

LIVING IN STYLE

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The city has been witnessing a rise in the number of service apartments. These are basically accommodations provided for people who are frequent travellers or for someone who is looking for a comfortable private place to stay while on tour.

Such apartments are usually given out on rent for a stipulated time period. This concept, which was virtually unheard of until a few years ago has caught on and gained rapid popularity.

Pune has become home to established and upcoming service apartments. The high end ones are mainly concentrated in the area of Kalyani Nagar and Koregaon Park and the lower priced accommodations are found in the Camp Area.

These service apartments vary from general one room or two room flats that are leased out to companies etc to exclusive facilities only for the senior citizens that can be purchased. They differ from ordinary flats in the fact that they can be leased out for a particular time period and come with all needed amenities already in place.

One of the most well known among these service apartments is the 'Golden Suites' in Kalyani Nagar which is an initiative of Vascon and opened in 2005. Out of the three blocks that are there, one has been taken over by the Royal Or-



From high end service apartments concentrated in and around Kalyani Nagar and Koregaon Park to lower priced accommodations in the Camp Area, Pune has it all

chid group of hotels. This facility is already being used by industry giants like Kingfisher airlines who have booked 22 of these flats on a yearly basis for their staff who are flying in and out of the city.

The Golden Nest, a part of Golden Suites in Kalyani Nagar is one such facility which has been made

available exclusively for senior citizens. Terms and conditions include a mandatory 55 yrs and above and it caters to the upper segment. The prices range from anywhere between Rs/- 30,00,000 for a studio apartment to Rs/- 75,00,000 for a 2 BHK. The apartments are spacious and well lit surrounded by lawns where the residents can walk about etc.

Among the many facilities provided are an on call 24 hrs Ambulance, tie up with a leading hospital where they are provided concession on all their medical bills, a physiotherapy clinic, a physician, a library which has been stocked by books by the residents itself, a screening room equipped with a home theatre, free house keeping and a mess. Other than that, the residents have access to a huge common sitting area which is comfortably furnished with couches and has a

stock of magazines and a music system.

The people residing here are highly cosmopolitan and secular and are all well educated. They celebrate all festivals with equal fervor and also participate in community activities together. They even have a few clubs that they have started as well.

The building has been provided with excellent security. A fire alarm has been installed in every flat which is directly connected to the main security cell. Every bathroom has also been provided with an alarm chord and also a bedside switch for the benefit of the seniors. Besides this, the entire building is interconnected with intercoms including the elevators which make the place a safe haven.

The residents of these apartments have almost the same reasons for being there. They all seek security and company their own age.

For most, it is a question of convenience. But mostly they come here for independence and a comfortable lifestyle in their old age and this place has proved to be the answer for many.



PICS: RITAMBHARA SHARMA