



Arvind Yadav runs during the Mawana Sugars Indian Open Marathon on Sunday

Arvind & Nilam win Mawana marathon titles

By **Soumalya Santikari** in New Delhi

AIMING to improve on last year's performance, Arvind Yadav's perseverance paid off when he won the men's category in the Mawana Sugars Indian Open Marathon 2013.

On a Sunday which saw over 12,000 people braving the early morning drizzle, the 24-year-old from Uttar Pradesh won a close race and bettered his previous year's performance, when he was pipped to first place. Arvind clocked two hours, 21 minutes and 44 seconds and was delighted that his effort bore fruit.

"I had full faith in my ability and there wasn't much competition this time around. My next target is to qualify for the Commonwealth and Asian Games in 2014 and I will be participating in only a few marathons," he said.

Arvind, who has been training at the

Guru Gobind Singh Sports College in Lucknow, said that he wasn't affected by the weather and credited his coach Sri-jesh Bhatia for his success.

"I have been training relentlessly under my coach Srijesh sir and a year's hard work has paid off," Arvind added.

**More than 12,000
people run in annual
event despite rain**

Nilam Maruti Kadam won the women's marathon, clocking three hours, one minute and two seconds.

Nilam had participated in the half marathon last year and finished second.

She said she decided to run the full distance only a day before the race.

"I decided to participate in the full marathon only last evening. I had practised hard for the event and decided to cover the full distance. Seriously, I wasn't expecting to finish on top and that too in three hours," said the 23-year-old.

Jawahar Prasad clocked one hour, 20 minutes and 57 seconds to take the first position in the male veterans category while Neelu Gupta bagged top honours among the female veterans, clocking one hour, 24 minutes and 37 seconds.

The race was flagged off from India Gate by Siddharth Shriram, chairman, Mawana Sugars and Krishna Shriram, executive chairman, Usha International.

The marathon, being held since 1982, saw participants from the Delhi Police, Indian Army, Air Force, paramilitary forces, corporate houses and colleges.