



PRESS RELEASE

Sportsfete Marathon Report

Sportsfete NIT Tiruchirappalli organized its flagship event, the Sportsfete Marathon sponsored by Glucon-D, within the college premises, on Wednesday evening.

Sportsfete is the annual inter-departmental sports fest of NIT Trichy, wherein sports persons representing their departments compete against each other for points in the respective sporting events. These points are then tallied from events spanning over 3 days, and then the winners and the runners-up are declared. This year, Sportsfete will be held from 8th September to 10th September, comprising over 15 sport categories and 14 departments vying for the coveted trophy.

Held three days prior to Sportsfete is the marathon, which draws a massive crowd every year. Almost all the students in the campus participate in this event, winning which is crucial for the departments as well. This year, it was no different, as the number of registrations zoomed past 1400 within hours of opening the same, closing at close to 2000. Anticipation was clearly visible on the thousands of zealous faces assembled at the venue. The excitement surrounding the marathon had set in much earlier though, with large banners of Sportsfete put up at various places across the campus.

As the sun started to set, spirits reached their peak as thousands thronged to the start line of the marathon. Amidst the tension, several students could be seen hopping and chattering gleefully, their classmates standing by to cheer them up as well. Soon, after a few words of encouragement and urging the participants to not give up, the race was flagged off by the Director, Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas amidst jolly cheers from the crowd and Mr AV Karthikeyan, First Batch Alumnus 1969 she also participated in the event.

The Men's marathon was kicked off first, with the Women's marathon following suit a few minutes later, and the Director participating in the latter as well. The former involved 3 laps of a circuit around the campus which added up to approximately 10 kilometers. Meanwhile, the distance to be covered for women was around 6 kilometers.

The participants were provided with water at regular intervals of the circuits to help keep them hydrated. Creative methods to dispose the used bottles were also employed to avoid littering. Organizers were stationed at key places on the route, who oversaw the smooth unfolding of the event, and attended to the runners in case of any issues faced. First-aid boxes and ambulances were also on stand-by. Traffic was diverted away from the route to avoid mishaps. The organizers also rallied the participants along with spirited words, and the spectators cheered for them from the side. Even though dusk was closing in, every lap saw the dawn of hope and perseverance on the runners' faces.

Within almost half-an-hour of flagging off the event, the first person to cross the finish line, Sam from Civil Engineering department, appeared into view, and he clocked in at a stupefying 37 minutes and 11 seconds, the second and third close at his heels. The rest barged in as well, with nearly 400 people making it to the finish line in under an impressive time of 55 minutes. The Director also crossed the finish line, eliciting cheers from the crowd. Water was immediately dispatched to the finishers, and a few were taken to the side and checked thoroughly for signs of any complication.

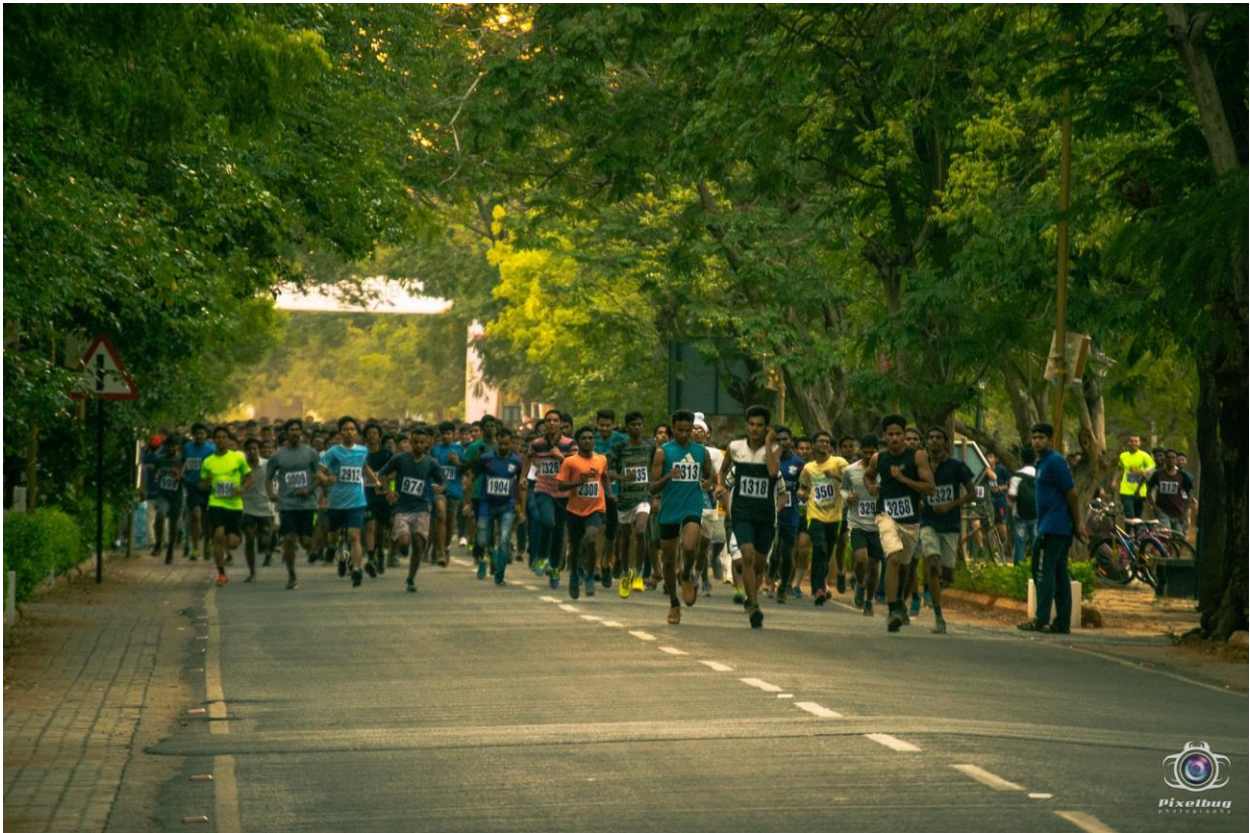
The majority of the crowd, though having finished a bit too late to earn their department a point, had a gala time running the marathon, shuffling between the goal to finish it as soon as they could, and frolicking amongst their friends. Overall, the event was a huge success, both for Sportsfete itself and the enthusiastic participants, many of which had termed it to be a huge revelation. Gathering themselves and turning towards their hostels, the dust soon settled on the road, the thuds of their steps reverberating through the ground, until it is amplified by an even larger horde of runners, next year.

Dr.N.Anantharaman, Senior Professor, Dept of Chemical Engg,Dr.Jerome, Associate Dean (Students Welfare) participated in the event and Dr Rajendrakumar, Physical Director.

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SPORTSFETE '18

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