



Shakeel Kudrolli,
Managing Director, Aquasail

What is a marina?

A marina is a sheltered harbour where boats and yachts are kept in the water and where services geared to the needs of recreational boating are found. The marina may have re-fueling, washing and repair facilities, ship chandlers, stores and restaurants. Slipways are used to get a trailered boat into the water. Marinas may offer a boat hoist well, a type of travelling crane, instead of a more space-wasteful slipway, operated by service center personnel. Marinas may offer out-of-water-storage, which is useful during out of season and important in latitudes susceptible to freezing waters. Marinas may include ground facilities such as parking lots for vehicles and boat trailers.

Boats are moored either on buoys, or on fixed or floating walkways that are tied to an anchoring piling by a roller or ring mechanism (pontoon). A marina differs drastically from a port. By constructing a marina one is just building pontoons. Moreover, compared to a port, it is totally eco-friendly. Moreover, the infrastructure requirement for a marina is totally different than what is needed for a port.

importance of water infrastructure, which will give additional revenue as well as generate employment." According to him, the growth of the leisure boating industry in India depends on the development of the much-needed infrastructure. Though, India is blessed with a vast coastline and immense potential for constructing marinas, people in India are not much aware of this concept. So, the role of the government comes into action by creating awareness among the masses.

One way to develop the industry is



through the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Says Shakeel, "If there is involvement of port trusts in constructing marinas, India will have a lot more marinas. On the other hand, if large private players, like real estate developers or construction majors, come along and with the support of the government construct the marinas, it will certainly create a lot of revenue to the government as well as for the private players. In the end, it will help states to boost their tourism business by attracting people across the nation."

At present, Aquasail is offering two new solutions to the Indian market – Aquatime Fractional Sailing, which is an exciting new way to own and sail your dream, and Beneteau sailing yacht and powerboat, at a fraction of the cost. With an online scheduler and high quality maintenance and servicing, Aquatime is a one-of-a-kind option for those looking for an effective way to own their own yacht and powerboat.

The other new solution for 2008 is in the space of corporate sailing. SAILIENCE, short for Sailing Experience, aims to introduce corporate India to the exciting sport of sailing. With a range of programmes and event solutions encompassing sailing dinghies and large sailing yachts combined with over a decade of national and international experience in this space, SAILIENCE is all set to take the countries high fliers afloat. ●

RAHUL KAMAT

