

More comforts in elderly-friendly houses

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Pune: While new housing societies exclusively meant for senior citizens have come up in the city, developers focusing on elderly-friendly houses are huddling for regulation of this housing segment resulting in better amenities and comfort.

City-based developer Paranjape Schemes Construction Limited, as part of its senior citizens initiative—Athashri Foundation, will be completing two new projects for the elderly at Baner and Hinjewadi in October this year. This will add almost 1,000 units to the already existing 15,000 senior citizen families living in Paranjape developed properties in the city.

According to Shashank Paranjape, MD, Paranjape Schemes, the Athashri initiative will also be launched



Shashank Paranjape



Mansoor Dalal

in five more cities across the country in the next three to six months.

“The scheme will be taken to cities like Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Chennai, Baroda and Hyderabad. Our other initiative, ASTHA—Athashri Continuing Care Units, single room residential units have proved to be a perfect solution for senior citizens who are physically unfit but do not need hospitalisation. By giving them comfort, ASTHA has also made their life meaningful by respecting their dignity,” said Paranjape.

Athashri project at Baner with 200 units and Hinjewadi with 150 units will have one and two BHK flats for senior citizens. Like the earlier Athashri projects, both new projects will provide amenities such as open space, 24 hours ambulance and special security, compact apartments. The entire Athashri campus is wheelchair-friendly and promotes community living such as community hall and library, said Paranjape.

Pune-headquartered non-profit, Association of Seniors Living India (ASLI), formed earlier this year, is trying to bring all senior citizen-friendly developers under one umbrella body. It has formulated a draft of model building by-laws which can make senior citizens housing more comfortable than the conventional apartments.

According to Mansoor Dalal, Founder and Chair-

man, ASLI, by-laws which include 15 per cent area reserved for gardens have been put forward for consultations.

“I am in favour of a real estate regulator which can oversee provisions for senior citizen housing. We are a self-regulated sector right now and need to shorten the learning curve to expedite the senior citizen housing concept,” said Dalal, who is a trustee at the Golden Nest Trust which started the exclusive senior citizens residential project in Kalyani Nagar in 2001.

ASLI will be holding a national conclave next year. Apart from Pune-based Paranjape Schemes and Golden Nest, there are Delhi-based developers looking to have a wider presence, said Dalal. ASLI model building by-laws for senior citizen projects available on its website www.asli.org.in.