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## Eritrean Berhane Tesfay and Kenyan Joyce Chepkemai Tele New champions emerged at the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025

**Mumbai, 19 Jan. 2025:** New champions emerged in the twentieth edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon, a World Athletics Gold Label Road Race, as Eritrean Berhane Tesfay and Kenyan Joyce Chepkemai Tele won the men's and women's categories, respectively. The top three winners each took home prize money of USD 50,000, USD 25,000 and USD 15,000 respectively.

The winners were happy to celebrate their victories here for two reasons -- Tesfay for his first-ever marathon triumph and Tele for her second successive win in three months in a marathon.

Six men, including defending champion Lemi Berhanu, ran together in a bunch in most parts of the race. At the same time, pacer Timoty Kibet from Kenya pulled them to 27 km before withdrawing at that stage. After the 30K, Kenyan Philemon Rono and Lemi exchanged the lead briefly among themselves. After 35K, the runners realized that the event record was slipping away. Hence, only the top-place finish matters in their mind.

Ethiopian Tesfaye Demeke, who finished ninth in the 2020 edition here, snatched the lead when there were only 3 km left to finish. The other runners started chasing him. Both Rono and Lemi started showing fatigue as two Eritreans, Berhane and Merhawi Kesete, increased their tempo and ran ahead of Demeke in the waning stages of the race.

Berhane Tesfay crossed the finish line first in 2:11:44, with team-mate Kesete taking the runner-up position six seconds later. Demeke completes the podium in 2:11:56.

Lemi, who logged back-to-back wins here in 2023-2024, finished sixth in a nondescript 2:14:54 and could not accomplish a hat trick of victories similar to Kenyan John Kelai, who won in 2007-2008 and landed third place in 2009.

Tesfay said in a post-race interview, "I'm happy to have won today's race. The race's first half went smoothly, and I stayed focused on keeping a steady pace. After 25K, my strategy shifted to securing the win rather than chasing a specific time. This victory means a lot to me, and it's a testament to the hard work and training that has gone into preparing for this moment".

### Tele became the third Kenyan woman to win in Mumbai:

Joyce Chepkemai Tele (29) registered her second straight marathon victory in three months. Having won her maiden race in Ljubljana City Marathon in Slovakia last October in 2:20:17, the Kenyan runner was expected to return a better timing than the event record of 2:24:15 stands in the name of Anchalem Haymanot since 2023.

With defending champion Aberash Minsewo from Ethiopia and the pre-race favourite Shitaye Eshete (Bahrain) also in the race for the top prize, the women runners were expected to take a course record bonus this time.

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However, Tele was left to challenge herself as Eshete and others left the fray at 27K and put the Kenyan to run a solo race. With a pacer taking her through the second part of the race, Tele completes the race in 2:24:56, about 41 seconds slower than the record.

Eshete was on the silver spot at 2:25:29, while Ethiopia's Medina Deme Armino, last year's Hong Kong marathon champion, claimed the bronze (2:27:58).

Tele became the third Kenyan woman runner to win in Mumbai after Valentine Kipketer (2013) and Bornus Kitur (2017). "I came here only to win the race and was not thinking about any record", Tele told in the post-event press conference.

Eshete said she was happy about her performance today and would like to come again for better results.

### Anish Thapa, Thakor Nirmaben emerge Indian Elite champions

Anish Thapa won his first Tata Mumbai Marathon Indian men's title in the landmark 20th edition while Thakor Nirmaben retained her Indian Elite women's crown.

Services' Thapa won in a time of 2:17.23 and pipped Asian marathon champion and Army mate Man Singh by 14 seconds in a terrific finish. The feat also saw, Anish finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in the overall Elite Runners' list, closely followed by Man Singh in 8<sup>th</sup> position.

Olympian and former champion Gopi T, also of the Army, was third, more than two minutes behind the winner, Maharashtra's Kalidas Hirave was fourth and last year's winner Srinu Bugatha of the Army finished fifth in 2:20.43.

This is Thapa's first podium finish at the TMM, his previous best here being 14th overall in 2:22.00 in the 2023 edition.

"My strategy was to keep my core strong and maintain a steady start, despite the humid conditions," Thapa said. "The real push came after the 30–35 km mark, and sticking to my plan made all the difference. I'm incredibly happy with how it all came together." he added.

In the women's marathon, Nirmaben won for a second successive year, in a time of 2:50.06, beating second-placed Sonika Parmar by 49 seconds.

"Though my performance this year wasn't as strong as last year, which remains my personal best, the experience was just as rewarding," Nirmaben said.

"I started at my regular pace and stayed with the group for the first 12 km before we began to split. After 21 km, I gradually started overtaking, and by the 36 km mark, I had secured the lead. Even when I faced some challenges with my shoes around 38 km, my determination and faith in God kept me going," she added.

The top three finishers in the Indian Elite men's and women's categories received prize money of INR 5 lakh, INR 4 lakh and INR 3 lakh respectively from the total prize fund of USD 390,238.

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## Barwal wins half marathon with new record

Sawan Barwal and Stanzin Dolkar won the half marathon in the men's and women's categories, respectively, with the former setting a meet record of 1:04.37.

"Although my start was a bit slow, I pushed myself after the 12 km mark and I'm thrilled with the achievement. My focus now is the upcoming Nationals in a couple of weeks," Barwal said.

Following are the Provisional results:

### MARATHON ELITE MALE

RANK	NAME	COUNTRY	TIME
1	BERHANE TESFAY	ERITREA	02:11:44
2	MERHAWI KESETE	ERITREA	02:11:50
3	TESFAYE DEMEKE	ETHIOPIA	02:11:56
4	PHILEMON RONO	KENYA	02:12:09
5	ABDI FUFA	ETHIOPIA	02:12:48
6	LEMI BERHANU	ETHIOPIA	02:14:54
7	ANISH THAPA	INDIA	02:17:23
8	MAN SINGH	INDIA	02:17:37
9	KEMAL HUSEN	ETHIOPIA	02:17:37
10	ASRAR HIYRDEN	ETHIOPIA	02:18:31

### MARATHON ELITE MALE INDIAN

RANK	NAME	TIME
1	ANISH THAPA	02:17:23
2	MAN SINGH	02:17:37
3	GOPI THONAKAL	02:19:59
4	KALIDAS HIRAVE	02:20:28
5	SRINU BUGATHA	02:20:43
6	PRADEEP SINGH CHAUDHARY	02:22:24
7	DEV SINGH DAGAR	02:25:59
8	LATE CHANGDEV	02:26:24
9	PRATHAMESH PARAMKAR	02:28:41
10	ANANT GAONKAR	02:29:14

### Imagicca Run-In Costume- Individual winners (Express me)

1. Suresh Rajani
2. Manas Kumar
3. Ridhi Rajendra Singh Solanki

### Group Winners (Express us)

1. Miten .M. Shah and team
2. Udayan Care
3. Cancer Patients Aid association - Anuj Dhuria and team

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## MARATHON ELITE WOMEN

RANK	NAME	COUNTRY	TIME
1	JOYCE CHEPKEMOI TELE	KENYA	02:24:56
2	SHITAYE ESHETE	BAHRAIN	02:25:29
3	MEDINA DEME ARMINO	ETHIOPIA	02:27:58
4	NIGSTI HAFTU	ETHIOPIA	02:28:29
5	SHEWARGE ALENE	ETHIOPIA	02:29:34
6	AAMELMAL TAGEL	ETHIOPIA	02:29:37
7	ABERASH DEMISSE	ETHIOPIA	02:29:53
8	TIGST GETNET	ETHIOPIA	02:33:00
9	BIRTUKAN ABERA	ETHIOPIA	02:33:55
10	ENYISH MENGIE	ETHIOPIA	02:34:13

## MARATHON ELITE WOMEN INDIAN

RANK	NAME	TIME
1	NIRMABEN THAKOR	02:50:06
2	SONIKA PARMAR	02:50:55
3	SONAM	02:55:45
4	KM LAXMI	02:58:49
5	BHAGIRATHI BISHT	02:58:52
9	SEEMA	03:10:40
10	JYOTI GAWATE	03:11:09

## HALF MARATHON MEN:

RANK	NAME	TIME
1	SAWAN BARWAL	01:04:37
2	HARMANJOT SINGH	01:06:03
3	KARTIK KARKERA	01:07:20

## HALF MARATHON WOMEN:

RANK	NAME	TIME
1	STANZIN DOLKAR	01:25:51
2	SKARMA IDONG LANZE	01:27:03
3	TASHI LADOL	01:29:30

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## ABOUT TATA SONS

Founded by Jamsetji Tata in 1868, the Tata Group is a global enterprise, headquartered in India, comprising 30 companies across ten verticals. The group operates in more than 100 countries across six continents, with a mission 'To improve the quality of life of the communities we serve globally, through long-term stakeholder value creation based on Leadership with Trust'.

Tata Sons is the principal investment holding company and promoter of Tata companies. Sixty-six percent of the equity share capital of Tata Sons is held by philanthropic trusts, which support education, health, livelihood generation, art, and culture.

In 2023-24, the revenue of Tata companies, taken together, was more than \$165 billion. These companies collectively employ over 1 million people.

Each Tata company or enterprise operates independently under the guidance and supervision of its own board of directors. There are 26 publicly listed Tata enterprises with a combined market capitalisation of more than \$365 billion as on March 31, 2024.

## ABOUT TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (TCS)

Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organization that has been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses in their transformation journeys for over 56 years. Its consulting-led, cognitive powered, portfolio of business, technology and engineering services and solutions is delivered through its unique Location Independent Agile™ delivery model, recognized as a benchmark of excellence in software development.

A part of the Tata group, India's largest multinational business group, TCS has over 612,700 of the world's best-trained consultants in 55 countries. The company generated consolidated revenues of US \$29 billion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, and is listed on the BSE and the NSE in India. TCS' proactive stance on climate change and award-winning work with communities across the world have earned it a place in leading sustainability indices such as the MSCI Global Sustainability Index and the FTSE4Good Emerging Index. For more information, visit [www.tcs.com](http://www.tcs.com)

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## ABOUT IDFC FIRST BANK

**Vision:** IDFC FIRST Bank is building a world-class bank in India, guided by four core principles: Ethical Banking, Customer-Friendly Banking, Digital Banking, and Social Good Banking.

IDFC FIRST Bank was created by the merger of infrastructure financing Giant IDFC Bank and retail financing specialist Capital First in December 2018. Earlier, IDFC Bank launched commercial Banking operations in 2016.

**"Universal" Bank:** IDFC FIRST Bank offers products and services across all segments including Retail, MSME, Rural, startups, Corporate Banking, Cash Management, Wealth Management, Retail Deposits, Government Banking, Working Capital, Trade Finance, and Treasury solutions.

**Ethical Banking:** The Bank follows a "Near and Dear" test to ensure that all products are so friendly that the employees can confidently recommend to their loved ones. The Bank holds the belief that income earned unethically is not worth earning. The bank is committed to doing right by customers, even when no one is watching.

In line with the above, the Bank has simplified descriptions, calculations, and legal jargon to avoid confusing customers. The Bank offers zero fees on most services in savings accounts, such as SMS alerts, IMPS, RTGS, NEFT, cash deposits, non-home branch access, ATM and branch cash withdrawals, third-party transactions, cheque books, demand drafts, pay orders, duplicate statements, and other commonly charged services. It is the first and only bank in India till date to do so.

**Customer Friendly Banking:** IDFC FIRST Bank provides monthly interest credit on savings accounts. In credit cards, the Bank offers lifetime free cards without minimum spend conditions, rewards points that do not expire, zero interest on cash withdrawal at ATMs and dynamic low APR. Fees, if applicable are transparent and clearly described for easy understanding. We love making great products that customer love to have.

**Technology led banking:** The Bank has built a modern technology stack which has enabled the Bank to offer our customers an advanced mobile banking app with 250 features. It has a high rating of 4.8 on Google Playstore and Appstore. FORRESTER the internationally renowned rating entity has rated the app the best in India and among the top 20 apps in the world for two years in a row.

The advanced technology stack has also enabled us to offer high quality service across all channels including mobile banking, branch, internet banking, Call Centre, Relationship Managers, and all other channels.

**Social Good Banking:** The Bank's business is inherently designed to promote financial inclusion while maintaining consistently high asset quality. The Bank has financed over 40 million customers, including 16 million lifestyle improvement loans for laptops, washing machines and such purposes, 15 million loans to 4.3 million women entrepreneurs, 6.5 million loans for two-wheelers and cars, 1 million sanitation loans for toilets, water fittings etc., 1 million livelihood loans for cattle, 3,00,000 SME loans and 1,00,000 Home loans.

**ESG Goals:** The Bank is incorporating ESG in every aspect of working and has high ESG scores. The Bank believes that to get an opportunity to create a new age, ethical and world class Bank for India is a great privilege for its employees.

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## ABOUT PROCAM INTERNATIONAL

Since its inception in 1988, Procam International has been the driving force behind the growth and development of sports management in India. Founded by the dynamic Singh brothers Anil and Vivek, Procam is India's premier sports management company and is involved in live events, sports consultancy, and live television production.

With astute planning and exemplary execution, Procam has a track record of conceptualising and promoting over 100 international events, across the disciplines of Powerboat Racing, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Distance Running, Squash, WWE, Horse Racing, Volleyball, among others. These events have elicited participation of the highest calibre of athletes and huge public interest and attendance.

Pioneers of the distance running movement in India, Procam International's Big 4 – Tata Mumbai Marathon, Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, Tata Consultancy Services World 10K and Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata— are global leaders in their respective distances. They have ushered in a running revolution that has helped redefine the health, fitness, and 'giving' paradigm of our country. **website:** <https://procam.in>

## For more information, please contact:

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