

# DECCAN Chronicle

## Very disappointing season: Uthappa

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BENGALURU, JAN. 19

Robin Uthappa amassed runs in the Ranji Trophy season but it didn't prove enough for Karnataka as the knocks came a bit late for the former champions, who crashed out in the league stage.

Karnataka failed to make the knockouts of all the three formats – Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare and the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20.

The Kodava accrued 759 runs in eight Ranji matches. But Uthappa was candid enough to state the season had been very disappointing.

With star sportspersons Robin Uthappa and Pankaj Advani as race ambassadors, the Jain Group of Institutions unveiled their inaugural My Country Run, a multi-category run to be held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on January 31.

With former India batsman Uthappa and world champion cueist Advani being the alumni, Jain University's initia-



"For me and the team, it has been very disappointing to have not qualified to the knockouts in any of the formats. It has come as a rude shock and we are taking it on the chin.

For the next season, we will come back stronger," said the 30-year-old Uthappa.

Getting an unusual in-season break, Uthappa is working on fitness as well

as skills. "This in-season break has given me time to focus on my skills, fitness and trying to get stronger ahead of the season. Right now, I'm working on certain aspects of my batting and trying to improvise," he added.

Meanwhile, Uthappa hasn't given up hopes of making a comeback to the Indian team. "I have done decently well in the domestic (circuit). If I'm recalled, I hope get a proper run of matches so that I can justify my selection. I want to contribute to the side and score consistently. I need to show confidence to the selectors," he asserted.

### My Country Run on Jan. 31

running, among the youth.

"It is our initiative to encourage youngsters to take up athletics. All the proceeds from the event will be utilised to the development of athletes coming from financially poor background," said Chenraj Roychand, chairman of JGI. The Run will be organised

"The athletes who participated at the Mumbai Marathon are staying back and extending their visa. We are expecting six African marathoners and many from other cities too are signing up. Also, there are lot of runners from Armed forces too," said Gul Mohamed Akbar, the race director.

including seven Olympians from their institutions, JGI will begin a talent hunt to unearth athletes from rural areas of the country.

"We have always built a platform to encourage sports and we will continue to do it. We will promote talented youngsters who want to participate at international events and funds from these events will be utilised for that