

Golden Nest: A commune for seniors

MH News Service

Golden Nest is an exclusive commune, the first of its kind, for senior citizens with provision of all amenities suited to the need, temperament and requirement of elderly persons, that will be set up in Kalyani Nagar shortly.

"A lot of forethought and planning has gone into this commune designed specially for senior citizens", says M H Dalal, director and CEO of 'Golden Nest' and a leading architect and interior designer of the city.

Golden Nest has been visualised with a view "to create a protective environment, where senior citizens can live in tranquility. To create an infrastructure, which specifically caters to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the elder residents", informed R Vasudevan, Chairman and Managing Director of Vascon Engineers Pvt Ltd (VASCON), a reputed development and construction company with more than 30 prestigious projects under its belt.

"We want this project to serve as a model project, where elderly couples will be able to enjoy status of 'masters' of their own homes" Dalal said adding "In short, we want them to lead a life of honour and dignity, a life which they have earned and deserve, in the twilight years of their lives".

The commune will have a combination of studio, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments. It will be located in Kalyani Nagar, one of the posh locations within the proximity of the city, so that the residents can keep in touch with their present set of friends, relatives, even while maintaining their own independent social lifestyle.

The project 'Golden Nest' is part of the ongoing development scheme "Marigold", in Kalyani Nagar, jointly promoted by Vascon Engineers and Manisha Constructions. The Golden Nest commune has been designed in such a manner that the design, structures, landscapes, living spaces, in sum total create a protective environment to help senior citizens live in tranquility in a lifestyle comparable to that

enjoyed by them in their prime past, informs Dalal.

The commune will have apartments, furniture, toilets and all other provisions which would be senior citizen-friendly. All apartments would also offer an option for partially or totally furnished flats for immediate use, Vasudevan added.

The residents could also look forward to hassle free maintenance, repairs, payment of bills, housekeeping, security and laundry service etc as a part of overall fringe benefits which also includes cable TV, Computer connectivity, grip rails, anti-skid tiles, full handicap accessibility, emergency alert system, home theatre, recreation and meditation room, library, a walking track, physiotherapy room, guest accommodation and maintenance and management of all utilities.

It would also have a tie up with caterers for door delivery services, including facilities for in-house cafeteria with a central kitchen. The commune will also have dedicated stand-by ambulance and doctors on call, apart from fire detection and fire fighting systems and two elevators.

The apartments can be booked by intending residents above the age of 55 years. They can also be rented out but only to senior citizens. The developer will also be launching a unique lifetime occupancy scheme where a senior citizen can take probable occupation of the flat on basis of actuarial working of life expectancy as devised by insurance companies.

Though the project is one of its kind, yet it carries high risk with itself. It is a question mark whether parents would like to stay away from their families in a separate apartment altogether. The concept might be a hit in the US or other countries but India is quintessentially family driven society. Family bonds are above everything and parents do not mind looking after their grandchildren or doing the small household chores as it is their home after all. How far is 'Golden Nest' accepted among the old people of Pune is to be seen but the project is a bold and big step forward.