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Marathon musings

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"Bangalore's very different from where we're from. It's a really interesting city and all of the people have been really friendly and helpful, and that's made it quite easy for us. I don't know if I'll be coming back anytime soon, but I'd like to come back definitely," she laughs.

Abhishek Uppala, Anisha Aliar and Rajan Bhutani attended the marathon together, along with their friend Vamshi, who was there to just support them, while they ran. "He was actually just bored at home. So he decided to tag along and watch us," says Abhishek. A regular marathoner, this was Abhishek's third run of the year. "TCS World 10 km run was the last one I did this year. I also ran for a marathon conducted by the gym where I train. My friends and I have been wanting to participate in a marathon for a while. So we

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looked for something that's happening in December. We found two - Bangalore Ultra on December 9 and this one. But Bangalore Ultra was too hectic, they only had 25 km and 40 km, which I couldn't have done. So, we decided to do the 10 km one here," said Abhishek, an investment banker.

Anisha, who had come down from Cochin especially for the marathon, said, "I've done a 5 km run before, just last week, and that was my first run. I decided to come here because I didn't have anyone who would run with

me back in Cochin."

Rajan Bhutani is not much of a runner. "I usually wake up around 10 am everyday. So there's no scope for practising my running. This is my first marathon, let's see how this will turn out," he said.

"The only time he runs is when his girlfriend chases him," butts in Abhishek.

Anil Jalali, who works at IBM, was attending the marathon with his wife and two daughters. While the daughters had just completed their 5 km run, the parents were yet to start. "We run quite regularly, not for any particular cause as such. We just run for the fun of it. It's good from a health point of view as well," says Anil.

While his wife was warming up for her 10 km run, Anil took care of the kids. Once she completed her run, Anil started prepping for his full marathon run for 42 km, while the rest of his family cheered him on.



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