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Differently abled, and on a roll

New Delhi: While the rest of Delhi ran, walked, trotted or simply sauntered, they were the ones who rolled ahead, furiously pushing the wheels of their wheelchairs.

And much like the previous year, Hutch Delhi Half Marathon drew its most enthusiastic participants from the wheelchair category. Scores of wheelchair bound athletes crowded the start line at 8 am on Sunday, raring to have a go. Some had been preparing for this event for the past two months.

"I have been practising every morning. And my coach says, I have improved with each day. So it will be an enjoyable experience participating in this event today," said Abdali, who looked every inch an athlete.

But for many, it was the sheer joy of participating and the roar of approval they received from the crowd. Ravi, suffering from multiple sclerosis, revealed he was at first reluctant to take part in the event. "I thought there was no use of my taking part. But my friends and family goaded me into it, claiming I would simply love it. And they were right! The enthusiasm among my fellow participants was infectious and at the end of the day I really had a good time," he said.

'Swayam', an organisation involved with people with reduced mobility, also made its presence felt with around 10 participants from the organisation. Calling the event "thoroughly enjoyable", the participants said: "Even though we started late, we completed the entire race."

— TNN

