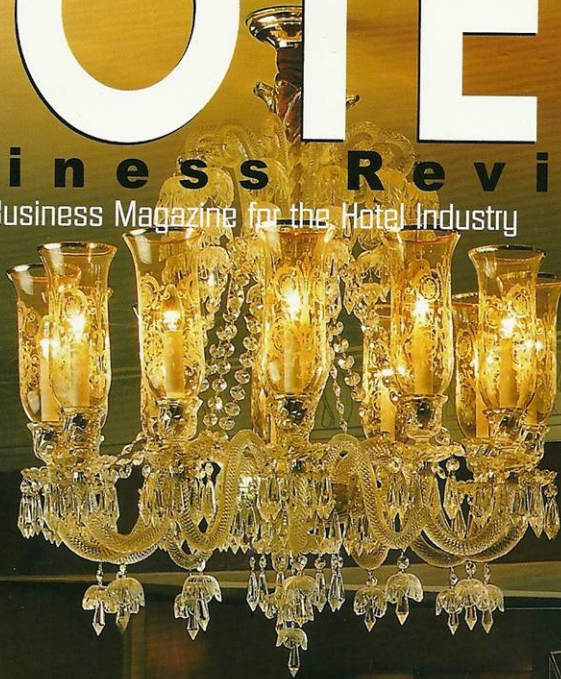


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Small is 'in'



Designing Tranquility

By Swarnendu Biswas

When you visit Goa, don't forget to include Hollant beach in your itinerary.

Along with Anjuna, Baga, Colva, Benaulim, Bogmalo, Dona Paula, Calangute and Miramar beaches, Hollant beach should also be covered in your beach tour if you want to make that tour a holistic and inclusive one. Hollant beach, located just 2 km from away from the quiet and busy Bogmalo beach and just 7 km from the Vasco city, affords views of wonderful sunrise. The beach is situated within a shallow bay that gently slopes towards the sea. The waters here are safe for swimming. An environment of pristine charm and solitude prevails through the beach, which the people accustomed to busy city life are likely to highly appreciate.

If you want to stay for a day or two to let the languid beauty of Hollant beach seep into your senses, then just 700 metres away from Hollant beach you can find a resort of tranquility where you can retreat amidst serenity

and luxury.

Welcome to Best Western Devasthali, a condo resort located just 2 km from the Dabolim Airport, nestled in a coconut grove and surrounded by hills. Spread across eight acres of orchards, the property offers a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea from the top. This retreat of tranquility, away from the din of the backpackers can also be termed as 'The Valley of Gods' or Devasthali. The property has been designed by a Delhi-based firm - Grid Plc. The company's innovative architectural vision is led by its dynamic Managing Director, Rajiv Khanna; an alumni of IIT Kharagpur.

Here the serviced apartments in studio, 1 BHK and 2 BHK configurations are sold to investors and then run like a resort. Here it deserves a mention that the luxury resort is affiliated to Best Western International. Best Western is the world's largest hotel chain, with its presence spread across 80 countries of

the globe. The resort is promoted by Tantra Designs Pvt. Ltd., one of the leading fashion houses of north India. Best Western International - the brand partner of Tantra in project Devasthali - plays its role in design and marketing of the resort.

The peaceful ambience of the luxury resort makes Devasthali a perfect haven for the tourists and travellers seeking to rejuvenate their senses in the midst of nature, while discovering the myriad charms of Goa in their unadulterated form. The property can be construed as a slice of Europe in a rustic Goan setting.

Spacious rooms with well appointed interiors, along with beautifully landscaped gardens and a fabulous open air restaurant hold the promise of a truly memorable vacation at this Indian beach paradise. Designed in Spanish-modern style, the resort perfectly gels into the green ecology of the area. The lush tropical flora and fauna of the land have been left untouched by this real estate



development.

Eco-Friendly Hospitality

The materials used for the construction of this resort are localised and eco-friendly to quite an extent.

The roofing systems and the external wood used for rafters are also eco-friendly.

While designing the resort,

international design trends in hospitality properties have been introduced. Minimalistic aesthetics, functional and comfortable sleeping systems, energy efficient lighting are some of the essential characteristics of the design elements of the property.

The energy savvy and electronically efficient property can be described as a reflection of

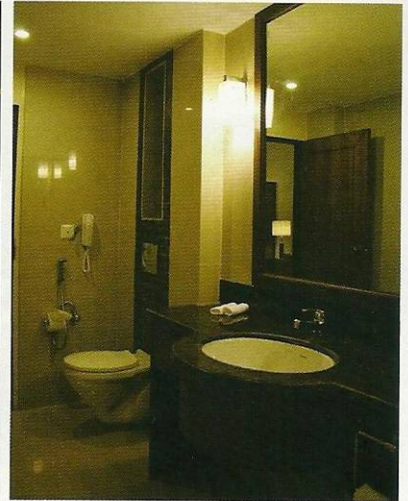
sustainable hospitality, without compromising on the luxury. The design of the resort welcomes the soft natural light in abundance, and the effect is further enhanced by the energy efficient lighting systems. The interiors extend from spatial outsides to the lavish and cosy insides. The lounges are made of ceramic vitrified tiles for giving a cool feel and the wooden floors endow the sleeping areas with added dosage of comfort. "The cultural ethos of the location has been perfectly blended within the design of the property, to the delight of the discerning travellers or tourists," elaborated Rajiv Khanna.

The site of this project also has a near perfect compliance to the principles of *Vaastu*. "The mini banana grove at the resort stands testimony to our endeavour to retain the nature and building around it, thereby enhancing the *Vaastu* element and the eco-friendly spirit of Devasthali," informed Khanna.

Where Luxury is Nature

A fresh water spring in the resort gives birth to a natural stream that meanders through the villas. Every room has the

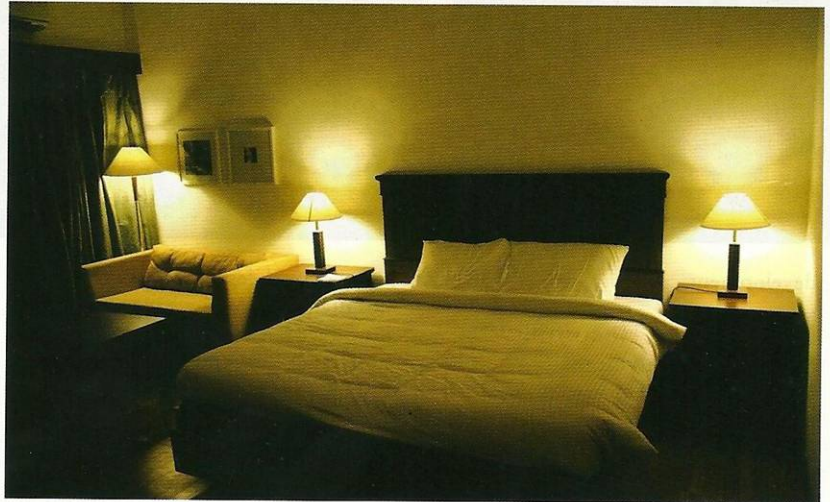




stream and the hill view and enjoys the solitude and privacy, thereby providing you with an idyllic resort experience.

All rooms of the resort are air-conditioned and feature free high speed Wi-Fi Internet, and LCD TVs with premium satellite channels. You can enjoy drinks from the mini-bar or indulge in the delectable cuisines from the resort's 24-hour room service menu. The bathrooms are luxurious with contemporary design and have a comprehensive range of modern amenities including soak-in bathtubs.

Each of the cottages of the 36 serviced apartment resort is handcrafted, and the entire upholstery is created by Ratna Jain — the creative force behind Tantra. Here it deserves a mention that Tantra Designs Pvt. Ltd. was set up by the first generation



entrepreneur couple, Ratna and Manish Jain.

The resort's dining options are reflected through MJ's Fine Dining and the Pool-Side Bar. At MJ's Fine Dining, one can get a nice selection of Indian and international cuisines, along with an array of refreshing drinks. Whether you opt for casual snacks or formal fine dining, MJ's Fine Dining can be a wonderful gastronomic option to indulge in. The 50 seater MJ's is airy and open, and overlooks the stream with blooming lotus and tiny fish, thereby catering to your visual senses too. It has a rustic appeal with partly thatched roof and has local wood and tiled floor that provides cool comfort.

The bar by the swimming pool serves a wonderful assortment of wines, spirits, cocktails and liqueurs,

while you lounge on one of the several comfortable chairs or take a dip in the pool. The best wines from France, Portugal and India, and an assortment of quality spirits along with an unmatched range of cocktails from across the world adorns the well-stocked bar. "The external landscape and poolside are abundantly verdant, keeping one close to nature in its essence," pointed out Khanna.

Devasthali also offers a wide variety of water sports and sightseeing activities. Scuba diving, dolphin spotting, cycling trips and other adventure options are on offer at the resort. Guests can enjoy a scenic walk through paddy fields to the Hollant Beach or head to the games room. But nothing stops you from doing both. Free shuttle service and entry is also provided to the nearby casino. ■



Rajiv Khanna—MD, Grid Plc