



## **Kotak Wheelchair Marathon 2018 in Chennai witnesses participation of over 1500 People**

- *The marathon raised funds to make 100 quality wheelchairs available to the underprivileged*
- *Funds raised will also be used towards providing 50 quality wheelchairs to patients with spinal cord injury in flood ravaged Kerala*

**Chennai, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018:** The third edition of the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon held today received an encouraging response with enthusiastic participation from people, with and without disability, across India. The first-of-its-kind marathon organised by the disabled witnessed the participation of over 1500 people in three categories – the Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10 km run and 3 km run/walk.

Organised by The Spinal Foundation in partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank, the marathon aims to raise awareness about the importance of quality wheelchairs in empowering the lives of those affected by spinal cord injury. The funds raised will be used towards providing 100 quality wheelchairs to underprivileged wheelchair users.

In addition, funds will also be used to help 50 patients with spinal cord injury in flood-hit Kerala receive quality wheelchairs.

Justin Jesudas, Race Director, International Paralympic Swimmer & Rifle Shooter said, “As the participation by the non-disabled rises significantly in this year’s marathon, the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon is fostering a greater degree of sensitisation in society and showcasing the importance of equal opportunity as a necessary basic step towards Diversity & Inclusion of persons with disability into the mainstream. And our first Run Where You Are programme has expanded the footprint of the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon across the world. We hope to enlarge this footprint in the 2019 edition slated for the first Sunday of September next year”.

V Swaminathan, Senior Executive Vice President, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, “It is inspiring to see the overwhelming response that the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon has received. This marathon stands for inclusion, as well as for the strength and determination to overcome adversities, no matter how challenging, that one faces in life.”

Participants ran alongside Major D P Singh, India’s first Blade Runner and Justin Jesudas, International Paralympic Swimmer & Rifle Shooter. Shailesh Kumar, India’s fastest half marathoner on a wheelchair joined at the finish point having completed 42.195 km (full marathon) in 3 hours 47 minutes as part of an IIT Madras research-project run. This is the first full marathon in India by a wheelchair user.

The event saw participation from over 300 people with disability from Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Nepal. In addition, under the Run Where You Are programme, runners participated from many places in India, the USA, Thailand, Australia and the United Kingdom.

### **About The Spinal Foundation**



The Spinal Foundation is the Pan-India Self-Help Group for people with spinal cord injury with the vision to enhance their quality of life (Helpline 1800 425 1210 and [www.thespinalfoundation.in](http://www.thespinalfoundation.in)).

#### **About Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited**

Established in 1985, Kotak Mahindra Group is one of India's leading financial services conglomerates. In February 2003, Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. (KMFL), the Group's flagship company, received banking license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), becoming the first non-banking finance company in India to convert into a bank - Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

Effective April 1, 2015, ING Vysya Bank Ltd. merged with Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. As on June 30, 2018, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, has a national footprint of 1,391 branches and 2,231 ATMs. The Bank has four Strategic Business Units – Consumer Banking, Corporate Banking, Commercial Banking and Treasury, which cater to retail and corporate customers across urban and rural India.

For more information, please visit the company's website at <http://www.kotak.com/>

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