

Registrations close in record four days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Registrations for the 2026 Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM) closed in a record four days, underlining the growing popularity of India's premier distance running event.

Registration for the half marathon category opened



on July 23 and was fully subscribed by July 26, making it one of the fastest sell-outs in the event's history.

Promoted by Procam International, the World Athletics Gold Label event will be held on Oct 18, with the Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium serving as both the start and finish point. Offering a prize purse of \$260,000, the race is expected to attract leading international and Indian elite runners, along with thousands of amateur participants and fitness enthusiasts.

Beyond the excitement of race day, the VDHM continues to emerge as a powerful

engine of social transformation. The spotlight this year is on the Socio-Economic-Health Impact Report 2025 (SEH), jointly prepared by Procam International and Delhi University's Miranda House. The report highlights the event's contribution to public health, economic activity, philanthropy, sustainability and community well-being. According to the report, the 2025 edition generated an estimated Rs 433.88 crore in socio-economic and health impact for Delhi.

Over the last two editions, the cumulative impact has risen to Rs 802.74 crore.

The report also noted that the 2025 race attracted 39,513 participants — the highest post-Pandemic turnout — including 9,709 women. The event also delivered a sizeable economic boost.

Travel and hospitality spending by participants from India and overseas generated Rs 24.71 crore, while increased interest in fitness and endurance sports drove expenditure of Rs 251.34 crore on running shoes, apparel, wearable technology and other equipment.