

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

Jain University launches 'My Country Run' gala

Thousands Expected To Take Part In 5K & 10K Runs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The fitness enthusiasts in the City can add one more event to their workout calendar as the JGI-Jain University announced the launch of the My Country Run 2016 on Tuesday. The event will see thousands of runners loop through the picturesque Cubbon Park as they compete in the 5k and 10k runs on January 31.

RUNNING

The Sree Kanteerava stadium will be the hub as the races - beginning from 4pm - start and finish at the venue. "We have had an enthusiastic response so far as over 3,000 people have already registered for the race," Race Director Gul Mohammed Akbar told TOI.

Akbar said the first prize of Rs 1 lakh has attracted many elite runners, even from Ethiopia and Kenya. "Some of them have stayed back after competing in the Mumbai marathon," he said. Athletes who have completed 10k races in less than 60 minutes will

compete in the elite category.

JGI Group chairman Chenraj Roychand said the proceeds generated from the race would go towards providing foreign exposure to 30-35 athletes from BPL families who are being looked after by the Jain Group. "After looking at the savings the trust will put in an equal amount to create a corpus that will be used to help these kids," he said.

Ace cricketer Robin Uthappa and star cueist Pankaj Advani are the brand ambassadors of the race. The JGI chairman said the college has supported not only cricket but other sports too, supporting over 300 international sportspersons including seven Olympians. "I've told Gul to get to rural schools and identify talent who can be nurtured into top-class athletes. If we put in the hard work for the next 10-15 years we can get more gold medals at the Olympics," Roychand added.

UV Shankar, Director of Sports, Jain University, said the race would be an annual event. "The idea is to get everyone (men, women and kids) on one platform." For online registrations, log on to www.mycountry.run.