

Sita School

A small school based in the outskirts of Bangalore, near Hessarghatta showed how it is done! The kids organized a run themselves - marked the course, invited kids from other schools in the village, organized bananas, juice and made their own bibs. Kids as young as 3-4 yrs participated with some 6 yr olds doing 5 kms! They put up posters on health and exercise in their campus to create awareness. They also had many children come the second day and participate in the event as word spread in the village.



501 kms of running

102 children and staff - 50 kids from outside of school!

More about Sita School: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=926>

Ananya

A Saturday bandh called by political parties did not deter kids who started as early as 6 AM to do their runs at Ananya. About 50 kids are training for the Auroville races. 9 of them did 20 kms as part of their training for the Auroville half marathon. Many other children did 10kms and the youngest lot did 5kms each. The staff and volunteers of the school also joined in. All the children received certificates and had a lot of fun participating in the run.



469 kms of running

51 children and staff

More about Ananya: https://docs.google.com/View?id=dhhbb2vp_487hrcfmchh

Chennai Runners and Cyclists

Chennai runners embarked on a unique initiative in Chennai with the members of the group deciding to do a continuous 24 hour run! Many of the members chose the tough time slots (in the dead of the night and peak of the day's heat)! Many runners who had just started running also joined the group. It was a true community of runners who supported each other and achieved the tall goal with tremendous ease! The effort from the Chennai group epitomized what this event was all about! We are all pumped up to do more after Chennai has shown the way! Venu clocked an amazing 70k and Anandhaselvan was a lone cyclist who weathered through the congested Chennai streets for 12 hours to do 178kms!!

Number of runners: 35

Running distance covered: 612.8 kms

Biking distance covered: 262 kms (out of which 1 person did 178)

Number of cyclists: 6

Pune Runners and Cyclists

Pune runners and cyclists led by Vivek Prasad and Aparna Choudhary brought Strides of Hope to their city with style! The community clocked close to 500 kms with Aparna herself doing 70 Kms! 17 people from the group ran, walked, cycled and even did rowing to clock in hundreds of kms. Their effort is truly amazing. We all might have not met each other, but the solidarity they showed towards the cause has made the community closer to the rest of the runners/cyclists across the country! It is a truly inspiring effort and very commendable that they coordinated the efforts entirely on their own!

Total distance - 292 running/walking + 11 rowing + 177 cycling = 480 kms!

17 participants

CAM (Cycling and More)

Priya and her group of 9 friends who are a part of CAM started Sunday morning and went out of the city and rode back to Bangalore in the evening to clock a solid **661 kms!!**

Oasis International School

25 children and staff from the Oasis International School came to EGL to join all the runners and each one of them did the 9km loop to clock in a cool **225kms** in all!!

Decathlon Runners and Cyclists

A chilly Saturday morning and an ominous bandh call did not deter runners and cyclists at Decathlon and Kalenji Club (hosted by Decathlon) to come and make Strides of Hope a grand success! Rachan, Eugene, Issac and Kevin biked 150-200 kms each to bolster the groups mileage by a lot! Many of the folks ran/walk in groups and the spirits were high! Decathlon also hosted a water station for the Ananya kids when they came running from their school. The whole community is kicked about the event and is already looking forward to the next year's edition. They have even staked claim to be an official location for the run/walk/cycle, where everyone can come and join!

Running: 142, Walking: 20, Cycling: 945 => Total: 1107 Kms with 31 people!

Contours Gyms in Mumbai and Bangalore

All the members of the Contours chain of women gyms in Mumbai and Bangalore came in full color to support Strides of Hope! They started early Saturday and Sunday morning to clock in a lot of kms along with family and friends. It was very nice of them to come together and support the cause! They were led by Chandra Gopalan, a veteran runner and founding member of the Strides of Hope team!

Bangalore Contours: 190kms with 26 runners

Mumbai Contours: 315 kms with 35 runners

International Support

Team Asha, Austin (Texas, USA) supported the cause with 5 runners clocking in 71 kms in the same time as their folks in India! Deepthi, Arjun and Bharath also clocked in 64 kms with running and cycling in various places in the US. It was very inspirational for all of us here in India to see folks supporting the cause across the seas. The gesture might be small in the eyes of many, but what it means to a community cannot be easily comprehended! We look forward to make the event grow and get much more support in the coming years!

International kms: 135

Participants: 8

Team Shift and Hyderabad Cyclists

Team Shift led by Samim Rizvi and Kavitha went through a journey of grit and blockades to create an epic feat for Strides of Hope! Many folks thought it was impossible to do the trip to Hyderabad and back in just 48 hours. Samim, Kavitha, Shobit, Gautham and Dickie proved them all wrong with a stupendous 3007 kms in 48 hours! ***Samim continues to be India's topmost endurance cyclist with a whopping 1237 kms in 48 hours!!***

Mrutuza and Deepak also joined Team Shift in the initial stages and did a total of 170kms on their own. Given that this is their first such effort, its truly commendable!

15 Hyderabad cyclists welcomed their brethren from Bangalore with food and supplies. They also cycled with them for **35 kms** in Hyderabad showing them the way through the city. The Hyderabad cyclists were wonderful hosts and we only hope more cyclists from Bangalore join us next year!



***Samim:1237 kms, Kavitha: 609 kms, Shobit: 526 kms, Dickie: 634 kms
Hyderabad Cyclists: 525 kms, Murtaza and Deepak: 170 kms***

Bangalore Runners/Walkers

More than 250 people from different walks of life joined the Strides of Hope team at Ulsoor Lake, Cubbon park, EGL, Lal Bagh, K.R. Park and finally at Madhavan park! The running community of Bangalore with members from various organizations – Runners For Life, Runner Girls India, BHUKMP, Runners High and many more joined in with the party! A rather stringent bandh on Saturday did not stop the runners and walkers from chugging in the miles NON-STOP through the 48 hours! Challenges were many – lonely cold nights, hot afternoons, cops, rioters, irresponsible motorists and what not. Support came in from various quarters – volunteers spent sleepless nights and took breaks from work to support the cause! It was a community initiative unlike in any other event before. Children and families participated together. Kids on the street who were watching joined in the fun and were elated to sip on juice and receive bibs and certificates! ***In Bangalore alone the runners, walkers and cyclists clocked close to 3000 kms!!***

A group of 20 runners/walkers from Citrix company clocked more than 200 kms at Ulsoor!



Many runners clocked in more than a marathon distance at the event. The list can go on and on – but, here are notable mentions!

Honda San – 130 kms in over 22 hours

Sunand – Walked for 154 kms for more than 36 hours

Jagdish – Walked for 24 hours to cover 107 kms

Srikanth Sunand – Walked for 24 hours to cover 114 kms

Jacob Boopalan – 70 kms

Santhosh – 231.5 kms in 38 hours

Preeti Ashok – 64 kms

Bhasker – 63 kms

Nari – 73 kms