

Zinc City Half Marathon draws 7,000 runners in Udaipur spectacle

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Udaipur: The second edition of the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon, hosted by Hindustan Zinc, transformed Udaipur's streets into a vibrant tapestry of fitness and purpose, uniting 7,000 runners — a 40% surge from last year's inaugural event here on Sunday. Touted as India's most beautiful marathon, the race highlighted the city's scenic allure while championing the #RunForZeroHunger initiative, blending endurance with social impact. Flagged off by dignitaries including MP Udaipur Manna Lal Rawat, MLA Udaipur City Tarachand Jain, MLA Udaipur Rural Phool Singh Meena, district collector Namit Mehta, municipal commissioner Abhishek Khanna, chief conservator of forests Sunil Chedri and Hindustan Zinc CEO Arun Misra, the event drew participants from 27 Indian states and abroad. Eminent city officials, Hindustan Zinc's senior leadership and the Anybody Can Run (ABCR) team added to the festive atmosphere. Catering to diverse fitness levels, the marathon featured 21km, 10km and 5km categories, welcoming everyone from senior citizens of the Maharana Pratap Senior Citizen Group and differently abled athletes to children, women-led groups like She Circle India and Women Business Circle, and professionals from Secure Meters, Arcgate, and BCI. This inclusivity echoed the national Fit India Movement, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call: 'Fitness ki dose, aadha ghanta roz.' Runners traversed a breathtaking route encircling serene Fateh Sagar Lake and the majestic Aravalli Ranges, passing landmarks like Maharana Pratap Smarak, Neemach Mata Mandir and lush gardens. Udaipur's residents lined the streets at dawn, cheering amid the cool morning air. The event celebrated the city's 3,000-year zinc legacy, a metal woven into its history long before its 'City of Lakes' fame. Hindustan Zinc CEO, Mr. Arun Misra, an avid marathoner and 21km finisher, shared: "I am absolutely thrilled to see the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon putting Udaipur on the global running map. The overwhelming participation in this second edition shows how Udaipur is embracing fitness as a way of life. What really started as a local

initiative has now evolved into an international celebration of health, purpose, and people power. As a proud 21KM finisher myself, I can say that at Hindustan Zinc, we are committed not just to building a sustainable business, but to nurturing healthier, stronger communities, and this marathon is a true embodiment of that vision."Competition was fierce across categories. In the 21km race, Deva Ram clinched the men's title, while Madina Paul triumphed in the women's. Rohit Bansawal and Suraj topped the 10km men's and women's divisions, respectively. Winners Deva Ram, Madina Paul, Rohit Bansawal and Suraj shared that running the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon was a truly memorable and inspiring experience. Every finisher received a unique zinc medal from Hindustan Zinc's pure stock, symbolising resilience and achievement. Running groups from Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Nagpur, Mumbai, Delhi, Gurgaon and Indore amplified the collective spirit. Backed by the Anil Agarwal Foundation's Nandghar initiative, the #RunForZeroHunger drive distributed Poshan Packs to thousands of children, advancing a hunger-free society. Certified by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and listed on the global calendar, the event solidifies Udaipur's status as a running hub.

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