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Address: A-1214, Komarla Brigade Residency, Chikkalasandra, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore - 61.

'STRIDES OF HOPE' 2011 A GRAND SUCCESS!

~48 Hours endurance event ends on a high note, achieving several milestones~

Bangalore, 25th January 2010 – The second edition of “Strides of Hope”, the 48 hour participative endurance event, concluded on the evening of 23rd January and was a great success in terms of overall participation with a total logged distance of **12,255.1** kilometers! The event took place on 21st, 22nd & 23rd of January 2011 with the intention of raising awareness and funds through donations towards *ASHA - a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven, zero-overhead organization dedicated to socio-economic change in India* and to encourage more of its citizens to take up a healthy and environment friendly lifestyle.

This event organized by the running and cycling communities of Bangalore; saw citizens and endurance athletes participate at different locations over 48 hours. People from various other cities such as **Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune** also participated simultaneously. The event even reached out to runners overseas as well for its second edition, in places such as **Austin and New Jersey**. Children from schools that *Asha* supports, namely **Sita School and Ananya**, also participated by running and clocking close to 1000 kilometers. It was commendable on their part as the children organized the run themselves and also encouraged villagers around their respective schools to run as well.

The statistics from the event are as follows –

Total number of participants: 624
Total distance run: 5677.6 Km
Total distance walked: 577.5 Km
Total distance Cycled: 5529 Km
Total overall logged distance: 12255.1 Km

Speaking on the event, **Santhosh Padmanabhan** said, *“The second edition of Strides of Hope was a grand success, and communities in different cities embraced this unique concept. We see the event as a beginning of a revolution in leading healthy lives in the country. We thank one and all for their valuable support extended to make this year’s event such a hit.”*

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The core runners and cyclists of Strides of Hope showed great grit and determination during the event. Endurance runner **Santhosh Padmanabhan ran through 38 hours between 5p.m on 21st January to 5p.m on 23rd January, and clocked a mammoth distance of 231.5 kilometers!** This accounts for the longest run by any individual at the event. Well known endurance athletes such as **Yasuhiro Honda, Jagdish, Sunand, Srikanth** among others also walk or ran for long distances with Yasuhiro Honda clocking 130 kilometers.

Samim Rizvi, the country's first and Asia's third cyclist to participate in RAAM – Race Across AMerica, led TEAM SHIFT to Hyderabad and back, **clocking a distance of 1237 kilometers in 48 hours!** The team led by Samim Rizvi and Kavitha Kanaparthi went through a journey of grit and blockades to create an epic feat for Strides of Hope! Many were skeptical and thought it was impossible to do the trip to Hyderabad and back in just 48 hours. **Samim, Kavitha Kanaparthi, Shobhit Banga, Gautham Taode and Dickie Saluja** proved them all wrong with a stupendous collective distance of 3007 kilometers in 48 hours! Samim continues to be India's top most endurance cyclist with a whopping 1237 kilometers in 48 hours!!

The whole idea of Strides of Hope was seeded last year by an effort to raise funds for Asha through an Ultra marathon. With support flowing in from various quarters, including the government and local establishments, the whole running community adopted the event. Last year more than 350 runners accounted for over 3000 kms over 48 hours.

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