



26 young people with type 1 diabetes successfully surmount 13,000 ft., in 'India's 2nd T1D Challenge 2018'

-- 4 days | Himalayan trek – Chandrakhani Pass | 26 trekkers from 16 cities --

New Delhi – September 18, 2018 – Twenty six young Indians with type 1 diabetes (T1D) surmounted the breathtaking Chandrakhani Pass at **13,000 ft.** in the Himalayas, proving that anyone with this disease can pursue challenges that otherwise seem impossible. With last year's success of the first T1D Challenge held in Maharashtra (at 5400 ft.), **Sanofi India** along with **Diabetes India** stepped up the initiative with a bigger challenge this year with '**India's 2nd T1D Challenge 2018 – OneUp Trek**'.

Young trekkers aged 15 to 30 years from 16 cities across India, participated in this challenge to bring type 1 diabetes to the fore, and bust myths about the disease.

N. Rajaram, Managing Director, Sanofi India said, "India accounts for most children with type 1 diabetes within South-East Asia and this number increases by 3-5% every year¹. Sanofi India introduced the 'OneUp Trek' to empower children with type 1 diabetes and give them the opportunity to explore their potential in an encouraging and supportive environment. We are proud of these young, enthusiastic individuals who have not only shown tremendous courage, but have also exhibited extraordinary discipline and responsibility in effectively managing their diabetes through the trek."

Dr. Banshi Saboo, Diabetologist and Executive Secretary, Diabetes India, said "Coming from diverse backgrounds and different parts of the country, these 26 young trekkers united to establish one fact that 'nothing is impossible'. Their courage and determination in the face of a challenging terrain is commendable and an inspiration to others living with the disease. This trek was also a demonstration of the fact that with the right kind of awareness, preparedness and motivation, people with type 1 diabetes can pursue any challenge. Discipline is the key, which comes with a controlled diet, regular monitoring of blood sugar and timely insulin".

¹ K.M Prasanna et al 'Consensus statement on diabetes in children 2014- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4056121/>



He added, *‘It is imperative that we give people living with type 1 diabetes a platform to explore their potential and empower them to live optimally. Sanofi India has rightfully pioneered this initiative and we plan to make this bigger and more meaningful, each year.’*

An essential part of each participant’s trekking gear was a compact diabetes kit containing a glucometer, insulin and syringes or an insulin pen. During the trek, they had to monitor their blood sugar at least seven times a day to make sure it was well controlled. All meals were planned in advance to ensure a balanced mix of protein, carbohydrates and fat.

Talking about his patients, **Dr. Banshi Saboo** further added, *“My patients try to be regular in controlling their diet, monitoring glucose levels and administering insulin. They have shown a lot of discipline and courage in taking on this challenge, and I am very proud of their accomplishments.”*

Living with type 1 diabetes presents a unique set of challenges and people who are diagnosed with it must learn to adapt a lifestyle of control and regulation. It’s a matter of adopting the ‘fighting’ attitude, if one wants to truly beat this disease.

The young trekkers’ who took part in ‘OneUp trek’ have truly illustrated that with a well-controlled lifestyle, the right attitude and proper disease management, it is possible to take on any challenge and achieve every dream.

About type 1 diabetes (T1D)

Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong (chronic) disease where the beta cells in the pancreas produce little or no insulin which leads to high blood sugar levels. Although, the disease can occur at any age, it is often diagnosed in children, adolescents or young people. Home to 70,200 children (0 to 14 years) with type 1 diabetes, India has the second highest number of children living with the disease²

² International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas - Seventh Edition. 2015. <http://www.diabetesatlas.org/>



About Chandrakhani Pass Trek

Located in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh at a height of 3,660 metres (13,000 ft), Chandrakhani Pass was once the seat of meditation of one of the seven Saptarishis – the renowned Jamadagni Rishi, and is now a popular trekking site for the spectacular views that it offers.

The four days Himalayan trek began from Rumsu base camp, all the way up to Chandrakhani Pass, through Naya Tapru. The trek route goes through some dense forests, with moderate to steep ascend.

Sanofi Media Relations Contact:

Aparna Thomas
Tel: +91 22 2803 2169
aparna.thomas@sanofi.com

Sohil Bahamania
Tel: +91 22 2803 2446
sohil.bahamania@sanofi.com