

Boats, puddles, & forgotten joys: Monsoons and the lost childhood

The Goan monsoon was once a season of simple joys, vivid memories, and childlike wonder. From paper boats to the scent of rain-soaked earth, it painted childhood with moments that linger in the heart

Sonia Desai

Once upon a time, not too long ago, Goan monsoons were marked by scenes of children in gumboots, school bags soaked despite umbrellas, and endless trails of paper boats floating down muddy little streams. Youngsters could be seen watching frogs leap across paddy fields and observing snails inch along mossy walls. Barefoot runs, mango tree climbs, and games of goti (marbles) in the soft wet soil were a routine joy. Every puddle became a playground, every drizzle a chance to dance. During this season, many Goan homes would fill with the warm, smoky aroma of hot, seasonal, and healthy food lovingly prepared by mothers, a comforting smell that greeted children as they returned from school.

In those days, the first call of the koyal heralded something magical the nearing monsoon. Parents would often say, "The birds are thirsty; they're calling for rain." This melody stirred a quiet excitement in the hearts of children. It signalled new beginnings: the reopening of schools with crisp uniforms, the fragrance of fresh notebooks, a brand-new school bag, squeaky



rain shoes, and colourful umbrellas. Yet, the real delight lay in walking to school barefoot through gushing rainwater, old notebooks folded into boats, racing them through makeshift canals.

There was magic in the mess, beauty in the puddles, and adventure in every splash. However, today's children seem to be missing out on these monsoon mischiefs. That spirit appears to be fading.

In the interest of health and safety, many parents no longer allow their children to get drenched. The familiar sound of raindrops on tin roofs has been replaced by the silent glow of mobile screens. Instead of stomping through puddles or splashing in rain, children now rush into cars and scooters, shielded from both the wetness and the wonder. The little things the scent of red roses wet with rain, the morning gleam of periwinkles along garden paths, and the evening chorus of frogs croaking from fields and drains have slowly disappeared.

The sounds that once echoed like nature's lullaby are now noticeably absent, signalling the quiet encroachment of change in the natural world and in daily life.

Parents today may succeed in keeping their children dry and safe, but in doing so, are they unknowingly depriving them of something far more valuable?

Perhaps it is time to loosen those reins to allow children to feel the splash of water, to hear the croak of a frog, and to appreciate the gentle patter of rain on leaves. It is worth reminding the younger generation that joy doesn't always come from a Wi-Fi connection that it once lived in rain-soaked afternoons and soggy paper boats.

Allowing children a little more freedom during the monsoon can do more than just entertain it can connect them deeply with nature. Puddles are not merely muddy nuisances; they are tiny ecosystems, reflections of the rainfall that replenishes fields, revives rivers, and supports biodiversity.

Simple, hands-on activities can help restore the lost charm of Goa's rainy season. Making boats from old

newspapers and racing them down flowing drains can foster creativity and kinetic understanding. Watching frogs leap through fields teaches children about local fauna and life cycles. Planting vegetable gardens during the rains reveals how the season sustains both crops and livelihoods. Collecting wildflowers such as periwinkle, hibiscus, and rain lilies nurtures appreciation for local flora and sensory beauty.

Schools and communities can contribute by organising themed 'Rain Days' where children safely explore their surroundings jumping in puddles, observing insects, or documenting rain-fed plants. Inviting village elders to share monsoon folktales and memories can revive oral traditions and connect children with Goa's rich cultural heritage. In this way, every rainy day becomes a living classroom full of curiosity, learning, and joy.

The monsoon should not be reduced to merely carrying umbrellas. It should be embraced as a season that offers the chance to truly experience the world. The joy of kicking puddles, the laughter after a sudden splash, the muddy clothes, and happy smiles — these are authentic moments of childhood no screen can replicate.

Thus, it becomes important for parents and caregivers to offer their children the gift of rain the freedom to jump, play, laugh, and get drenched. With proper precautions avoiding heavy rains or flooded areas, using rain gear, and keeping warm afterward the children can enjoy the season safely.

Goa's monsoon is more than a seasonal event. It is a call to relive the joy of childhood, one splash at a time, a call that must not go unanswered. (Sonia Desai is a librarian at SVVM's College of Commerce, Ponda)

Kampus Snippet

REGINA MUNDI SCHOOL CELEBRATES ENVIRONMENT DAY WITH PURPOSE



Regina Mundi School, Chicalim, celebrated World Environment Day with a vibrant programme centered on the global theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. The celebration began with an eco-themed welcome and the felicitation of chief guest Mahesh Kankonkar, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Mormugao. He was joined by members of the Diocesan Commission for Ecology (DCE), Chicalim Youth Farmers Club (CYFC), and Dr Bolmax Pereira, noted for integrating ecology with moral and spiritual values. Students led an impactful environment-themed assembly with a prayer, pledge, and presentation on plastic pollution. A poem

titled 'Plastic – Our Enemy' added a powerful emotional note. Valisha Gama, CYFC secretary, shared success stories of youth-led farming and eco-initiatives in a session titled 'That's What We Do', inspiring peers to take grassroots action. The DCE Almanac 2025 was launched followed by Mahesh's session on monsoon vegetable cultivation and composting sparked keen student interest in home gardening. An MoU between the school and CYFC was signed to promote ongoing green initiatives. Alisha Pereira, Eco Club Coordinator, concluded by encouraging students to be lifelong stewards of the Earth.

DHAVRUKH NGO LEADS AFFORESTATION DRIVE IN MANDREM



Dhavrukh NGO led a large-scale afforestation and plastic clean-up drive at Junaswada Hillock, Mandrem, to mark World Environment Day under the theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. In partnership with Vidya Prabodhini College, Ramakant Dattaram Khalap High School, and Harmal Panchakroshi Higher Secondary School, the initiative brought together over 150 volunteers — including students, teachers, panchayat officials, and locals. Volunteers formed a human chain to pass 500 native saplings up the rocky terrain, planting each

using traditional techniques and learning about the ecological value of native species. Alongside this, a clean-up campaign collected over 200 kg of plastic waste, revealing the damage caused by irresponsible tourism. The waste was sorted and sent for proper disposal by local authorities.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATED AT MARGAO



The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, organised a webinar under the aegis of Eco Clubs for Mission Life in observance of World Environment Day 2025. The theme was 'Ending Plastic Pollution Globally'. Students of Holy Spirit Institute, Margao participated in

the webinar from the school hall. The event aimed to raise awareness and encourage action against plastic pollution. Students were especially inspired by the Ek Ped Maa Ke Nam initiative. This initiative, already active since the 2024–25 academic year, has seen enthusiastic participation from the school community. It will continue into 2025–26, reinforcing students' commitment to a cleaner, greener planet through sustained, meaningful action.

Vidya Prabodhini College hosts 'Getting Industry Ready' programme

Vidya Prabodhini College of Commerce, Porvorim, in collaboration with Putzmeister Concrete Machines Pvt Ltd, successfully concluded the 'Getting Industry Ready' programme with a valedictory ceremony at Putzmeister's Verna facility. Designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations, the 60-hour certification course comprised 30 hours of interactive classroom sessions and 30 hours of hands-on internship experience. Final-year BCom students gained practical knowledge, soft skills, and professional exposure through expert-led



sessions by Putzmeister's internal teams. During the closing event, participants received certificates and shared their insights. Senior leaders, including Managing Director Kanjanabha Bhattacharyya and Head of HR Swapnil Gupta, addressed attendees alongside college faculty.

"CSR is not just about investing

in causes, but about giving your time and expertise to strengthen community ties," remarked Swapnil. The initiative, coordinated by assistant professor Rudresh Uttam Mhamal, exemplifies impactful collaboration between academia and industry, fostering skill development and social responsibility.

Utorda students' felicitation

The United Club of Utorda will soon felicitate students from Utorda who have achieved the highest percentages in the SSCE, HSSCE, and graduation examinations.

Venue: Eligible students are kindly requested to submit a copy of their marksheets along with a valid residence proof (ID card) as email attachments to unitedclubofutorda@gmail.com
Date: on or before June 15

Friday reading sessions for children

Friday reading sessions for children will include a session by Supriya Mendonça, who will read from Marjorie Newman's book, 'Mole and the Baby Bird', and later conduct an activity session.

Venue: The Dogears Bookshop, Mapusa
Date: June 13
Time: 4.30 pm

Herald Gaming Console

Dilbert



Garfield



Wizard of id



crossword 4870

ACROSS

1- Cruising; 6- Hatcher of 'Lois and Clark'; 10- Antitoxins; 14- Cowboy, at times; 15- Dumpster emanation; 16- Metal fastener; 17- Goodnight girl of song; 18- Mrs. Dick Tracy; 19- Comedian Johnson; 20- Mandela's org.; 21- ___ can of worms; 25- Pale purple; 24- Muslim religion; 26- Bob and Elizabeth; 27- Jazz fan; 29- Romanov rulers; 31- 'Damn Yankees' vamp; 32- Class of Indian society; 33- Teensy; 36- In spite of; 40- ___ day now...; 41- Mild oaths; 42- Sick as ___; 43- Select group; 44- Rejection of church dogma; 46- Brief appearance; 48- It comes from the heart; 49- Goes it alone; 50- Wine fruit; 52- ___ Mart; 55- Horn sound; 56- Hideaway; 57- Pursue; 59- Succulent plant; 60- Capital of Norway; 61- Spoken for; 62- IRS IDs; 63- At that point; 64- Glasses, briefly;

DOWN

1- Met highlight; 2- Ripped; 3- Forte; 4- Velvet add-on; 5- Ring of color; 6- Tribal emblem; 7- Garden spot; 8- Civil rights leader; 9- Collection agency; 10- Slowpokes; 11- Steve of country music; 12- Rudner and Moreno; 13- Sir Guinness; 22- Metal container used for frying; 23- Actress Sophia; 25- 'Saint Joan' playwright; 26- Information; 27- Arm bone; 28- Roger Rabbit, e.g.;

29- Sensation provided by buds on the tongue; 30- Concordes, e.g.; 32- FDR's fireside ___; 33- Fully alert; 34- Baseballer; 35- Like custard; 37- Runs without moving; 38- The Stooges, e.g.; 39- Slender missile; 43- Hams it up; 44- Short trip; 45- Puts up; 46- Loses heat; 47- Crazy as ___; 48- Composer Copland; 49- RR stops; 50- Deep wound; 51- Make angry; 53- Wait ___; 54- Optical device; 56- Destiny; 58- Occurrence;

sudoku 4870

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| 6 | 9 | | | | | | | | |
| | | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 7 | 1 | | 3 | | 8 | | 6 | | |

Instructions for Sudoku

9 x 9 letter: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes

solution 4869

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| 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
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