

MDNIY Hosts Yoga Bandhan: Global Yoga Ambassadors Share their Yoga-empowered Journey of Life!

India's Yoga Diplomacy at Display ahead of IDY 2025

Yoga has Found Resonance across the Globe: Ayush Secretary

You Delegates are the Voice of Peace & Harmony: DG, ICCR

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As part of the ongoing International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025 celebrations, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), under the Ministry of Ayush, successfully organised the inaugural event of the global programme 'Yoga Bandhan' on 17th June, 2025. This significant initiative, one of the 10 Signature Events under IDY 2025, underscores India's commitment to strengthening global cooperation through institution-to-institution partnerships in the field of Yoga.

'Yoga Bandhan' brought together global Yoga ambassadors from across the globe and served as a platform for cultural exchange, academic dialogue, and a shared vision for global well-being through Yoga. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from eminent international delegates, including Yoga academicians, practitioners, studio founders, authors, and wellness experts representing 15 countries.

The inaugural session was graced by **Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha**, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush. In his keynote address, he highlighted India's visionary leadership in placing Yoga at the forefront of global wellness discourse. Referring to data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), he mentioned that approximately 95% of India's rural and urban population is aware of Ayush systems, with nearly 35% of the population actively practicing some form of Yoga.

Sharing his experiences from his extensive travels abroad, Shri Kotecha remarked that Yoga has found resonance across the world. He further elaborated on key initiatives being undertaken under the Signature Events of IDY 2025, such as **Harit Yoga**, **Yoga Connect**, and **Samyoga**, while also noting that over **3.3 lakh events have already been organised globally**, with projections indicating that this number may rise to **5 lakh events** by the time the main event of IDY 2025 takes place on June 21st.

He also spoke about the ongoing upgradation of the **Yoga Certification Board (YCB)** infrastructure to meet the growing global demand for certified Yoga professionals, and encouraged international delegates to associate with YCB for mutual collaboration and growth.

Ms K. Nandini Singla, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), appreciated the participation of international dignitaries saying, “Thank You for being a voice of peace and harmony.” She further said, “Every Yoga enthusiast is a true ambassador of Yoga — playing a vital role in bringing its benefits to every household. It is heartening to see Yoga demonstration from foreign dignitaries in iconic places like Delhi, Varanasi, Jodhpur, Jaipur. It is a huge success of India’s cultural diplomacy.”

Ms. Singla also suggested to introduce some short-term Yoga courses for the dignitaries visiting India.

Ms Monalisa Dash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, in her address stated that the International Day of Yoga has now transformed into a global movement that transcends national boundaries, uniting millions in the pursuit of health and harmony. She remarked, “Each year, IDY is celebrated with a unique theme that reflects the universal relevance of Yoga and embodies the timeless Indian philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the world is one family. This is the soul of Yoga and the spirit of India’s cultural diplomacy.”

Dr. Kashinath Samagandi, Director, MDNIY, extended a warm welcome to the international gathering and stated, “Yoga Bandhan reflects India’s unwavering commitment to sharing the timeless wisdom of Yoga with the global community. Rooted in the principles of holistic well-being, this initiative seeks to strengthen humanity’s shared bonds through the unifying power of Yoga.”

Following the inaugural session, the delegates undertook a guided tour of the MDNIY campus, participated in an interactive session on Yoga communication and knowledge exchange, and attended a cultural Yoga fusion performance prepared by students of MDNIY.

The event showcased India’s leadership in promoting Yoga through meaningful people-to-people exchanges and long-term institutional collaborations. Delegates explored collaborative opportunities in Yoga research, education, and training during the event.

Among the distinguished international delegates were:

- Mr. Josh Pryor, President & CEO, Yoga Australia
- Mr. Gregor Kos, Yoga in Daily Life, Austria
- Prof. Danilo Forghieri Santaella, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Ms. Yin Yan, Founder, Yogi Yoga, China
- Maj Ingemann-Molden, Denmark
- Mr. Slamet Riyanto, Chairperson, PPYNI, Indonesia
- Mrs. Vidya Volkova, Director, Shakti Yoga Studio, Kazakhstan
- Mr. Manisekaran and Mrs. Sinthamani Arunasalam, Malaysia
- Ms. Irina Fursova, Russia
- Dr. Sujata Cowlagi, Singapore
- Prof. Geo-lyong Lee, South Korea
- Mr. Kugan Naidoo and Ms. Sivlutchime Naidoo, South Africa
- Mr. Jose Maria Marquez Jurado (Gopala), Spain
- Mr. Vimukthi Jayasundara, Sri Lanka
- Ms. Rocio Belen Bonacci, Argentina

Over the next few days, these global Yoga ambassadors will participate in cultural immersions, institutional visits, and policy-level dialogues. Their visit will culminate in participation in the grand **International Day of Yoga 2025** celebrations on **21st June 2025**.

‘Yoga Bandhan’ stands as a testament to India’s soft power and enduring global leadership in Yoga. Through cross-cultural dialogue, institutional engagement, and shared knowledge, the initiative aims to build a more

harmonious, healthy, and connected world.

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