiple stab injuries on the neck, abdomen and slit on the left hand. The autopsy further specifies that the neck stabbing has cut

## QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED BY MAINA-CURTOTIM POLICE STATION

1. Why is the crucial evidence of CCTV of Ponda Police not recovered? Are they protecting their counterparts in uniform?
2. Why is the driver booked

- under murder case, if it was an accident?
3. Why is it not clear that what object had cut the windpipe and nerves at neck of the deceased?

the windpipe and damaged brain nerves on the neck.

The registration of a murder case against the truck driver is also surprising, given this remark of the SP South. Speaking to **O Herald** on Thursday, Sunita Sawant (SP South) informed that the driver Madar has confessed that something had come under the vehicle, but he didn't stop as it was a night-time. "We have already registered the death as murder, and today we

have arrested one Vasudev Hanumant Madar and taken on police remand. Further investigation is in progress under my supervision," SP Sawant said.

While most cases of this nature, including the recent BMW hit-and-run case where a 52-year-old lady was dragged under the car and killed, are registered as culpable homicide cases not amounting to murder.

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## MURDER FOR POOR TRUCK DRIVER, BUT NO MURDER FOR RICH BMW HIT-AND-RUN (ALLEGED) KILLER

Multiple cases but no murder charge against hit-and-run accused driving a BMW, Mihir Shah of Mumbai

who ran over a killed a woman. BNS (new criminal law) Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 281 (rash driving), 125B (causing grievous



hurt), 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), and 324-4 (committing mischief and thereby causing loss or damage to the amount of Rs 20,000 and more but less than Rs 1 lakh), and Sections 184 (driving dangerously), 134A (not taking the injured to hospital), 134B (not informing the police) and 187 (punishment for offences related to accident) of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Murder charge against truck driver in Goa who accidentally ran over what he felt was an object on the road. Charges against him: Section 302 of IPC (Murder)

# HC orders real-time noise monitoring systems, directs pollution control board to install noise monitoring equipment

Revoke permission of places that don't have necessary licence to operate; petitioner in sound pollution case has to accompany pollution control board during surprise raids, says High Court

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**PORVORIM:** Justices M S Karnik and Valmiki Menezes of the Bombay High Court made it clear that real-time noise monitoring systems should be in place in Goa, in order to eradicate the blatant and obvious violations of all directions issued to establishments and institutions to curb the deafening sound pollution emanating from blaring music across North Goa.



Let us start tabulating how many establishments in Anjuna have licence to operate. Let us go place by place and once we have the data we will be in a better position  
— Justice Valmiki Menezes

The bench further directed that permission of places that have no necessary licence to operate should be revoked.

"Let us start tabulating how many establishments in Anjuna have licence to operate. Let us go place by place and once we have the data, we will be in a better position," said Justice Valmiki Menezes, who was sitting along with Justice Karnik.

"Check which places are running

## Direction passed after petitioner relied on O Herald's reports on noise pollution in Court

Asks Pollution Control Board to take petitioner Alvares on its raids after the latter produced O Herald report of June 30, to counter GSPCB's claim that no sound pollution violations were detected

**PORVORIM:** The High Court has also taken cognisance of doubts over the Goa State Pollution Control Board's (GSPCB) claims that noise pollution has not been detected during their raids. It has directed that GSPCB) enlist the services of petitioner Desmond Alvares when conducting surprise raids, during the hearing of contempt petition 12/2023 and three others clubbed together on Thursday. "GSPCB has conducted surprise raids and the report mentions that there is no noise pollution taking place," submitted the advocate for GSPCB at the start of the case.

As the GSPCB counsel finished telling the Judges of the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court that surprise checks proved that there was no noise pollution in Anjuna and Vagator, petitioner Alvares provided the Justices with copies of O Herald

Justice Karnik after perusing the O Herald report: "There has to be a system in place. This cannot go on"

dated June 30, 2024, headlined: 'Anjuna cops treat HC instructions on noise pollution like outside noise'. "I have proof that noise pollution is rampant and that there are going to be parties even tonight after 10 pm," stated petitioner Alvares, whilst presenting copies of O Herald and videos documented by him as proof. "There has to be a system in place. This cannot go on," said Justice Karnik as he perused the matter presented to him. "Are you ready to join the inspection team?" Justice Karnik asked Alvares, before informing GSPCB that the latter be included in the surprise raiding team.

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with licences in Anjuna as a test case," elaborated Justice Karnik.

"It has been detailed in previous orders that real-time noise monitoring systems must be mandatorily installed where music is being played and the GSPCB must see that the equipment is operational in all places," suggested Justice Menezes.

"As per the notification of the GSPCB, the applicant is directed to

install the online Noise level Monitoring System and a display board along the periphery of the compound," was a Right To Information (RTI) response presented during the hearing.

"Once the sound is monitored on real-time basis, there will be no chances of escaping the law," added Justice Menezes.

## THE POWER OF RED



The lighting on the Atal Setu, Panjim, on Thursday, filled the skies with brilliance, which resembled the aurora. Aurora, commonly known as the northern lights (aurora borealis) or southern lights (aurora australis), is a natural light display in Earth's sky, predominantly seen in high-latitude regions (around the Arctic and Antarctic). Auroras display dynamic patterns of brilliant lights that appear as curtains, rays, spirals, or dynamic flickers covering the sky

## Taximen 'assault' GoaMiles driver outside Pernem MLA's residence

Cabbies say the clash took place over the near 50% rates charged by GoaMiles; allege a govt servant was operating as GoaMiles driver; want him suspended immediately

Team Herald

**PERNEM:** Tension rent the air as private taxi operators allegedly beat up a GoaMiles driver outside Pernem MLA Pravin Arlekar's house on Thursday.

South Goa cabbies meet Viriato, complain of business loss due to GoaMiles taxis  
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According to taxi operators, a conflict between the local taxi operators and GoaMiles drivers arose over the near 50 per cent rates charged by GoaMiles. The

## GOAMILES ATTACKED FOR CHARGING LESS AND HAVING A COUNTER

» The taxi operators alleged that GoaMiles drivers charge between Rs 600 and Rs 700

» Said that there is a notified

taxi stand such as Blue Cab at Mopa and the app-based taxis cannot function

» Claim GoaMiles has the blessings of politicians

taxi operators claimed that GoaMiles was given a counter at Mopa Airport when they should be functioning through their app.

The fight ended at the doorstep of Pernem MLA, who compromised the matter.

He said the rates should be uniform with both the taxi operators and the legislator admitting that local

Pednekar's are also employed by GoaMiles.

Alleging that a government servant was operating as a GoaMiles driver, a tourist taxi operator demanded that he should be immediately suspended or terminated by his department.

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## Min dedicates to nation Mopa link road project

Team Herald

**PERNEM:** Enhancing modern road connectivity in the State, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday dedicated to the nation a six-lane access-controlled road with elevated viaducts from Manohar International Airport to Dhargalim on national highway-166S.

He also announced that Rs 25,000 to 30,000 crore will be spent on developmental works in Goa in the next five years. He asked Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to talk to the people and solve the Rs 500 crore new Borim Bridge project related problems.

The ceremony was presided over by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in the presence of Union Minister of State Shripad Naik, Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Ministers, MLAs and senior officials.

The seven-km Mopa link project, costing Rs 1,183 crore, promises to significantly improve connectivity to Manohar International Airport, facilitating faster and hassle-free travel. This development is expected to enhance tourism activities and provide a boost to multi-modal connectivity, thereby reducing logistics costs.

Additionally, it aims to ensure smoother and safer traffic movement, leading to savings in fuel consumption and travel time. Ultimately, the project is poised to stimulate overall socio-economic growth in the region, creating a positive impact on the local economy and the quality of life for residents. Pg 3 >>

# It's a nightmare for passengers standing at bus stops in muddy puddles

Commuters hope for swift action to upgrade and maintain bus stops; call for regular maintenance of public transportation facilities in Goa

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**MARGAO:** The poor maintenance of bus stops, particularly during the rainy season, has compelled commuters, who rely on public transportation, to either stand in muddy puddles or risk getting drenched and dirty when the bus arrives.

"It's a nightmare every monsoon," says Maria Fernandes, a daily commuter from Quepem. "We're forced to either stand in muddy puddles or risk getting drenched and dirty when the bus arrives," she said.

The complaints primarily focus on the areas where

buses halt for passenger boarding, which often become muddy and waterlogged due to rain.

Sharing his experience, Ravi Naik, a college student from Margao, said, "Sometimes, invariably even if you try to avoid it, there is some dirty water splashed on our sandals and bottom portion of our pants. It can be embarrassing for us."

Adding to their woes, the bus stops are not properly maintained, offering insufficient protection from the elements. This becomes especially problematic during prolonged rain periods, leaving passengers exposed to the weather while waiting for a bus.



Rainwater stagnates in a roadside gutter at a bus stop in Panjim

"One wonders when the bus stop was last cleaned or if there are homeless people taking shelter here

at night. At times it stinks badly due to plastic waste strewn around," laments Sunita Kamat, an office-go-

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"We pay our taxes and bus fares. Is it too much to ask for a clean and safe place to wait for our buses?  
—Joseph D'Souza, senior citizen

regular maintenance of public transportation facilities in Goa, especially in preparation for and during the monsoon season. As the rains continue, the calls for action from frustrated commuters grow louder, urging local authorities to address these long-standing problems and improve the overall public transport experience in the region.

"We pay our taxes and bus fares. Is it too much to ask for a clean and safe place to wait for our buses?" questions Joseph D'Souza, a senior citizen who frequently uses public transport.

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