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United Way Delhi

Cheptegei shines, Eyayu surprises in Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon

New Delhi, 20th Oct: Olympian **Joshua Cheptegei** lived up to his billing to take home the men's crown, while **Alemaddis Eyayu** pushed pre-race favourite Cynthia Limo behind for a surprise win in the women's race in today's **Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon**, a *World Athletics Gold Label Road Race*, at the Indian capital.

Kenya's Alex Matata (27) led a major part of the race with his teammate Nicholas Kipkorir, who ran his maiden half marathon internationally. Kipkorir was a bronze medalist in the 5 km World Championships last year.

Matata was unbeaten in all three races he took part in in Europe earlier this year, with two sub-60 minutes clocking in two of them. That made the race exciting, and everyone was looking for a fast finish timing from the men's winner. Matata keeps the lead until the runners turn toward the finish line in the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, where the race commenced less than an hour earlier to decide the 2024 title. Cheptegei, running seconds behind the Kenyan, realized the now-or-never situation and came from behind to snatch the lead from Matata to win in 59 minutes 46 seconds. Matata (59:53) and Kipkorir (59:59) complete the podium with the Ugandan.

Incidentally, the Vedanta Delhi half marathon was one of the fastest races in the World and usually saw incredible timings by the participants. Ethiopian Deriba Merga was the first to post a sub-60-minute winning time in 2008 when all the podium finishers dipped under 1 hour. This action was repeated several times in some of the subsequent editions at Delhi, wherein 2014 witnessed a record number of nine runners finishing within 60 minutes.

Former world champion Muktar Edris from Ethiopia, another pre-race favourite, finished fifth (60:52), while Tanzania's Alphonse Simbu (60:40) got the fourth place.

Cheptegei, with multiple world titles on his cap, said that "this win in Delhi was special to me because it is my first-ever victory in a Half Marathon. India has been important for my career, and this country now means a lot to me. I felt good throughout the race despite the slow start. My first aim was to catch up with Nicholas (Kipkorir) and then Alex (Matata) in the final few kilometres of the race. I am delighted with my performance and hope to continue in the same manner in the future races".

Thank you, Vedanta Delhi Half, for a wonderful race. This has been a special race that tested my mind. Initially, I felt some problems in my feet around 16-17 km, but I decided to push and catch up with Nicholas, and then for about two kilometers, we pushed each other. I took it slow because I didn't want to burn out, and I wanted to finish strong. Now I go back home with a feeling to conquer the roads", he further revealed.

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Eyayu beats favourite Limo to win the women's title:

Alemaddis Eyayu extended the Ethiopian winning streak in Delhi. Kenya's Cynthia Limo, the pre-race favourite, led the field right from the beginning while Scotland's Commonwealth Champion Eilish McColgan trailed behind all the time. McColgan had the fastest and only sub-66 minute timing among the elite women who took the starting lineup today. However, two Ethiopians, Eyayu and Tiruye Mesfin, stuck with Limo for the entire part.

Cynthia Limo, who won the women's title here in 2015, had returned to Delhi after nine years. Following her victory in the Indian capital, the Kenyan runner secured a silver medal in Cardiff's 2016 World Half Marathon championships.

Eyayu and Limo passed the 10K mark together and remained the sole leaders in the women's race. However, the Ethiopian runner pulled ahead in the second phase of the race, leaving Limo 10-15 seconds behind. It was a crucial deciding factor at the end as Eyayu crossed the finish line 68:17 for the top spot, while Limo did so 10 seconds later. Mesfin clocked 69:42 for third and McColgan 69:55 to finish fourth and outside the podium.

"I had a good race, tried to keep my pace and aimed to finish well. I am happy to have achieved it" Eyayu said during the post-event press conference.

Limo said she was happy to join the Delhi podium after nine years. "Securing second place is incredible, one that fills me with pride. The atmosphere was electric, with people lining the streets and cheering us. It's heartwarming to see how the city comes together. This experience has been truly special; the support from the spectators, their enthusiasm, and the overall energy of the event have made this return to Delhi unforgettable," was Limo's reaction to the race.

The total prize purse for the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon is USD 260,000. The podium finishers both men and women will take home USD 27,000, USD 20,000 & USD 13,000 respectively.

SAWAN BARWAL BETTERS PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE, LILI DAS HAS DREAM DEBUT

Sawan Barwal will go home with the gold medal this time around after finishing on the podium of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon for a second straight edition. With a timing of 1:02:46, Barwal finished ahead of Puneet Yadav, bettering his personal best in the process. Kiran Matre grabbed the third spot to complete the podium for the Indian Elite Men's event.

Barwal, who won bronze in 2023, was behind Puneet at the 10-kilometer mark, but left his best for the final stretch of the race. Taking advantage of an opening, he pushed himself in the final quarter and eventually secured the top spot with a difference of almost 1 minute and 9 seconds.





After the race, an emotional Sawan was ecstatic about turning the bronze to gold as he shed some light on his performance, saying, "It has been a great ride from the last Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon to the current edition. We are nearing the end of the season, and I was happy with the preparations throughout the season, and I used that to my advantage this time around. I did not enter thinking about finishing in 62 minutes, but the way I started and when I settled into the race, I knew I could go all the way."

In the Indian Elite Women's category, Lili Das was miles ahead of her competitors, securing the gold with a timing of 1:18:12. Coming in second was last year's winner Kavita Yadav, who clocked 1:19:44 as she finished in the top 3 for a second straight edition of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon. In third place was 2022 Asian Games bronze medallist Priti Lamba, who crossed the finish line at the 1:20:21 mark.

In the 9th position at the 10-kilometer mark, Lili upped the ante to reach the top spot at the 15th kilometer. She maintained the lead with a massive effort and went on to win the gold by a massive difference of 1 minute and 32 seconds ahead of Kavita.

Lili, who fought cramps on the way to her gold, spoke about the experience of landing on the podium in her very first Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, "It is a very good feeling to win the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon in my very first attempt. I felt a little bit of dehydration during the race which I was worried about, but I am glad that I was able to finish the race. I cramped up around the 19th kilometer and it was a scary moment, but I fought it and worked very hard to finish the final 2 kilometers. After doing well in track and field events, winning gold in a half marathon feels great."

The people of Delhi came together once again to showcase the spirit of their city and promote healthy lifestyles at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon. Thousands of runners, from seasoned athletes to enthusiastic amateurs, took to the streets, turning the event into a vibrant celebration of fitness and community. The race not only highlighted the city's commitment to well-being but also raised awareness for various charitable causes, embodying the essence of unity and social responsibility that Delhi is known for.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS:

INTERNATIONAL MEN:

1	Joshua Cheptegei	Uganda	0:59:46
2	Alex Matata	Kenya	0:59:53
3	Nicholas Kipkorir	Kenya	0:59:59
4	Alphonse Simbu	Tanzania	1:00:40
5	Muktar Edris	Ethiopia	1:00:52
6	Ismael Kiprono	Kenya	1:00:53
7	Levy Kibet	Kenya	1:01:29
8	Dinkalem Ayele	Ethiopia	1:02:00
9	Malede Bukayaw	Israel	1:02:43
10	Embay Goitom	Ethiopia	1:02:44
11	Sawan Barwal	India	1:02:46



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN:

1	Alemaddis Eyayu	Ethiopia	1:08:17
2	Cynthia Limo	Kenya	1:08:27
3	Tiruye Mesfin	Ethiopia	1:09:42
4	Eilish Mccolgan	United Kingdom	1:09:55
5	Yalemget Yaregal	Ethiopia	1:10:21
6	Zerihun Alemstsehay	Ethiopia	1:13:41
7	Gelane Getu	Ethiopia	1:14:53
8	Balemlay Shumet	Ethiopia	1:15:25
9	Dibabe Beyene	Ethiopia	1:16:57
10	Lili Das	India	1:18:12

INDIAN MEN:

1	Sawan Barwal	India	1:02:46
2	Puneet Yadav	India	1:03:55
3	Kiran Matre	India	1:04:58
4	Sahil Gill	India	1:06:09
5	Shankar Lal Swami	India	1:06:33
6	Mohd Aleem	India	1:06:34
7	Harish Sheoran	India	1:06:34
8	Kalidas Hirave	India	1:06:59
9	Gagan Singh	India	1:07:33
10	KartikJayraj Karkera	India	1:08:08

INDIAN WOMEN:

1	Lili Das	India	1:18:12
2	Kavita Yadav	India	1:19:44
3	Priti Lamba	India	1:20:20
4	Archana Jadhav	India	1:20:21
5	Basanti Kumari	India	1:20:25
6	Jyoti Saroj	India	1:20:38
7	Aradhana Kumari	India	1:21:17
8	Ravina Gayakwad	India	1:21:47
9	Rima Patel	India	1:22:03

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For more information about the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2024, please log on

vedantadelhihalfmarathon.procam.in/

<https://www.instagram.com/delhihalfmarathon/>

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFcBDqa1WtDIBExpX_y0nAQ



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Vedanta Limited ("Vedanta"), a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Limited, is one of the world's leading natural resources companies spanning across India, South Africa, Namibia, Liberia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan with significant operations in Oil & Gas, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Steel, Nickel, Aluminium, Power & Glass Substrate and foraying into electronics and display glass manufacturing. For two decades, Vedanta has been contributing significantly to nation building. Governance and sustainable development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety, and the environment. Vedanta has put in place a comprehensive framework to be the ESG leader in the natural resources sector, is committed to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 or sooner and aims to spend \$5 billion over the next 10 years to accelerate this transition. Giving back is in the DNA of Vedanta, which is focused on enhancing the lives of local communities. Anil Agarwal Foundation, the umbrella entity for Vedanta's social initiatives, has pledged Rs 5000 crore over the next five years on various social impact programs and its flagship project, Nand Ghar is setting up model Anganwadis across India. Vedanta Ltd. ranked 3rd in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2023 and has been listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index. The company has also been certified as a Great Place to Work 2023. Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange.

All of Vedanta's community and social impact initiatives are housed under the umbrella entity of The Anil Agarwal Foundation. The focus areas of the Foundation are Healthcare, Women and Child development, Animal Welfare Projects, and Sports Initiatives. Anil Agarwal Foundation aims to empower communities, transform lives, and facilitate nation building through sustainable and inclusive growth.

For more information, please visit www.vedantalimited.com





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IDFC FIRST Bank is a new age Universal Bank in India built on the foundations of Ethical Banking, Digital Banking, and Social Good Banking. We are building a world class bank in India.

As part of the Bank's **ethical banking** approach, it applies a "Near and Dear" Test to its products, so that the employees of the Bank serve only such products they'd want for their own loved ones. It believes income earned unethically is not worth earning.

Therefore, the Bank avoids complicated descriptions, calculations, and legalese that customers don't understand. It abolished all charges on Savings Accounts including for Debit Cards, IMPS, RTGS, NEFT, Cash Deposit, "Non-Home branch" access, Cash withdrawals at ATMs and at branches, 3rd party transaction charges at branches, SMS Alert, Cheque book, Demand Drafts, Pay-order, duplicate statement, and all such services that are usually charged in the market. It follows the principle that it won't touch its customers' bank account for one reason or other. It is the first and only bank in India till date to do so.

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As part of **technology led banking**, the Bank has built a modern technology stack and has built an advanced mobile app with 250+ features such as Goal based investing, MF investment assistance, electric-speed payments, Account Aggregator, MF Aggregator, Personal Finance Manager, Auto categorisation of spends, single app for personal and business banking, UPI on Credit Cards, travel and shop, bill and recharges, deals and reward redemptions, which offer great convenience to the customers. For business customers the Bank offers on-the-go bulk payments, ability to pay income tax, GST, customs duty, and connected banking with ERP solutions.

As part of the **Social Banking theme**, the Bank's business model is naturally geared to social banking. It has developed unique capabilities for financing bottom of pyramid customers with consistently high asset quality. The Bank has financed over 40 million customers including 0.3 million SMEs, 0.9 million livelihood (cattle loans), 16 million lifestyle improvement loans (for laptops, washing machine, etc.), 1 million sanitation loans (toilets, water fittings), 6.5 million mobility loans (2-wheelers and cars), and home financing (over 100,000 homes), and 15 million loans to 4.3 million women-entrepreneurs. It also offers other retail and rural loans such as Kisan Credit Cards, harvest financing, gold loans etc.

IDFC FIRST Bank is a **Universal Bank**, and offers end to end Corporate Banking, Trade Finance such as issuance of LCs & BGs, SBLC, Packing Credit, Pre-shipment and Post-shipment Finance, Treasury products including risk hedging solutions like Forwards, Swaps, Options, and other Forex Solutions, SME Banking, Wealth Management, NRI banking, Cash Management, Nostro & Vostro account operations, Escrow facilities, Correspondent Banking, Fastag, Toll-acquiring, Dealer Finance and Purchase/Sales Invoice discounting.



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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.

