

Media Release

The Third Edition of the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon in Chennai to be held on September 2, 2018

The Kotak Wheelchair Marathon encourages participation from people with and without disabilities and aims to sensitise people about the importance of quality wheelchairs in empowering lives

Chennai, 21st August, 2018: The Spinal Foundation in partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) announced the third edition of the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon to be held on Sunday, 2nd September, 2018 in Chennai. With a tremendous response from both disabled and able-bodied runners in the past two editions, the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon is India's first and only wheelchair marathon organised by persons with disability. The marathon encourages participation from everyone and seeks to create an inclusive society, where people with disability can lead life to the fullest.

The Kotak Wheelchair Marathon aims to raise awareness about the importance of quality wheelchairs towards empowering lives. Through the marathon, the organisers are raising funds to make quality wheelchairs available to underprivileged disabled runners.

Justin Jesudas, International Paralympic Swimmer & Rifle Shooter said, "The Kotak Wheelchair Marathon is all about breaking down the unconscious bias prevalent in society against people with disabilities. This marathon is a platform to showcase the abilities of people with disabilities and change the way society perceives us. It is our endeavour to integrate people with disabilities back into the community and promote overall well-being."

V Swaminathan, Senior Executive Vice President, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "We are committed to promoting an inclusive society where everyone, irrespective of their differences, is treated equally and given equal opportunities. The Kotak Wheelchair Marathon showcases the strength and determination of people to overcome acute challenges and encourages people with and without disabilities to come together to spread the message of inclusiveness."

This year's event will feature a Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10 km run and a 3 km run / walk. It will start and finish at Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, which steps into its 125th year. People with and without disabilities are encouraged to participate in the event together.

Participants at Kotak Wheelchair Marathon 2018 will have the opportunity to run alongside:

- Shailesh Kumar, India's fastest half marathoner on a wheelchair
- Major D P Singh, India's first Blade Runner
- Kamal Kanta & Prashanta Nayak, who completed a 12-hour run covering 88.2 km on Independence Day
- Justin Jesudas, International Paralympic Swimmer & Rifle Shooter

There are three ways in which one can participate in the Kotak Wheelchair Marathon 2018:

- Register & run at the event in Chennai
- Sponsor a runner
- Register & run where you are

Participants can register at www.thespinalfoundation.in. The participation fee for the event is Rs. 750/-. The entire surplus generated from the event will go towards providing good quality mobility devices for people paralysed due to spinal cord injury.

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).

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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