

SEPTEMBER 4-10, 2022

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

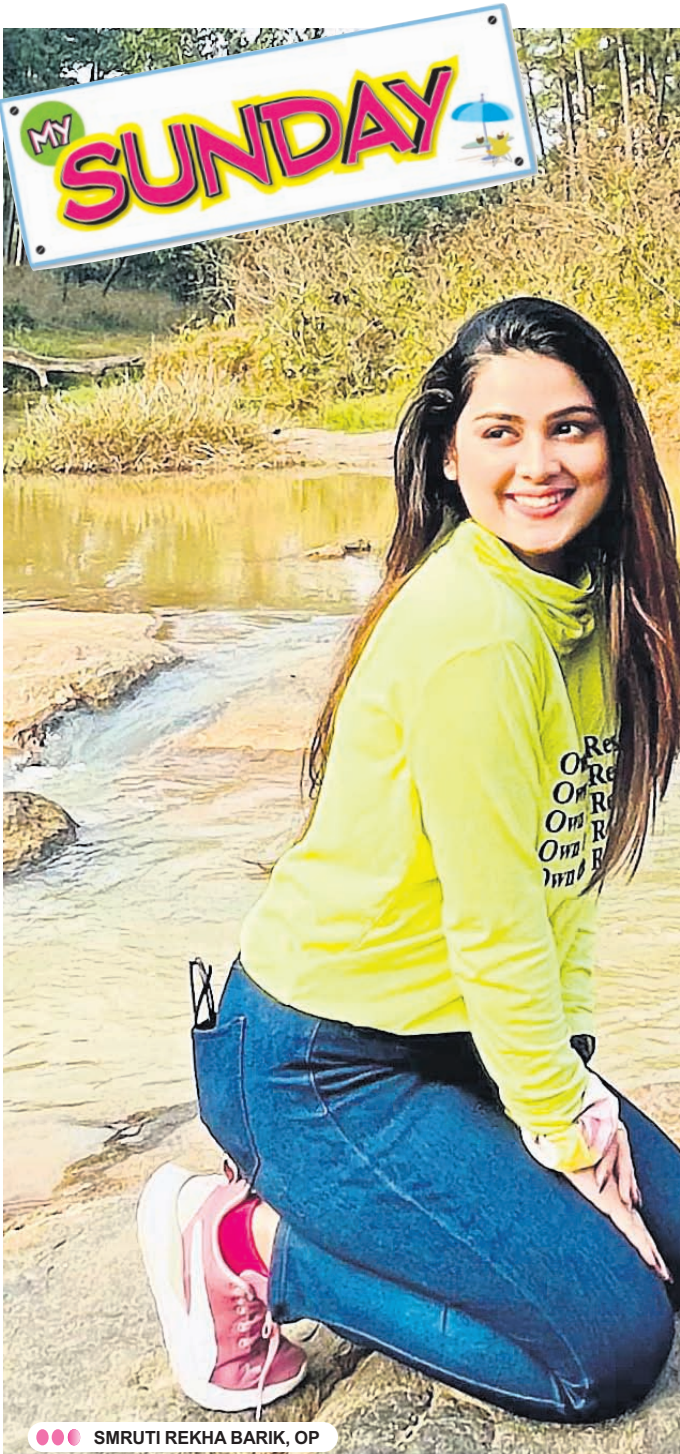


INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AWARENESS DAY - SEPTEMBER 10

Feathered Friends



P 3,4
COVER
STORY



SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Popular television actress and model Devika Arundhati made her presence felt when she was cast opposite veteran actor late Hara Patnaik in 'Mo Jejema'. Later, she became a household name appearing in TV shows like 'Neija Re Megha Mote', 'Singhadwara' and several other popular serials. Devika loves to go on an unplanned trip when she gets a break

Day to relax

I have all the time to myself and my family on Sundays, which doesn't happen on weekdays. So, I prefer staying home and resting up. On some weekends I walk along a beach gifting myself some 'me time'

Baby steps into fit world

I don't follow a fitness routine. But recently I have shifted my focus to fitness and begun working out as well.

Unplanned trips

Besides acting, I love exploring new places. So, on days off I take up some unplanned trips to make the most of the leisure. I found those getaways the best catalyst for happy hormones!

Animal lover

I have a lot of likeness towards animals; I feed whenever I spot them on the streets. Besides, I am an ardent lover of books, movies and I binge watch web and TV series .



With Jab We Met fame director Imtiaz Ali

Cuttackia at heart

I love to eat, street food in particular. Being a Cuttackia, I love to devour Dahibara Aludum and Gup Chup and Biryani when I get a break



With family

WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted.
Why did the parents not like their son's biology teacher? He had skeletons in his closet.
What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear.
What do you call a mobster who's buried in cement? A hardened criminal.



MAGIC MERITS RECOGNITION

Sir, Last week's cover story 'Carrying forward a tradition' (Aug 28) was an engrossing read on the mystical world of magic. The lucid write-up on the magical exploits of the legendary illusionist PCSorcar(Sr.) and the renowned practitioners of this craft in Odisha like Jiban Mishra, Bishnu Prasad and Jadugar Kumar will certainly help in rekindling interest in this performing art, which is gradually losing its sheen. Magic and its various genres such as sleight of hand movements, stage & optical illusions, psychological ploys, close-up magic and comedy magic always had spectators in thrall. In view of its infinite potential for mass entertainment as also for pursuing gainful vocations, there is a dire need for greater official patronage of this craft, so that practitioners of this trade get their due recognition. WB Yeats, the celebrated Irish literary icon had made this prophetic pronouncement a century earlier: "The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."

AMIT BANERJEE, New Delhi

LETTERS



A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948

Vultures are essential to human health as they eliminate toxins from the environment. But unfortunately, their numbers are dipping so alarmingly over the years that they have almost disappeared from the planet



PIC SOURCE: DN.BRITANNICA.COM

INTERNATIONAL VULTURE AWARENESS DAY - SEPTEMBER 10

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Feathered Friends

They may not be amongst the most beautiful creations of nature but the role played by them in stabilising the ecosystem is immeasurable. Yes, vulture, a bird that scavenges on carrion, is a very key component of the food web. By eliminating the toxins from the environment, they check the spread of hazardous diseases, therefore, are essential to human health.

But unfortunately, their numbers are dipping so alarmingly over the years that they are now on the brink of extinction.

A study suggests that three species of vultures that had a combined estimated population of 40 millions in South Asia in the early 1980s shrank down to something around only 19,000 in 201 , a fall by about 9 . Following this, several state governments in India set up vulture breeding centres to bring a turnaround. But with most centres in a state of defunct, it is doubtful whether they have really helped the cause. Not just in the Indian subcontinent, vultures are a threatened species worldwide, mostly due to human persecution and they feature in the red list of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In a bid to appreciate their services to the ecosystem and for their conservation, the first Saturday in September every year is observed as International Vulture Awareness Day.

Ahead of this occasion, some wildlife experts share with **SundayPOST** their thoughts on the causes of sharp decline in vulture population and what could be done for their conservation.

Let's save remnant population

Speaking about the possible reasons behind the near extinction of vultures, wildlife expert **Biswajit Mohanty** who is also the secretary, Wildlife Society of Orissa, says, "Vultures

went nearly extinct in India due to the widespread use of sodium diclofenac for veterinary purposes. This was identified in 2004 by the scientists of peregrine fund, a US based NGO that was investigating causes of vulture deaths in South Asia. Taking this forward, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) urged the central government to act urgently and ban the drug which was done in 2006. Sadly even after so many years of the ban, the drug continues to be used in the country as a pain killer for cattle."



On the role vultures play in the ecosystem, Mohanty explains, "Vultures are nature's scavengers as they eat dead cattle and other domestic animals that are thrown away. In the absence of vultures, the dead cattle are not disposed off easily and the flesh can rot for several weeks and become a breeding ground for dangerous disease-causing bacteria and viruses that can infect humans as well. Now, it has become a common sight to see rotting carcasses of cattle in our villages and dumping yards since there are no vultures to devour their flesh."

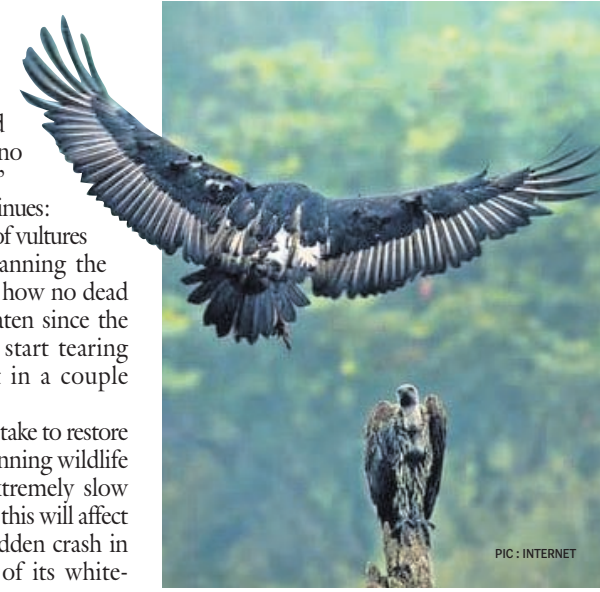
Reminiscing the past, he continues: "As a child I used to see a kettles of vultures circling high over the sky scanning the earth for food. I also recollect how no dead cow or bullocks was left uneaten since the vultures would descend and start tearing apart the flesh and finish it in a couple of hours."

Asked about how long it will take to restore their population, the award winning wildlife activist says, "Vultures are extremely slow breeders. You can imagine how this will affect the population if there is a sudden crash in numbers. India lost 99. % of its white-

rumped vulture (*gyps bengalensis*) between 1993 and 2002. Indian vulture (*gyps indicus*) and the slender-billed vulture (*gyps tenuirostris*) population has also declined by 9 .4 . Such a catastrophic decline of a population of any species is enough to drive it to extinction. It will take several decades for us to get back a healthy vulture population."

Do breeding centers really help the cause? "21 years ago the first vulture breeding centre was set up at Pinjore by the Haryana state forest department in collaboration with the BNHS. But this is a very slow way of augmenting the vulture population in India. It takes years for an egg to hatch and the juvenile to grow up into an adult. It is a very costly process as considerable manpower has to be engaged to take care of the captive vultures," informs Mohanty.

Instead, he suggests saving the remnants of the population which still exist in parts of the country.



PIC : INTERNET

“The most important steps are to save their nesting sites; to completely stop the use of diclofenac for veterinary purposes which still continues to be used illegally across the country despite being banned 16 years ago,” concludes Mohanty.

Killer of deadly pathogens



Wildlife tour leader and photographer Durgesh Singh holds diclofenac responsible for sudden disappearance of some widely spread species of vultures from the planet. “Vultures are responsible for efficient scavenging of the dead animals. By feeding on the carcass they also take care of the disposal of pathogens (rabies, anthrax etc) that can be dangerous for humans.

Compared to that dogs, crows, rats etc which also scavenge, can still spread the pathogens to the humans. Also quite a few species were untouched by diclofenac. Some Vulture population are still doing well especially in the mountains,” says Singh.

Sounding optimistic, he adds, “Some steps like captive breeding of vultures in zoos and banning use of diclofenac have improved the situation. But as vultures are slow breeders, significant revival has not been seen yet. Removal of invasive species will give vultures more space to scavenge.”

To check the decline in the population of vultures, breeding centers have been established in Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Junagarh and Hyderabad.

Is it a step in the right direction? To this he says, “Yes, they are helping in a small way to stabilise the existing population. Setting up more such centers will boost the vul-

ture population across the country for sure.”

Breeding centres - reasons to be hopeful

Aditya Panda is a professional wildlife expedition leader who leads high end yet sustainable travel groups on natural history and photography expeditions across India's finest wildlife landscapes. He also devotes as much time as possible to conservation matters. No wonder, he has been appointed honorary wildlife warden of Angul district.

He says, “It has been established that the collapse of India's vulture populations through the 1990s was the result of the abuse of a drug called di-

clofenac in dairy cattle.

This is likely to have caused mass poisoning of vultures who fed on the carcass of these cattle. Subsequently the drug was banned from veterinary use but its misuse continues.”

On the efficacy of breeding centres Panda says, “There has been limited success with vulture breeding centres. Vultures are slow breeders and will take time to recover their population. Though the odds



are against us, there is reason to be hopeful. An increasing number of vulture populations have stabilised and it is going up. Though it will take a long time for them to recover to their former abundance, we need to be optimistic.”

5 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW



- Vultures can eat up to 20 percent of their own body weight in one sitting.
- They are equipped with a digestive system that contains special acids that will dissolve anthrax, botulism, and cholera bacteria.
- They do not go after healthy prey, but will attack wounded and dying animals.
- A group of vultures is called a venue, and when circling the air, a group of vultures is called a kettle.
- When threatened, vultures vomit to lighten their body weight, so they can escape more easily into flight.



PIC : DURGESH SINGH

MYTHS

- Vultures are ugly.
- They are disgusting.
- They kill livestock and pets, and should be shot and killed to protect domesticated animals.
- They are only good if they're dead.

FACTS

- Vultures are beautiful and colourful.
- They are actually some of the most versatile and intelligent birds on the planet.
- They rarely, if ever, attack healthy livestock or pets.
- They are essential to human health as they literally save lives and protect humans from disease

SOURCE: CRITTERFACTS.COM



COVER PIC COURTESY: CDN.BRITANNICA.COM

PIC : DURGESH SINGH

Whether it was Arjuna, the legendary archer of epic Mahabharata or Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar, one of the greatest cricketers of this generation or all those who scripted phenomenal success in life, all were handheld by their gurus before they achieved greatness



TEACHERS' DAY

Celebrating Mentors

5 FAMOUS GURUS OF HINDU MYTHOLOGY

Dronacharya
Guru Dronacharya is the most popular teacher of Indian mythology. He was a sage with a mastery of advanced military arts, including the divine weapons or Astras. He was appointed as the royal preceptor (coach) to the Kauravas and Pandavas

Parshuram
Lord Parshuram is known in Indian mythology as the sixth avatar of Lord Vishnu and the destroyer of Kshatriyas. He only gave training of warfare to Brahmanas. He is said to have cursed Karna, the great warrior and eldest son of Kunti after he found out that Karna was not a Brahmin

Vishwamitra
Vishwamitra was the guru of Lord Rama and his brother Lakshman. He taught them the Devastras – the knowledge and use of divine weapons in war. He is also said to be responsible for the marriage of Sita with Rama.

Valmiki
Sage Valmiki has a very prominent place in Indian mythology as he is said to be the author of great Indian epic Ramayana. Besides, he was also the teacher of Lord Ram's sons Lav and Kush.

Shukracharya
Rishi Shukracharya was the worshipper of Lord Shiva and guru of Asuras. He was the son of Rishi Bhrigu and an expert in Yog Vidya. Asuras are said to have attacked Lord Indra time and again under the tutelage of guru Shukracharya. In Hindu mythology, it is said that he possessed the knowledge of the 'Mrut Sanjeevani' that makes alive the dead.

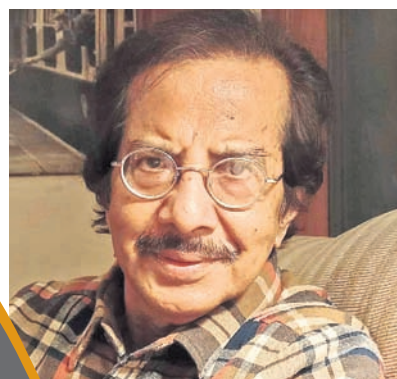
It hasn't been too long when the teachers would evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their students. But the scenario has changed. Now, the students fill up the survey sheets to rate the performance of their teachers. There are no dearths of instances, when the teachers, who have turned puppets in the hands of the management and parents, lose their jobs.

No matter when and how this has become a part of our education system; the age-old 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' has been the corner stone of Indian society.

Whether it is Arjuna, the legendary archer of epic Mahabharata, or Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar, considered the greatest cricketer of this generation or all those who achieved greatness in life, they couldn't have scripted history had they not been handheld by their gurus.

Teachers are integral part of one's larger identity

Sharing his perspective of identity of students gifted by the teachers, eminent poet and lyricist Devdas Chhotray says,



"Everybody aspires to have a Guru or a hand holding mentor of significance, in the process of growing up. I had

quite a few. Even Ekalavya, the tribal warrior boy of Mahabharata, acquired a guru by sculpting the statue of Dronacharya, when he was denied access to him, and practiced before the statue, his self-learned archery."

is an Indian Odia author, an administrator and an academician. He was the first vice-chancellor of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha. Chhotray is known for his collaboration with Akshaya Mohanty, a pioneer in modern Oriya music from the 1960s until his death in 2002, as Mohanty's principal songwriter.

This is an extraordinary relationship which eventually becomes an integral part of one's larger identity, almost next to parentage, adds the former vice-chancellor of Ravenshaw University.

"Teachers and books are mostly the ones who first bring in the sunshine of clarity to the cloudy and opaque days of youthful ignorance," said the principal songwriter of music icon Akshaya Mohanty from the 1960s until his death in 2002.

'Gurus now demand to hear from us'

Namrata Mohanty, a B High-grade artist of All India Radio recalls, "Going back in time when we were in schools, every teacher seemed more special on this day. There would be some functions planned by us and to keep the significance going, we would participate in debates and other creative activities."

Mohanty laments that the present generation

has gotten into giving more materialistic things to the teachers on this day.

She owes whatever she has achieved in life, to all her teachers.

"Special mention to the musical gurus, I am what I am today because of you.



Your impact has gotten into me and impacted me in all great ways to bring me where I am," she adds.

Namrata, who visits her gurus every year on Teachers' Day, says, "Sometimes they insist to hear from us, sometimes we demand to learn from them."

PNN

Kriti would never date Tiger, Kartik, Aditya

Actor Kriti Sanon is the latest celeb to spill the beans about her dating life on *Koffee With Karan*.

The actress, who has been linked to several stars over the past months, including Kartik Aaryan, revealed in her latest chat which hunks fit the bill.

When grilled about her love life, Kriti, who was on the show with her *Heropanti* co-star Tiger Shroff, revealed that she would never date the hunk. The surprising reason for the same, she said, "He flips too much,

because he does summersaults and flips." Shutting down rumours of something brewing between her and Kartik, she said that she knows the actor too well and would not date him for the same reason.

The actress also revealed that she will not date Aditya Roy Kapur because everyone wants them to, and also because their music sensibilities do not match. AGENCIES



Nora joins Beyoncé, Travis on France's 'Top Music Influencers'

Actress Nora Fatehi joined in with Beyoncé and Travis Scott on the list of *Top Music Influencers on Instagram* in France. With the worldwide success of her recent single *Dirty Little Secret*, the international icon cemented her position as one of the most influential and popular artists not just on home turf but overseas as well. This feat makes her the first star from Indian cinema to join the ranks of the most celebrated artists in the world.

Nora has consistently represented cultures from

around the world. *Dirty Little Secret* is another one of her endeavors that does exactly that, while reflecting her dynamic versatility and sensibility as an artiste. The track, sung, produced and directed by Fatehi went on to become the 2022 Summer Anthem across the globe.

As France rounded up its list of leading music artists on Instagram, Nora Fatehi came fourth only to Beyoncé who occupied the numero uno spot and Travis Scott who was a close second. *Squid Game* actress Jung Ho-Yeon took the third spot.



ANTHOLOGY MOVIE TRUSHNA TO HIT SCREENS OCTOBER 12



Odia anthology movie *Trushna* will have its theatrical release October 12. Presented by Amara Studios and Naveen Bhandari and directed by Suresh Patnaik, the plot of the film is about five people – an item dancer, a writer, an aspiring actor, a yesteryear star and journalist - from Odia media and entertainment industry and their struggles.

The ensemble cast of the movie includes Samaresh Routray, Lipsa Mishra, Pradyumna Lenka, Suryamayee Mahapatra, Shailendra Samantaray, Jyoti Prakash Panda, Abhishek Giri, Vignesh Panda, Ratan Meher, Dhira Mallick, Rabi Mishra, Jeevan Panda, Rishi Patnaik, Krishna Priya, Bishwajit Panda

and others. Abhijit Majumdar scores the music while Nirmal Nayak and Kumarshree Sahoo have written the lyrics.

Swayam Padhi, Gourav Anand, Kuldeep, Ishwari and Rupak have lent voice to the songs which are now available at Amara Muzik YouTube channel.

Swaraj, Bhoomika team up for Tike Tike Achinha Tu

Director Tapas Saragharia and popular screen pair Bhoomika Dash and Swaraj Barik have joined hands again for a new romantic movie titled *Tike Tike Achinha Tu*. Produced by Amara Studios and ANA Productions, this will be the third collaboration of Tapas, Bhoomika and Swaraj.

The movie also stars Pradyumna Lenka, KK, Bighneswar Panda and Soma Bhowmick while Prem Anand scores the music.

"We had plans for the third sequel of *Tu Mo Love Story* but due to some unavoidable circumstances, we opted for this venture. The shooting has already begun and the makers are planning to release it this Dussehra," said the director.



Supernatural suspense thriller Chumki to be released Sept 16



Makers of *Chumki-Seta Panire Budiba Nahinki* starring Shreyan Nayak and Upasana Mohanty released a teaser recently.

The lead pair of this suspense thriller faces some supernatural element during a road trip and how they negotiate the situation forms the crux of the film, said director Girish Mohanty who is also the choreographer of the movie.

The movie is produced by Upahar Bhadra is the producer of the movie while Bibhuti Bushan Gadanayak has scored the music. The story, screenplay and lyrics were written by Bhardwaj Panda.

Swaraj Barik, Bhoomika Das and Anubha Sourya, and Sayal have guest appearances in the movie. *Chumki* is set for a September 16 release.

Madonna gets candid about her obsession with sex



Singer Madonna is 'obsessed' with sex. The 64-year-old pop icon, who was previously married to Sean Penn in the 1980s and then to Guy Ritchie from 2000 until 2008, also admitted in a new video that she "regrets" both of her marriages. When asked about her current favourite obsession, she said, "Sex. And (I regret) getting married. Both times."

The Like a Prayer songstress was also asked about what keeps her going in life, her "greatest guilty pleasure", and what she believes is the reason behind her successful career. To all of those questions, she responded: "Sex." Elsewhere in the video, which sees the Queen of Pop straddle a motorcycle and drive round in a golf buggy. Madonna was asked to choose one fashion to wear for the rest of her life. She said, "My 24-carat gold vibrator necklace."

Meanwhile, Madonna, who collaborated with fellow pop superstar Britney Spears on the 2003 single *Me Against the Music*, said that she is desperate to work with the ...*Baby One More Time* hitmaker once again.

CO-LIVING IS A REAL ESTATE TERM THAT HAS BEEN RECENTLY POPULARISED BY HOUSING STARTUPS OFFERING AFFORDABLE ACCOMODATION IN HOMES SHARED BY FIVE OR MORE NON-RELATED ADULT ROOMMATES



Choosing co-living over house rentals

For college students and young professionals, especially in big cities, co-living has become the new “it” thing. Although these locations may be the centre of business activity, moving somewhere new to start over can be difficult due to the high cost of real estate and other complications. Co-living offers many advantages, which is why it is now one of the most sought-after choices for young professionals in the real estate sector. Here’re a few distinctive features that set co-living apart from rented properties.

Being social beyond social media

While social media was designed to bring people closer, it fosters an environment of reclusion, often driving us away from social interaction. This problem often persists in a greater font in rental spaces where a person is living by themselves, or with just one or two roommates who they have never met before. Co-living spaces are designed in a way where they foster community engagement, and often offer programs and activities that bring all the residents of a property together to partake in recreational activities. This helps those who are moving to a new city for work, and who don’t already have a social support system in the city.

Lower deposits, not expectations

Often, one of the biggest hindrances when moving to a new city and renting out a place is the sky-high prices of real estate. Co-Living properties always have lowered rates because of the shared model, and often boasts of prices that are 1/10th that of renting out single properties or rooms. This makes co-living the perfect option for those who don’t want to

start saving right from their first job in the new city. Along with the base prices being cheaper, co-living allows young professionals to live closer to their workplaces. Often, residential properties near corporate parks have higher rental rates because of the increased demand making it unviable for those who are just starting out their careers. Choosing co-living spaces over rental spaces makes it more viable to stay closer to the workplace, thereby also reducing the overall cost of commute that professionals have to endure.

No more chores

Moving to a new city often comes with a renewed sense of independence, especially for those moving away from home for the first time. Living independently means you often have to do household chores, which may especially be tough for those who have grown up depending on their family for everyday tasks. When living in a rental property, it becomes imperative for the resident to take care of cooking, laundry, cleaning and additional chores to maintain their living space and ensure things are in order. However, coming

home after a tiring day of work to only have a long list of chores in front of you is never ideal, which is why co-living comes in to save the day. Co-living properties come with a wide range of amenities and services such as housekeeping services, meal options, laundry services, among others, to ensure that your living space is well maintained.

Live according to your lifestyle

Many people move to a new city to have the freedom to live life on their own terms. However, rental properties often come with restrictions. Even in metro cities, a lot of rental spaces refuse to offer their spaces to people belonging to a particular class, caste, gender or sexual orientation. While this level of discrimination has diminished over the past few years, it is still prevalent, and can sometimes pose additional safety risks to those belonging to specific communities. Many co-living providers like Isthara Co-Living are open to everyone, regardless of

their background, and even offer special properties to those belonging to minority communities. Isthara’s Annanya Trans Inn is just one of the many properties specifically designed to offer safe and high quality housing solutions to those belonging to the transgender community, thereby giving them a safe space that they can call home.

Leave the renter conflicts at the door

Being given a choice of renting out a space doesn’t always mean there won’t be additional hurdles that come along. Those renting out spaces often fall into conflicts with their landlords, roommates or even their neighbours regarding a wide range of concerns, and with co-living, these conflicts can be brought down to a bare minimum. Most co-living brands offer an easy redressal mechanism through which their residents can easily get their issues resolved in a systematic and streamlined manner, thereby reducing the probability of conflicts. Co-living properties also have property managers and resolution teams that look after issues that arise.

While relocating to a new location might present a number of obstacles, one of them shouldn’t be trying to find a place that is suitable for your needs. Co-living is quickly replacing traditional housing options for millennials all over the world, and it is only anticipated to increase as the idea of shared living spaces spreads. Co-living is the new way of life for young professionals and will undoubtedly permeate both college and professional life in the years to come. AGENCIES





Bijayini

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PHOTO : KUNIAK SHARAT, OP