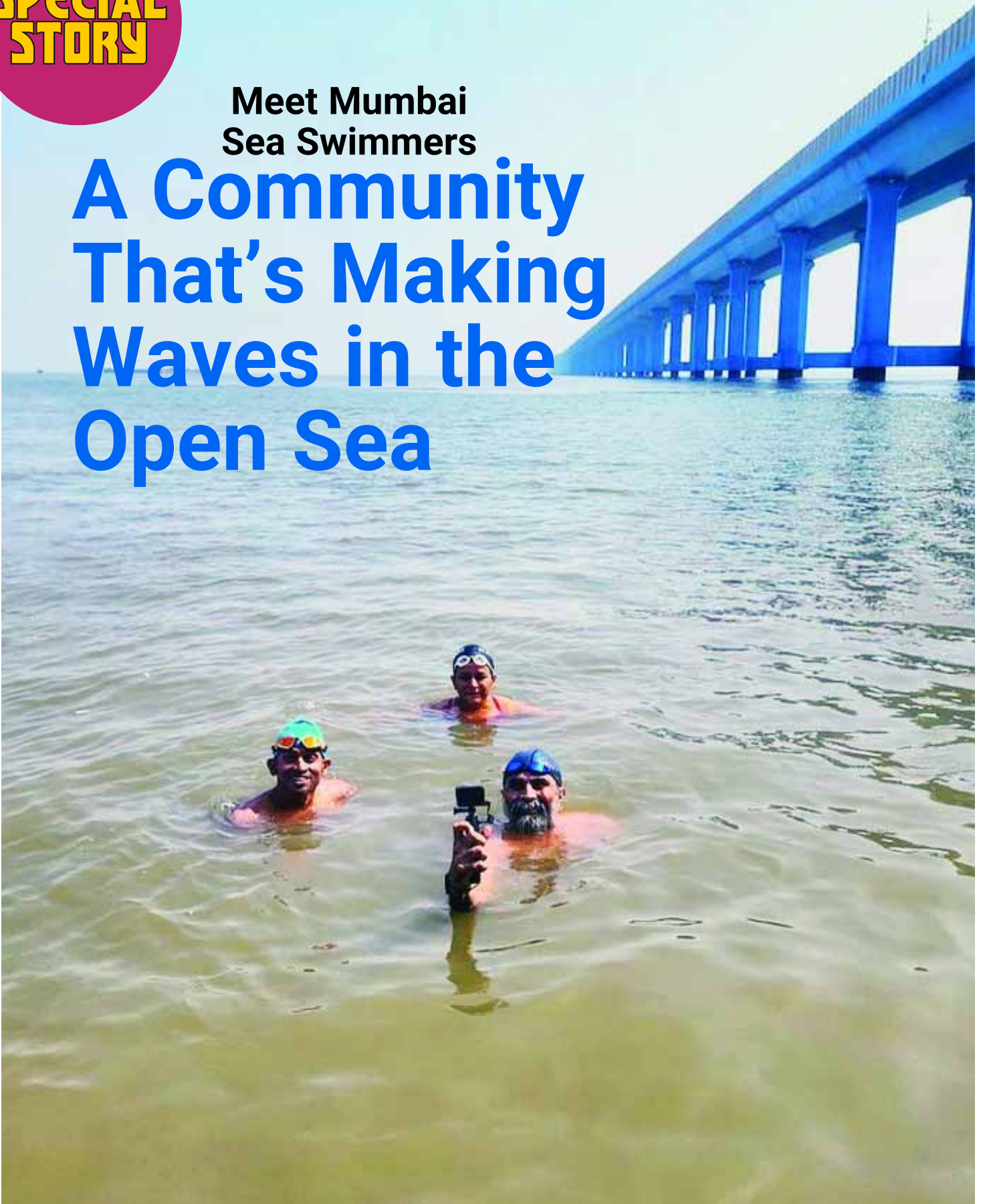


**SPECIAL
STORY**

Meet Mumbai
Sea Swimmers

A Community That's Making Waves in the Open Sea





Did you know there's a thriving community of over 3,000 passionate swimmers in Mumbai who've swapped pools for the wild, open sea? They're called the Mumbai Sea Swimmers (MSS), and they've built something extraordinary—taking to the waves like fish to water and inspiring others to do the same

Kavita Thawani

3 minute read

This inspiring journey began in 2015 with a conversation between avid swimmers Minesh Babla and Mehul Ved in Goa. Mehul, training for the Ironman, dreamed of open-sea swims, and Minesh knew just how to make it happen, rallying some local fishermen to guide their adventure. Back in Mumbai, the two took the plunge, quite literally, at Khar Danda. With fishing boats positioned as markers, they swam from Khar to Juhu and back, tasting the freedom that only open water could offer. ✓



And that was the spark! Minesh, Mehul, and his wife Susrita, who also is an ace swimmer, started swimming in the sea regularly.

What started as three enthusiasts grew with every dip in the sea, drawing more people eager to experience the waves. As posts about their swims spread, others joined, and soon the collective became the Mumbai Sea Swimmers—a name that now represents a community where age is just a number, and the sea belongs to everyone.

During the lockdown, when pools closed, MSS transformed from an

MSS Ultra Swim 2024: Gateway of India to Atal Setu

In the wee hours on 17th November, the MSS Ultra Swim brings together 31 swimmers for an iconic 15 kms open-sea challenge from Gateway of India to Atal Setu.

Organized by MSS in partnership with Rupali Repale Swimming Academy (RRSA) and recognized by Maharashtra State Amateur Aquatic Association (MSAAA), this event is a first-of-its-kind!

Solo Swimmers: Four brave individuals, including Sursrita, will swim 15 kms solo from start to finish.

Relay Teams: Each team (max. 4 members) rotates swimmers every 45 minutes, with each group closely followed by support boats.

Safety First: Each swimmer, solo or team, has an individual boat for support, with 12 boats in total.

Wide Participation: Swimmers are coming from Bangalore, Pune, Nashik, and even one who's flying in from the U.S. for this!

Inclusivity: The lineup includes two Paralympic swimmers competing alongside all others, without any aid!

Ultra Recce: To 'test the waters' for the upcoming event, on 3rd November, a three person recce team from MSS, including Minesh Babla, Deniska Ann D'silva and Ritam Sinha, swam the route of 15 kms in 4 hours.



ad-hoc group into a supportive community. They welcomed everyone who longed for the open waters, giving aqua lovers a space to stay connected and motivated. Today, their community spans members well into their 50s and 60s, with Minesh himself leading by example at 55, every bit as enthusiastic as when it all began.

Beyond the Usual Splash: MSS's Innovative Events

Mumbai Sea Swimmers have redefined swimming for Mumbaikars with thrilling events that push the limits of endurance. Here's what makes MSS more than a typical swim club:

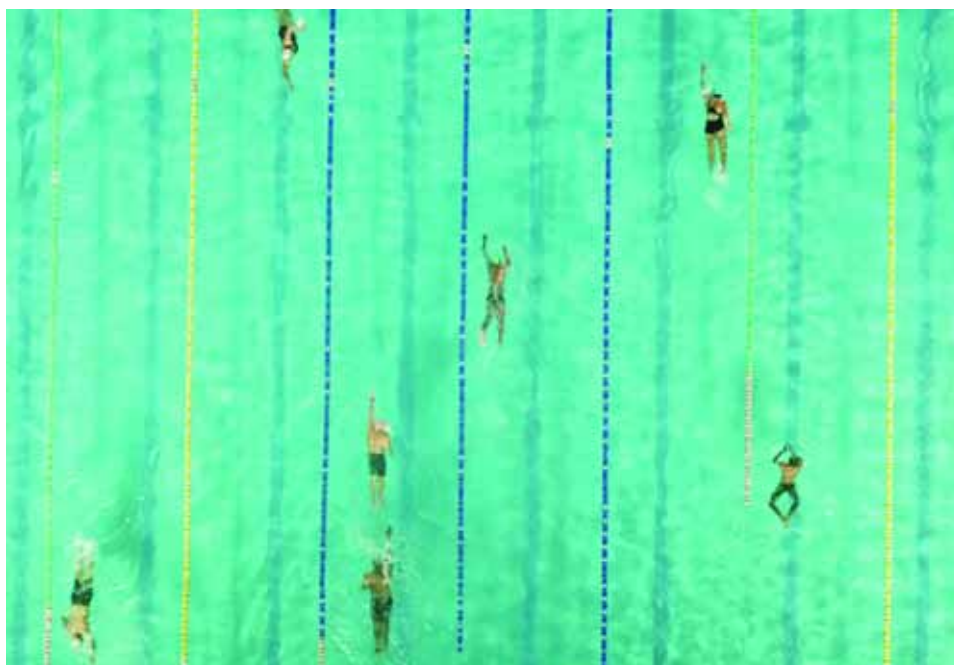
MSS Pool Swimathon:

This one-hour trial swim at Khar Gym is a true endurance test, attracting over 100 swimmers yearly who push themselves to go the distance.

Dusk to Dawn: A pool ✓



Mehul, Susrita
and Minesh,
co-founders
of MSS





event unlike any other in India, Dusk to Dawn challenges swimmers to test their limits with 12-hour day-and-night swims. From solo to relay formats, this annual event draws in over 130 adventurers, swimming from dusk till dawn.

MSS Swimathon & MSS Open Sea Events: For those ready to step out of their comfort zone, MSS organizes open-sea swimathons. These events give swimmers of all levels the chance to face the challenge of Mumbai's open waters, and the comfort of company, breaking the confines of the pool.

MSS Ultra Swim: The MSS Ultra Swims are a



step up, with point-to-point swims set in beautiful, challenging locations. From team relays to solo swims, this event was the first of its kind in India, bringing teams together with impeccable safety and support systems.

A Community of Passionate Swimmers

For MSS members, it's not just about fitness; it's

about embracing the sea, exploring the freedom of open water, and the joy of doing it together. As Minesh puts it, "We believe in the simple joys of swimming outdoors, the thrill of exploring the sea, and the camaraderie that comes with it."

Sounds exciting? Stay tuned for detailed event highlights, in Mumbaiyaa's next edition on 21st November. 