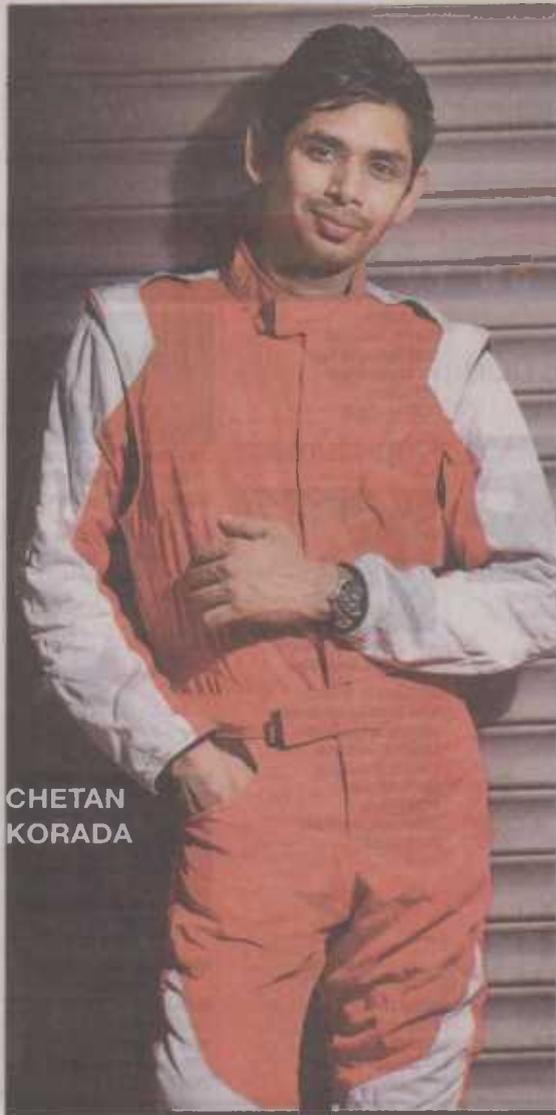


'It's difficult for my co-drivers in racing to accept that I'm a tough nut just like them'

Chetan Korada speaks about being the only race car driver in Asia with prosthetic legs



CHETAN KORADA

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At 32, Chetan Korada holds the distinction of being the first-ever race driver in the world to win a race using synthetic feet. Born in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, he was brought up in Chennai where he pursued education and sports like cricket and basketball. Today, he is acknowledged as the first in Asia and the second in the world to participate in racing using prosthetic legs after Alex Zanardi, a former Formula One driver. Born with a deformity, he underwent a bilateral amputation when he was still a child. However, he decided to romance the race tracks which came to light in 2007, when he participated in a series of cham-

pionships and emerged a winner in many of them. Recently, he finished as the runner-up in the National Championship Formula LGB 1300 and is now gearing up to enter the international turf this year. Excerpts:

As Asia's only motor car racer with synthetic limbs, credited for several wins, what are the challenges that you face?

There is not much of a challenge that I face while racing, as it is my passion. When you love something so much, you can do anything for it. Maybe, it's challenging for those around me. For instance, it's difficult for my co-drivers and leads to accept that I'm a tough nut just like them, when it comes to racing.

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Chetan gets ready to hit the race track

'THE ENDURANCE FOR PAIN STARTED EVER SINCE I WAS A KID. FROM THE POINT OF CRYING MYSELF TO SLEEP AS A BABY, TO FEELING STRONG IN MY OWN SKIN, IT'S A JOURNEY THAT I CHERISH'