

After South Mumbai & Bandra, Borivali to have floatel in 2019

After Gateway of India and Bandra, soon Mumbaikars can enjoy having food in mid-water at the Borivali creek in Gorai. The Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) is currently looking for a private operator to start a floating restaurant at the Borivali creek in Gorai. After launching floatels in the southern part of the city and in Bandra, the board aims to promote coastal tourism further with this initiative.

At present, there are two operational floating restaurants near the Bandra-Worli Sea Link at Bandra jetty, and two more close to the Gateway of India. These projects were taken up by the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT).

Out of the three floatels at the Bandra jetty, one capsized in the last week of May. The owners have not yet proposed to restart it. Only a week ago, the MMB launched water sports at Vasai's Rajodi beach. It also appointed a private operator for jet skiing. The MMB finalised various activities in its Maharashtra Water Sports Policy, 2015, to promote coastal tourism. It drafted a host of models to regulate coastal water activities.

The MMB recently appointed a private operator to start ferry services between the Gateway of India and Nerul in Navi Mumbai via the Ferry Wharf in Mazgaon by mid-2019. In this regard, the private operator is already trying to procure a hovercraft — a kind of water vessel from Russian manufacturers that will carry around 100 passengers. Hovercrafts are used in areas where the water level is not quite high and that witness frequent low tides.