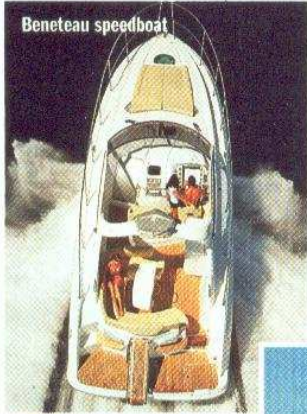


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Sail on, Mumbai!

Ashish Virmani has a micro experience in sailing and cheers on for it as a leisure sport



One morning early this month, taking advantage of the bright summer sunshine and an invitation from Aquasail, the newly established sailing company, I boarded a speedboat off the Gateway of India that sped off along the Mumbai waters to Mandwa. We disembarked at Mandwa, on a powerboat dinghy that took us from just off the shore to Mandwa beach. I changed into shorts and beach wear and was introduced to Shakeel Kudrolli, international sailing medallist and chairman of Aquasail who's attempting to entrench sailing as a leisure activity in this megacity.

There on the golden beach which is but a half hour's cruise from Mumbai, I saw anchored nearly a dozen sailing boats all of which

belonged to Aquasail. Present were Beneteau powerboats, Hobie catamarans, Neilbryde windsurfers and fun boats among others. There was a contingent of sailors, many of them national and international sailing champions who for the next two hours or so, took us through the experience of sailing on each of the boats by turn. Now if that's not a high powered contingent then what is?

Sailing is increasingly making its presence felt in Mumbai with more and more international players like Ferretti, Majesty and Beneteau on the Indian scene. At Mumbai's most recent boat show some weeks back the stalls were bursting at the seams with product information and literature, not to mention the yachts which were parked right outside the stalls! It is perhaps inevitable that in a rising global economy where the demand for leisure options is increasing, sailing and yachting are increasingly becoming accessible to a larger public.

Kudrolli, who's recently

commenced sailing programs for corporates and groups in Mumbai says, "This season, so far nearly 150 people have experienced sailing on our program Saliency, which acquaints first time sailors with sailboats. We have 11 boats in our program and everyone from families to corporates and alumni groups have come on board our boats with our sailors at the helm."

Eminent Yacht Broking and Sailing Companies in Mumbai

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Marine Solutions
Aquasail

International Yacht Brands available in Mumbai

Ferretti
Azimut
Benetti
Jeanneau
Princess Yachts
Sunseeker
Majesty
Beneteau

● Continued on Page 2