

Herald Cafe

The new school day: Goa's novel learning era

No more weeping before heading to school because now it's all smart boards, exciting activities, and learning real skills that matter

Elsa Angel Rose

In this era, we can gladly say that schools have changed, but all for the good. Simple infrastructure is giving way to smart boards, interactive learning apps, and a wealth of audio-visual tools. Teaching methods have shifted to become truly student-friendly. The curriculum now focuses on real-world skills and is helping kids grow in every possible way. In Goa, these changes are not just trends; they are part of a broader revolution in education, driven by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and a vision for a more inclusive, dynamic, and future-ready learning environment.

REDEFINING TEACHING METHODS

Earlier, teaching was predominantly teacher-centric, relying on textbooks and notebooks. Now, all teaching methods are student-centric. Liza Tavares, a teacher, noted, "A large number of audio-visual aids are used by teachers, including online resources, emphasis on experiential learning, and e-project presentation methods." Sudan Naik Gaonkar, another teacher, said, "Role plays, puppet shows, group teaching, and peer teaching are some of the new methods adopted for teaching. Worksheets and other activities, along with pen and paper tests." Goa has ample potential to revolutionize the education system. Sudan further elaborated, "Teachers need to be catalysts, sharp learners, and tech-savvy. Education will be more of building relationships, by transforming young children into good human beings."



CHANGES IN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

NEP 2020 is the most significant and recent change in the curriculum. It is being introduced to schools in different phases. Sharmila Fernandes, a teacher, said, "The curriculum now integrates disciplinary areas like environmental studies, financial literacy, road safety, and social service. Overall, there is a shift towards practical and skill-based learning."

Evaluation methods have also changed. A more holistic approach is in place with the Continuous, Comprehensive Evaluation framework. "As per the NEP recommendation, the Goa board is changing its assessment system. A holistic progress



card will be introduced, which will give a complete picture of the child's development. Going beyond academics, it will include the interests and talents of the child," said Sharmila.

EVOLVING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Schools are accelerating the use of digital tools for their day-to-day classes. Top-notch infrastructure such as smart boards, well-equipped labs, and libraries are standard at any school, mostly private schools though. Ian Pinto, a teacher, shared, "Many schools in Goa today have projectors and smart boards. Audio-visual aids are used to enhance understanding. Student presentations during regular class hours have become very common."

Earlier, this was not the case. Infrastructure in education has seen immense progress. "Schools in Goa earlier had very basic infrastructure, simple classrooms, chalkboards, limited furniture, and minimal resources. Now, most schools are equipped with modern infrastructure like smart classrooms, labs, and separate, well-equipped rooms for innumerable new clubs in schools," said Liza.

PARENTS PRIORITISE VALUE-BASED EDUCATION

Value-based education is the top priority for parents. Tallullah D'Silva, a parent, noted, "Today's generation has better facilities, technology, but what might be lacking is a more value-based education. Kids do not have a strong value base." Dr Priya De Sousa, another parent, said, "Teacher-student relations were better during our days. We did have a different kind of respect towards our teachers. We looked up to them as our gurus. Our teachers were very encouraging and cooperative. Today, students are more exposed to the digital world, and there is no bond developed between teachers and students." Alongside advanced infrastructure and innovative teaching methods, parents place high value on their children



building strong, trusting relationships with their teachers.

SOLID STUDENT-TEACHER BONDS

The student-teacher relationship has evolved over the years. Ian shared, "There are student counsellors who now interact with the teacher and the student. One-to-one conversations have become more common. Punishment has evolved into safe and encouraging ways to seek improvement. Students, too, are now forthright with their views and issues. They have realized that teachers, too, are open to being shown a different perspective on present realities."

There is tremendous emphasis on a teacher's role as a mentor and a facilitator rather than being a mere authority figure. "Teachers are more aware of the importance of student well-being, mental health, and emotional intelligence. Teachers communicate regularly with parents, students, and colleagues to ensure student success. Teachers are expected to be more adaptable, innovative, and responsive to changing student needs and technological advancements," said Aruna P Dessai, a retired headmistress.

FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN GOA

NEP is visibly the present and future of the education system. Sharmila said, "Goa by 2028 will have the NEP implemented across all classes from pre-school to class 12. Creative arts and sports education, often side-lined traditionally, will receive more prominence as an integral part of the curriculum." According to her, vocational training will no longer be an optional add-on but a compulsory subject. With NEP's emphasis on mother tongue, Goa might see renewed focus on Konkani and Marathi in primary education as well. "There will be a heightened focus on ensuring digital literacy. AI and robotics lessons are being introduced from class 6," she said.



'HEALING WONDERS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN GOA' SHINES LIGHT ON TRADITIONAL REMEDIES



A VISUAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND INDIA THROUGH PAULO NABAIS' LENS

SWIPE RIGHT

Eminem sues Meta over alleged copyright infringement



Eminem is taking on tech giant Meta in a massive lawsuit that could cost the company over \$109 million. The rap legend's publishing company, Eight Mile Style, filed suit accusing Meta—owner of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp of copyright infringement, according to court documents. The lawsuit claims that Meta unlawfully used 243 of Eminem's songs, citing "unauthorised storage, reproduction and exploitation" of the tracks. It points to features like reels and original audio as tools that allegedly allow users to use his music without proper licensing or credit. The Detroit rapper argues that Meta's platforms have profited from this misuse.

MrBeast is borrowing money from his mom for his wedding



Despite being one of the internet's most successful creators, MrBeast whose real name is Jimmy Donaldson, says he's currently low on cash. The 27-year-old YouTube sensation revealed he's borrowing money from his mom to cover the cost of his upcoming wedding, all because he reinvests nearly all his earnings back into his business and content. Responding to a viral post on X describing him as "the only billionaire under 30 to have not inherited his wealth," Donaldson clarified, "I personally have very little money because I reinvest everything. I think this year we'll spend around a quarter of a billion on content." He added, "Ironically I'm actually borrowing \$ from my mom to pay for my upcoming wedding lol." Donaldson proposed to author Thea Booyesen on Christmas Day 2024.



Ciara and daughter Sienna wow in matching black-and-white suits at the Black Women in Music Dinner. The stylish duo lit up the June 3 event in L.A., where Ciara was honoured for her impact in music.

RCB's big moment creates ripples across social media

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It is time for celebrations all around as Virat Kohli marked Royal Challengers Bengaluru's long-awaited IPL triumph, joined by franchise legends AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle. Kohli's emotional moments after lifting the IPL trophy, ending an 18-year wait, are going viral across social media. He shared several glimpses of the jubilant scenes, including an iconic photo of himself holding the trophy alongside his teammates in an Instagram post. "This team made the dream possible, a season I'll never ever forget. We've thoroughly enjoyed the ride over the last 2.5 months. This one is for the fans of RCB who never ever left our side in the worst of times. This one is for all the years of heartbreaks and disappointment. This is for every inch of effort left on the field playing for this team. As far as the IPL trophy is concerned—you've made me wait 18 years to be able to lift you and celebrate, my friend, but it's been absolutely worth the wait. @royalchallengers.bengaluru"



This was followed by a heartfelt tribute to his wife, actress Anushka Sharma. "I've seen it for 18 years and she's seen it for 11. Suffered the same moments since 2014 and celebrated every close win and the madness of our supporters at the Chinnaswamy. We're

both equally relieved, and since she's a Bangalore girl too, this is far more special for her. Together all the way through @anushkasharma."

Both posts quickly went viral, garnering millions of likes and reactions. Actor Allu Arjun shared video of his

son Ayaan, who was seen crying with joy and calling Kohli his role model. Ayaan is seen jumping with excitement, pouring water on his head, and shouting in celebration of RCB's victory. Allu wrote, "Ayaan getting super

CELEBS WHO ECHOED THEIR JOY

Sonu Sood
RCB!!! Mehnat ka phal meetha hota hai - finally! Virat bhai & team, Heartly congratulations . Punjab - tough luck, played with heart and character! Respect to both sides! #RCB #IPL2025

Sophie Choudry
Then and now. 18 years of supporting @RCBTweets.. Today was finally happy tears!!! #RCB #IPL2025 #IPLFinal

Ajay Devgn
Been watching and cheering for years...finally RCB has made history. Congratulations @virat.kohli and the entire team @royalchallengers.bengaluru.

Vicky Kaushal
18. To the man who's given everything to the sport...this was long due! @virat.kohli #18.

Kartik Aaryan
Finally Jersey No 18. After 18 years. Congratulations, GOAT @virat.kohli.

Hanumankind
Absolute Legend RCB LFG

emotional. #viratkohli fanboy moment. So cute, my chinni babu. #alluayaan #rcb #ipl2025"

In a surprise appearance, former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was in

the stadium to witness RCB clinch their maiden IPL title. Accompanied by his wife, Bengaluru native Akshata Murty, Sunak shared a cheerful selfie on X with the caption, "Let's go @RCBTweets."

Miles away from India, Siddharth Malya, son of former RCB owner Vijay Malya, posted an emotional video showing himself on his knees, crying in front of the screen as the final moments played out. He said, "Finally. 18 years! Finally we get to see this."

Early on, Canadian rapper, Drake had placed a jaw-dropping \$750,000 bet on RCB to win the final. The wager, made through a crypto-betting platform, carried odds of 1.75. With RCB's emphatic victory, Drake is now set to walk away with \$1.3 million, around Rs 11 crore.

Goa's very own drummer, Carlos Gonsalves who played the drums cheering for RCB for nine years was ecstatic with joy. "The win after 18 years was so great. I remember my early experiences while playing drums on the ground, it's a different atmosphere. It was always great meeting the players at the after party."