Marathon shifts focusto Ganga cleanliness

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Prayagraj: To make the common man aware towards keeping the river Ganga clean, a 'Ganga Marathon' was organised in the city on Wednesday under the aegis of the forest department and Uttar Pradesh sports department. The event was inaugurated by chief conservator of forests, UP, N Ravindra.

On this occasion, DFO Prayagraj YP Shukla said that the marathon is organised by the forest department and the aim of this marathon is to revive the condition of the river Ganga and spread awareness among the masses and to instigate the feeling of respect for the river.

The event, which was observed under the statewide events to mark 'Ganga Day', was aimed to ensure that common man comes forward in ensuring that the Ganga flows uninterrupted and clean. The programmes were organised by the state's Clean Ganga Mission, Namami Gange and rural water supply department (UP).

The marathon was flagged off at 7.00 am from the Amitabh Bachchan Support Complex (Muir Hall). After passing through Dhobighat intersection, Heera Halwai intersection, Sai temple, Indira Gandhi crossing it returned to the originating venue.

The first place in men's category was won by Dhiraj Yadav while second position was bagged by Abhishek and the third place was bagged by Shivam Yadav. Enthusiastic participants including Mahesh Kumar, Rajendra Bind and Santosh Yadav were awarded consolation prizes in he men's category. Similarly, in the women's category, Neetu Kumari came first, Anju Yadav second and Shivani got the third position. Special secretary, forest, Bhramdev Tripathi, was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

Apart from the Ganga Marathon, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation and other organisations held cleanliness campaign at

Phaphamau Ghat. Along with this, 'nukkad natak' was also held near Sangam to make people aware towards keeping the river clean. Nehru Youth Centre too organised a painting and debate competition to mark the day.