

If at first you don't succeed try, try again.

As a student, I have many goals. One of them was that I wanted to win the 5 km marathon which was going to be held in Mumbai.

In the marathon, which was called the 'Bolt of Mumbai Marathon,' only children under fourteen could participate. I was just ten years old. The marathon was held every six months. There was one boy, named Ramu, who always won that marathon and was the fastest runner at that time. He is one year older to me. We studied in the same school. The marathon was of 5 km.

The marathon was just one more week away. For practice, I woke up daily at 6 am and jogged 10 km and ran 5 km full speed. The marathon came close, just one day away. I just did my regular practice, ate healthy, nutritious, protein rich food and did several other exercises such as push-ups, pull-ups etc. In the race, only the winners (first place) get a trophy. There is no second or third place. I ran full speed at the gunshot. To my frustration, I secured the third place. Ramu came first.

I didn't let my mind or body break down. For those six months, I trained even harder. I ate nutritious food which even though was bad in taste, was very rich in proteins, which I needed. Then it was time for the race again. I ran like a mad man, or rather a mad cheetah, at the gunshot. I got so angry with Ramu that I would just.....Anyway, I had come second, and, although it was an improvement, I pushed my body and mind capabilities through the limits.

I got very angry with myself. I did 500 push-ups, 500 pull-ups, 20 km jogging, and 10 km running full speed daily. I started seeing results. My 5 km timing was getting better by the minute.

I kept on training for the next six months and finally, the time for the race had come. I with my lucky chest no. 786 stood on the race track, with my newly grown skeletal muscles. People saw me with astonishment for I looked like Arnold Schwarzenegger. People were cheering for me now. My confidence grew. The pistol shot was heard and now I was able to run like the wind and was as quick as lightning. I had come first at last. Ramu had come second. I had finally beaten Ramu. He was grimacing at me. I almost fainted with joy. A few minutes later, I came to know that I had broken an under fourteen 5 km dash record. I was left jumping with joy. That was, is and always will be the happiest day of my life.

I still continue to win awards and prizes. I am winning that marathon since 2009 and am still undefeated. I am very famous. This is all because of my hard work, my willingness to keep moving forward, and the saying that I always follow, "**If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.**"

— MASTER MOHAMMED KHATRI

CLASS 7 B