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Half marathon nets Rs 1.46-cr

New Delhi: After fun and fitness, it was now time to associate care and charity with the third Vodafone Delhi Half Marathon, which was supported by *The Times of India*. The money raised through the event this year saw a whopping growth with the event grossing Rs 1.46 crore in proceeds towards charity.

The Charity Docket was released on Thursday by Indian Olympic Association president Suresh Kalmadi. "Marathon running is becoming popular in the world and it is good that Indian cities are catching up. Delhi is running well and raising good charity. By the Commonwealth Games in 2010, the entire city will become fit," predicted Kalmadi.

According to the official charity partner of the event GiveIndia, the funds raised last year amounted to Rs 1.2 crore. The charity money collected this time is expected to reach out to 1,00,000 less fortunate people across the country and over 42 participating NGOs will benefited from it. NGO Udayan Care, supported by nine corporate organisations, will get the maximum share, amounting to about Rs 18 lakh. Each NGO will make use of the charity money according to its activities.

The highest corporate pledge-raiser was Apollo Tyres, followed by the Bird Group. Fifty-eight corporate teams had participated in pledge-raising this year as compared to 27 last year. The highest pledge-raiser among the 22 Dream Teamers of the event was hotelier Ajay Bakaya who managed to raise more than Rs 9 lakh. Vodafone operations director Sanjoy Mukerji, present at the release of the Charity Docket, said: "The Vodafone Delhi Half Marathon is a community opportunity for Delhiites to showcase their city to the world. The charity will reach so many less fortunate people. This is a tribute to Delhi." TNN

toireporter@timesgroup.com