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# Fishing for a yacht?

Here's looking at Mumbai's booming sport, sailing and four of the most luxurious yachts from the boating world

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**I**f you were under the impression that sailing was elitist, think again. Although retaining its element of class, the sea sport is spreading its wings in Mumbai. Along with clubs offering sailing memberships, sailing companies are also concentrating on the leisure aspect of sailing.

The Royal Bombay Yacht Club at Apollo Bunder offers membership that costs around Rs 5 lakh with privileges of using club facilities. They're encouraging youngsters by having a membership for those below the age of 35 priced from Rs 25-75,000

— for this you would have to be supported by two of the club's members, after which your application will go through two stages: the sailing committee and the balloting committee. Some of the yachts available here are the 18-foot Lightning and the 22-foot Seabird, both can accommodate 3+ persons. To make sure you keep your membership, you would have to be active at least 15 times a season. The Colaba Sailing Club, a part of the Royal Boat Club charges about Rs 800-1,000 a year for membership.

More and more people are approaching sailing with fun in mind. Aquasail is coming into prominence by "bringing in the culture of boating" says Shakeel Kudrolli, founder and director of the company. Shakeel wants to familiarise young minds with the sea, in an initiative known as Splash.

He is an avid sailor himself and has been teaching youngsters to sail for a long time. The aim is to offer people to learn to sail with the best of equipments: "safe, quick and durable" as he describes it. How are the boats here different from the others? Say it capsizes, there's a special drainage system that won't allow the water to enter. Secondly, the boom is made higher than usual so as to not create

complications with the head coming in contact with it.

Aquasail is currently associated with various clubs, and will soon approach schools so that interested kids can learn sailing in a "structured way beginning from the 6th or 7th standard, because academic pressure is not too high then," explains Shakeel. And to get more acquainted with a sailboat before actually getting on to the sea, remote controlled boats that move with the wind are used for practice. You can also first try your hand in a pool. "My philosophy is to get more people into sailing, but in a fun way. The growth of boating only happens with leisure," ends Shakeel.

Keen to know more about boating in general? Bring up your anchors. The Samira Mumbai International Boat Show takes place from February 29 to March 2 at Bandra Kurla Complex and Gateway of India. Yachts featured here will be Azimut, Ferretti, Larson and many more.



Funboat of the Splash programme



Shakeel Kudrolli in action

**A FAMILY THAT BOATS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER...**



Nayan Parekh with his wife Purvi and their children Dhaniti and Dhanay are members of the club that allows them to rent a yacht

NAYAN Parekh, a member of Club Privada, was new to the world of boats when studying in the US. "A few of my friends had boats there. I had gone with them a few times." The interest grew from there and even thought Parekh says he's still learning about sailing. "This is just the beginning. I've sailed around in Mumbai, to Mandwa and so forth." He plans on getting more proficient with sailing.

"It's very nice to go sailing with the family, they enjoy sailing. In fact, my wife and I celebrated our anniversary on the boat and took our kids along with us."

## CLUB PRIVADA

You don't need to buy a yacht to experience the luxury of it. India's first membership yacht plan allows you to rent a boat if you're not keen on purchasing the boat itself. A full crew and access to all the facilities on the boat — it's basically like renting a yacht. The club provides these two boats: Azimut 50 and Larson Cabrio 350, ideal for a family vacation. The Privada Gold membership is from Rs 6 to 60 lakh, whereas the Platinum membership is from Rs 10 to 30 lakh.

