



Ministry of  
**Ayush**  
Government of India



International Day of

**YOGA**



21<sup>st</sup> June

**COMMON YOGA PROTOCOL**



*Ministry of Ayush*  
*Government of India*





21<sup>st</sup> June

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**  
**Common Yoga Protocol**

*This booklet has been prepared in consultation with leading Yoga experts and heads of the leading Yoga institutions of India.*

Edition-May, 2026

**Publisher**

**Director**

**Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga**

Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India

68, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001

Website: [www.yogamdniy.nic.in](http://www.yogamdniy.nic.in), [www.ayush.gov.in](http://www.ayush.gov.in)

***Disclaimer***

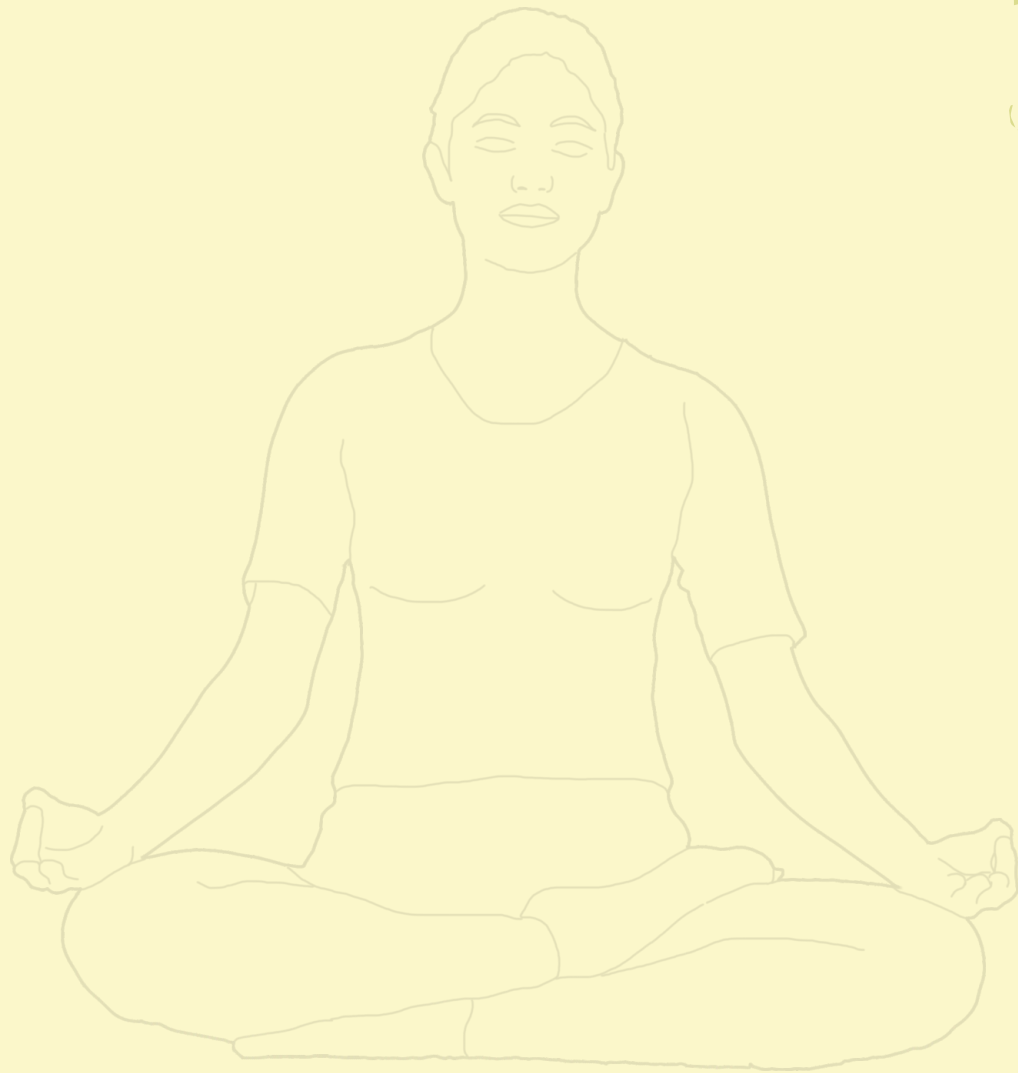
The information provided in this Yoga protocol is intended to create general awareness among people and community to get harmony and peace through Yoga. The information, techniques, and suggestions mentioned in this Yoga protocol are not a substitute for the medical advice of a physician. One may require diagnosis or medical attention in a particular case; in such situations, one must consult a doctor before practising Yoga. The publisher does not assume any responsibility or liability for any injury or loss that may result from practising Yoga.

ISBN 978-81-947026-8-9

© 2026, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or reprinted in any form without the written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in running matter by duly acknowledging the reference.











**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

## MESSAGE



I am happy to learn about the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2023 being observed by the Ministry of Ayush. Greetings and best wishes to everyone associated with the celebrations.

Our ancestors developed this beautiful tradition and today, the entire world is benefiting from it. Yoga is unifying the entire world in the quest for wellness and bringing people together, beyond barriers of geography.

The theme of IDY 2023 - 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' reflects India's ancient and all-embracing culture of treating the whole world as One Family. It is also in sync with the vision that India has given to the world during its G20 presidency this year.

At a time when health and wellness have attained a renewed importance in the world, Yoga has firmly established itself as a route to a better life. It not only offers benefits in terms of fitness and flexibility, but also helps combat chronic lifestyle-related conditions. In a stress-filled world, Yoga has emerged as a soothing healing force that strengthens people from within.

Amrit Kaal is an opportunity to draw strength from the resolve of more than 140 crore Indians to realise the vision of building a strong and inclusive India, which leads to a better planet. Such a dream can be fulfilled only when every individual of the world is healthy. Yoga plays a vital role in achieving this vision.

The initiative by Ministry of Ayush to organise IDY 2023 celebrations will help connect many more people with Yoga and reap the immense physical and mental health benefits that it brings.

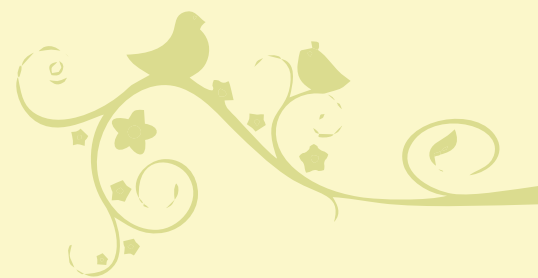
The Common Yoga Protocol Booklet being published to mark the occasion will be a practical guide for Yoga experts and practitioners alike. I wish the publication all success.

May the IDY 2023 celebrations lead to favourable outcomes for the world.

**(Narendra Modi)**

**New Delhi**  
**15<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**







**Prataprao Jadhav**  
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of  
Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State in  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India



## MESSAGE



Yoga, an ancient Indian System, offers a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is both an art and science of living, guiding individuals towards universal well-being.

Since 2015, the International Day of Yoga celebrations have marked significant milestones, resonating deeply with the essence of Yoga. The Ministry of Ayush remains steadfast in its commitment to positioning the International Day of Yoga as a crucial global public health movement, sustaining its momentum year after year. This ongoing endeavor relies on the unwavering support and collaboration of leading Yoga institutions and a diverse array of partners.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed experts of Yoga and the heads of India's premier Yoga institutions for their dedicated efforts in bringing forth this invaluable publication. I hope that this edition of the Common Yoga Protocol booklet will greatly benefit Yoga practitioners, enriching their journey towards enhanced health and well-being. It provides a concise yet comprehensive overview of Yoga and its transformative practices, promoting holistic health for individuals and communities alike.

As we celebrate the 12th International Day of Yoga, I invite you to explore the pages of Common Yoga Protocol booklet and embark on a journey of self-discovery and transformation. Let us join hands in harnessing the power of Yoga to nurture comprehensive health for ourselves and our communities.

May this International Day of Yoga pave the way for a healthier and more fulfilling future for all!

Warm regards and best wishes,

(Prataprao Jadhav)

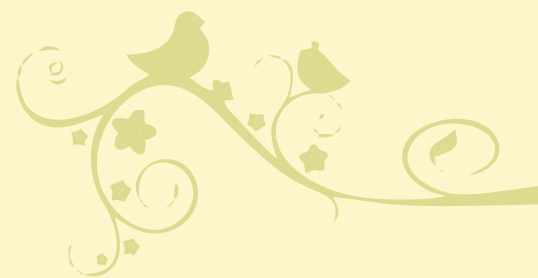
Room No.: 101, Ayush Bhawan, 'B' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023

Tel: 011-24651955, 011-24651935 E-mail: minister-ayush@nic.in

Room No. 250-A, Nirman Bhawan, Maulan Azad Road, New Delhi-110011, Tel.: 011-23061551, 23061016

Residence: 23, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001, Tel.: 011-23740412, 23345478, Fax: 011-23740413





Common Yoga Protocol	1
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
✦ What is Yoga?	2
✦ Brief History and Development of Yoga	3
✦ The Fundamentals of Yoga	4
✦ Traditional Schools of Yoga	5
✦ Yogic Practices for Health and Wellness	6-7
✦ General Guidelines for Yoga Practice	8-9
✦ Food for Thought / How can Yoga Help?	10
<b>01 INVOCATION/PRAYER</b>	12-13
<b>02 SADILAJA/CĀLANAKRIYĀS/LOOSENING PRACTICES</b>	14
I. Neck movement (Grīvā Śakti Vikāsaka)	15
II. Shoulder movement	16-17
III. Trunk movement (Kaṭi Śakti Vikāsaka)	18
IV. Knee movement	19
<b>03 YOGĀSANAS</b>	
<b>A. Standing postures</b>	
✦ Tāḍāsana	20
✦ Pādahastāsana	21
✦ Ardhaçakrāsana	22
✦ Trikoṇāsana	23
<b>B. Sitting postures</b>	
✦ Bhadrāsana	24
✦ Vajrāsana/Vīrāsana	25
✦ Ardhauṣṭrāsana (for beginners)	26

# CONTENT

✧	Uṣṭrāsana	27
✧	Śaśakāsana	28
✧	Uttānamaṇḍūkāsana	29
✧	Vakrāsana/Marīchyāsana	30
<b>C. Prone postures</b>		
✧	Makarāsana	31
✧	Bhujāṅgāsana	32
✧	Śalabhāsana	33
<b>D. Supine postures</b>		
✧	Setubandhāsana	34
✧	Uttānapādāsana	35
✧	Ardhahalāsana	36
✧	Pavanamuktāsana	37
✧	Śavāsana	38
<b>04</b>	<b>KAPĀLABHĀTI</b>	39-40
<b>05</b>	<b>PRĀṆĀYĀMA</b>	
✧	Naḍīsodhana / Anuloma Viloma Prāṇāyāma	41-42
✧	Śitalī Prāṇāyāma	43-44
✧	Bhrāmarī Prāṇāyāma	45-46
<b>06</b>	<b>DHYĀNA</b>	47
<b>07</b>	<b>SAṆKALPA</b>	48
<b>08</b>	<b>ŚĀNTIHPĀTHA</b>	49
✧	Textual References	50
✧	Yoga Geet	51
✧	Committee of Yoga Experts	52
✧	Journey of International Day of Yoga	53-67



# COMMON YOGA PROTOCOL

**W**hile addressing the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27th September, 2014 the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi "urged" the world community to adopt an International Day of Yoga. Shri Modi said:

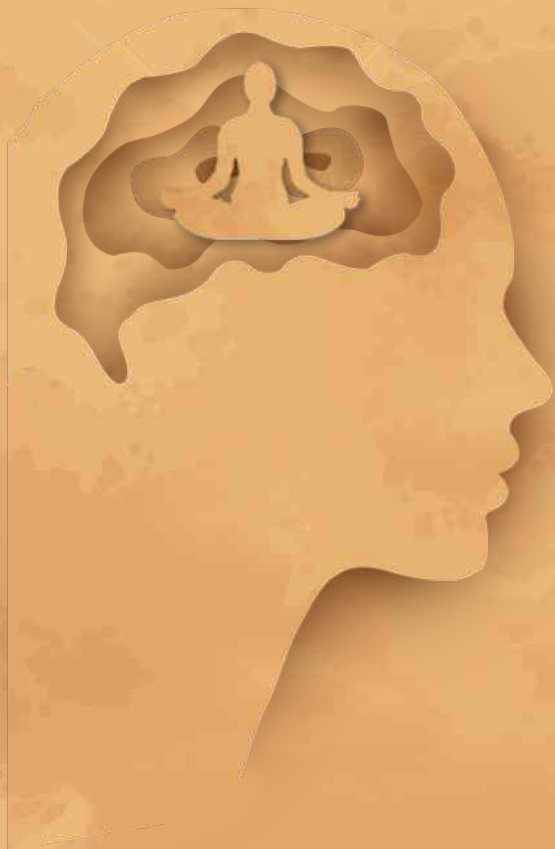
'Yoga is an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature and a holistic approach to health and well-being. Yoga is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with ourselves, the world and Nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us to deal with climate change. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.'

On 11th December 2014, all 193 members of UNGA approved the proposal by consensus with a record 177 cosponsoring countries passing a resolution to establish 21 June as 'International Day of Yoga'. In its resolution, the UNGA recognised that Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being and wider dissemination of information about the benefits

of practising Yoga for the health of the world population. Yoga also brings harmony in all walks of life and thus, is known for disease prevention, health promotion, and management of many lifestyle-related disorders.

The booklet aims to provide a brief overview of yoga and yogic practices, with the goal of orient individuals towards comprehensive health and wellness, benefiting both themselves and the community. Apart from 45 minutes of the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP), a provision has been made for leading Yoga institutions to incorporate 15 minutes of institutional Yogic practices such as Prāṇāyāma, Yoga Nidrā, Dhyāna, and Satsang before Saṅkalpa as deemed fit.

Today, as the importance of Yoga in all aspects of life is realised, an increasing number of students and practitioners are seeking a deeper understanding of the philosophical bases of Yoga and its practices. The CYP is a humble effort to show how Yoga can influence our lives, attitudes, and well-being. This invariably leads us to the very essence and soul of Yoga.



## What is Yoga?

**Y**oga is essentially a spiritual discipline based on an extremely subtle science, which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. It is an art and science for healthy living. The word 'Yoga' is derived from the Sanskrit root 'yuj' meaning 'to join', 'to yoke' or 'to unite'. According to Yogic scriptures, the practice of Yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with the universal consciousness.

According to modern scientists, everything in the universe is just a manifestation of the same quantum firmament. One who

experiences this oneness of existence is said to be 'in Yoga' and is termed as a yogi who has attained a state of freedom, referred to as *mukti*, *nirvāna*, *kaivalya*, or *mokṣa*.

Yoga also refers to an inner science comprising a variety of methods through which human beings can achieve union between the body and the mind to attain self-realisation. The aim of Yoga practice (*sādhana*) is to overcome all kinds of sufferings that lead to a sense of freedom in every walk of life with holistic health, happiness, and harmony.

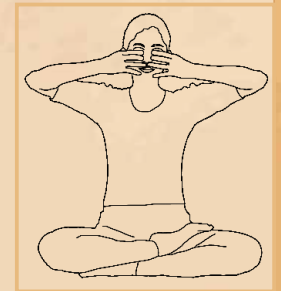
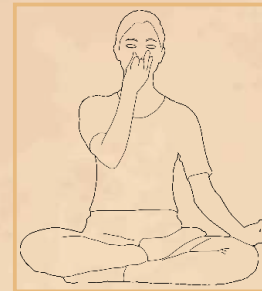
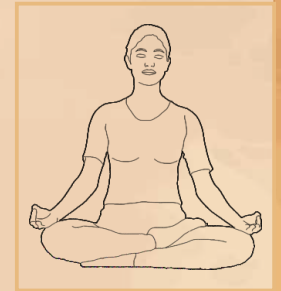
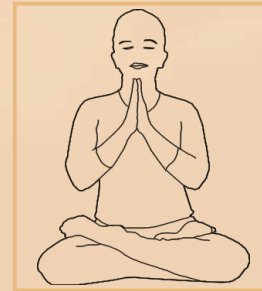
## Brief History and Development of Yoga

**T**he science of Yoga originated thousands of years ago, long before the first religion or belief system was born. The seers and sages carried this powerful Yogic science to different parts of the world, including Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and South America. Interestingly, modern scholars have noted and marvelled at the close parallels found among ancient cultures across the globe. However, in India, the Yogic system was found at its fullest expression. Agastya, the saptarishi, who travelled across the Indian subcontinent, crafted this culture around a core Yogic way of life.

Yoga is widely considered as an 'immortal cultural outcome' of the Indus Saraswati Valley Civilisation, dating back to 2700 BC. It has proven itself to cater to both material and spiritual upliftment of humanity. The unearthing of a number of seals and fossil remains of the Indus Saraswati Valley Civilisation with Yogic motifs and figures performing Yoga sādhanā suggests the presence of Yoga in ancient India. The seals and idols of Mother Goddess are suggestive of the

existence of Tantra Yoga. The presence of Yoga is also found in folk traditions, Vedic and Upanishadic heritage, Buddhist and Jain traditions, Darshanas, epics of Mahabharata (including Bhagavad Gita) and Ramayana, and theistic traditions of Shaivas, Vaishnavas, and Tantra. Though Yoga was being practised in the pre-Vedic period, the great sage Maharishi Patanjali systematised and codified the then existing Yogic practices, its meaning, and its related knowledge through Patanjali's Yoga Sutras.

After Patanjali, many sages and Yoga masters contributed greatly to the preservation and development of the field through well-documented practices and literature. Yoga has spread all over the world by the teachings of eminent Yoga masters from ancient times to the present day. Today, everybody has this conviction that Yoga practices can prevent diseases and promote health. Millions of people across the globe have benefitted by the practice of Yoga and this practise is blossoming and growing vibrantly with each passing day.



## The Fundamentals of Yoga



**Y**oga works at the level of one's body, mind, emotion, and energy. This has given rise to five broad classifications of Yoga:

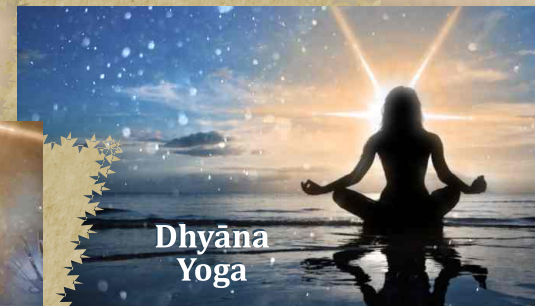
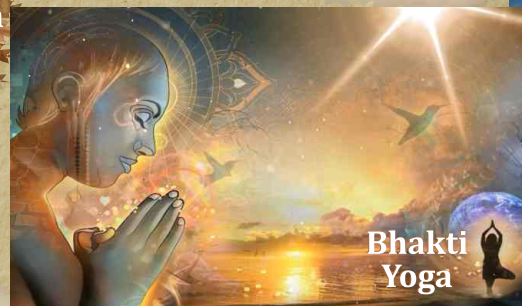
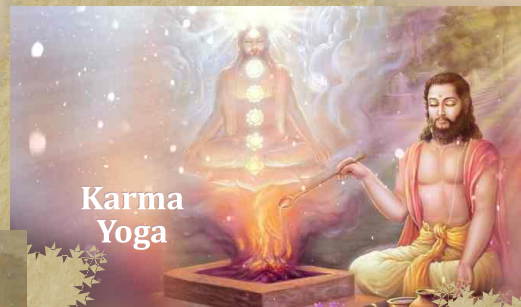
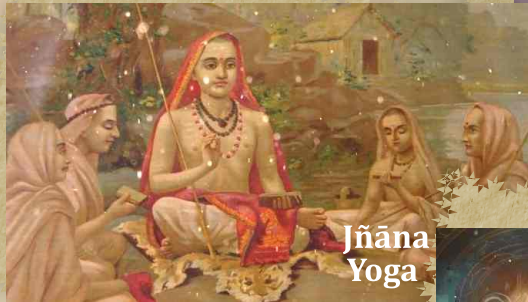
- (a) *Jñāna* Yoga : Yoga for knowledge
- (b) *Bhakti* Yoga : Yoga for emotions culture
- (c) *Karma* Yoga : Yoga for selfless action
- (d) *Dhyāna* Yoga : Yoga for meditation
- (e) *Kriyā* Yoga : Yoga for optimum utilisation of vital energy.

Every individual is a unique combination of these five factors. Only a Guru (teacher) can advocate the appropriate combination of the five fundamental paths as necessary for each seeker. All ancient commentaries on Yoga have stressed that it is essential to work under the direction of a Guru.

## Traditional Schools of Yoga

The different philosophies, traditions, lineages, and Guru-shishya paramparas of Yoga have led to the emergence of different traditional schools. These include Jñāna Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Karma Yoga, Pātañjala

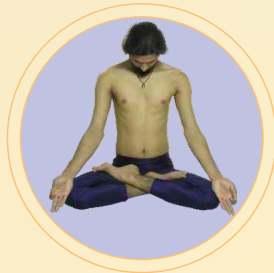
Yoga, Kundalini Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Dhyāna Yoga, Mantra Yoga, Laya Yoga, Rāja Yoga, Jain Yoga, Bouddha Yoga, etc. Each school has its own approach and practices that lead to the ultimate aim and objectives of Yoga.



## Yogic Practices for Health and Wellness



**Prāṇāyāma**



**Bandh Mudrā**



**Yogāsana**



**Dhyāna**



**Shuddhi Kriyā**



**Mitāhāra**



**T**he widely practised Yoga sadhanas are *Yama, Niyama, Āsana, Prāṇāyāma, Pratyāhāra, Dhāraṇā, Dhyāna, Samādhi, Bandhā and Mudrā, Ṣaṭkarma, Yuktāhāra, Mantra-japa, Yukta-karma*, etc.

Yamas are restraints and Niyamas are observances. These restraints and observances are considered to be prerequisites for further Yoga practice. *Āsanas* are capable of bringing about stability of body and mind; *kuryattadāsanam-sthairyam* involves adopting various psycho-physical body patterns and giving one the ability to maintain a body position (a stable awareness of one's structural existence) for a considerable length of time.

*Prāṇāyāma* consists of developing awareness of one's breathing followed by wilful regulation of respiration as the functional or vital basis of one's existence. It helps in developing awareness of one's mind and helps to establish control over the mind. In the initial stages, this is done by developing awareness of the 'flow of in-breath and out-breath' (*śvāsa-praśvāsa*) through nostrils, mouth, and other body openings, its internal and external pathways, and destinations. Later, this phenomenon is modified through regulated, controlled, and monitored inhalation (*śvāsa*) leading to the awareness of the body space getting filled (*pūraka*), the space(s) remaining in a filled state (*kumbhaka*), and it getting emptied (*recaka*) during regulated, controlled, and monitored exhalation (*praśvāsa*).

*Pratyāhāra* indicates dissociation of one's consciousness (withdrawal) from the sense organs that connect with the external objects. *Dhāraṇā* indicates broad-based field of attention (inside the body and mind), which is usually understood as concentration. *Dhyāna* (meditation) is contemplation (focused attention inside the body and mind) and *Samādhi* is the state of being constant.

*Bandha* and *Mūdra* are practices associated with *Prāṇāyāma*. They are viewed as the higher Yogic practices that mainly adopt certain physical gestures along with control over respiration. These practices facilitate control over mind and pave the way for a higher Yogic attainment. However, the practice of *dhyāna*, which moves one towards self-realisation and leads one to transcendence, is considered the essence of *Yoga Sādhana*.

*Ṣaṭkarma* are detoxification procedures that are clinical in nature and help to remove toxins accumulated in the body. *Yuktāhāra* advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living.

Mantra Japa is the meditative repetition of a mantra or a divine consciousness. Mantra Japa produces positive mental tracts, helping one to gradually overcome stress.

**Yukta-karma** advocates  
**Right Karmas** or actions for a  
**Healthy Living**



## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR YOGA PRACTICE

Everyone should follow certain guiding principles while performing Yogic practices. Some of the general ones are given below.

### Before the Practice:

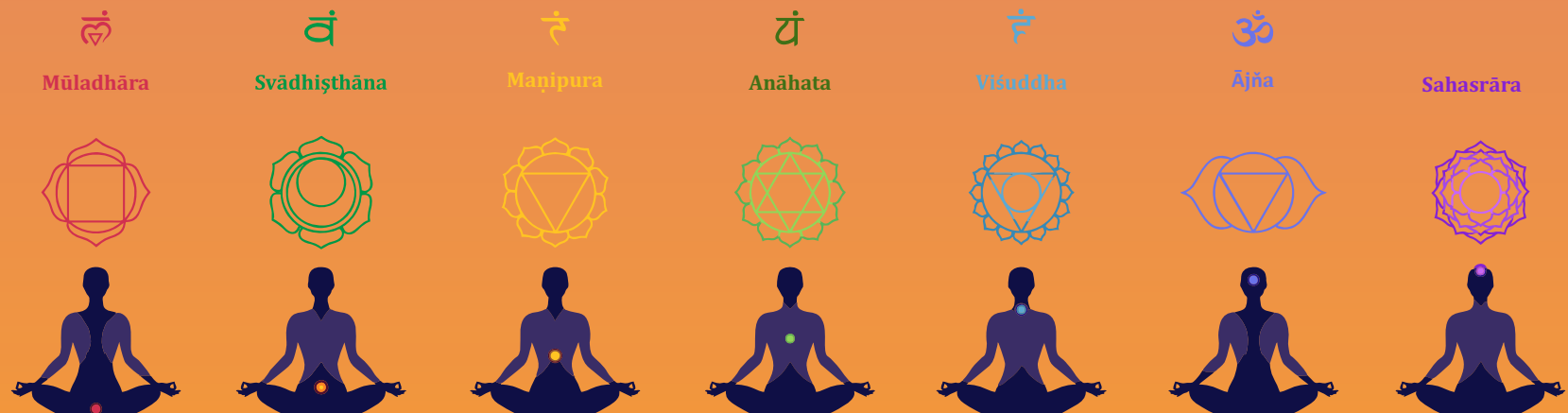
- *Śauca* means cleanliness; it is an important pre-requisite for Yoga practice. It includes cleanliness of surroundings, body, and mind.
- Yoga practice should be performed in a calm and quiet atmosphere with a relaxed body and mind.
- Yoga practice should be done on an empty stomach or light stomach. Consume small amount of honey in lukewarm water if you feel weak.
- Bladder and bowels should be empty before starting Yogic practices.
- A mattress, Yoga mat, durrie or folded blanket should be used for the practice.
- Wearing light and comfortable cotton clothes helps facilitate easy movement of the body.
- Yoga should not be performed in a state of exhaustion, illness, in a hurry or in acute stress conditions.
- If an individual is having any chronic disease, pain, or cardiac problems, he or she should consult a physician or a Yoga expert prior to performing Yogic practices.
- Yoga experts consulted before engaging in Yogic practices during pregnancy and menstruation.

## During the Practice

- Practice sessions should start with a prayer or an invocation as it creates a conducive environment to relax the mind.
- Yogic practices shall be performed slowly, in a relaxed manner, with awareness of the body and breath.
- Do not hold the breath unless it is specifically mentioned to do so during the practice.
- Breathing should be always through the nostrils unless instructed otherwise.
- Do not hold the body tight or give undue jerks to the body.
- Perform the practices according to one's capacity.
- It takes some time to get good results, so persistent and regular practice is essential.
- There are contra-indications/limitations for each Yoga practice and such contra-indications should always be kept in mind.
- Yoga sessions should end with meditation/deep silence/Sankalpa/Śāntipāṭha, etc.

## After the Practice

- Bath may be taken only after 20–30 minutes of Yoga practice.
- Food may be consumed only after 20–30 minutes of Yoga practice.



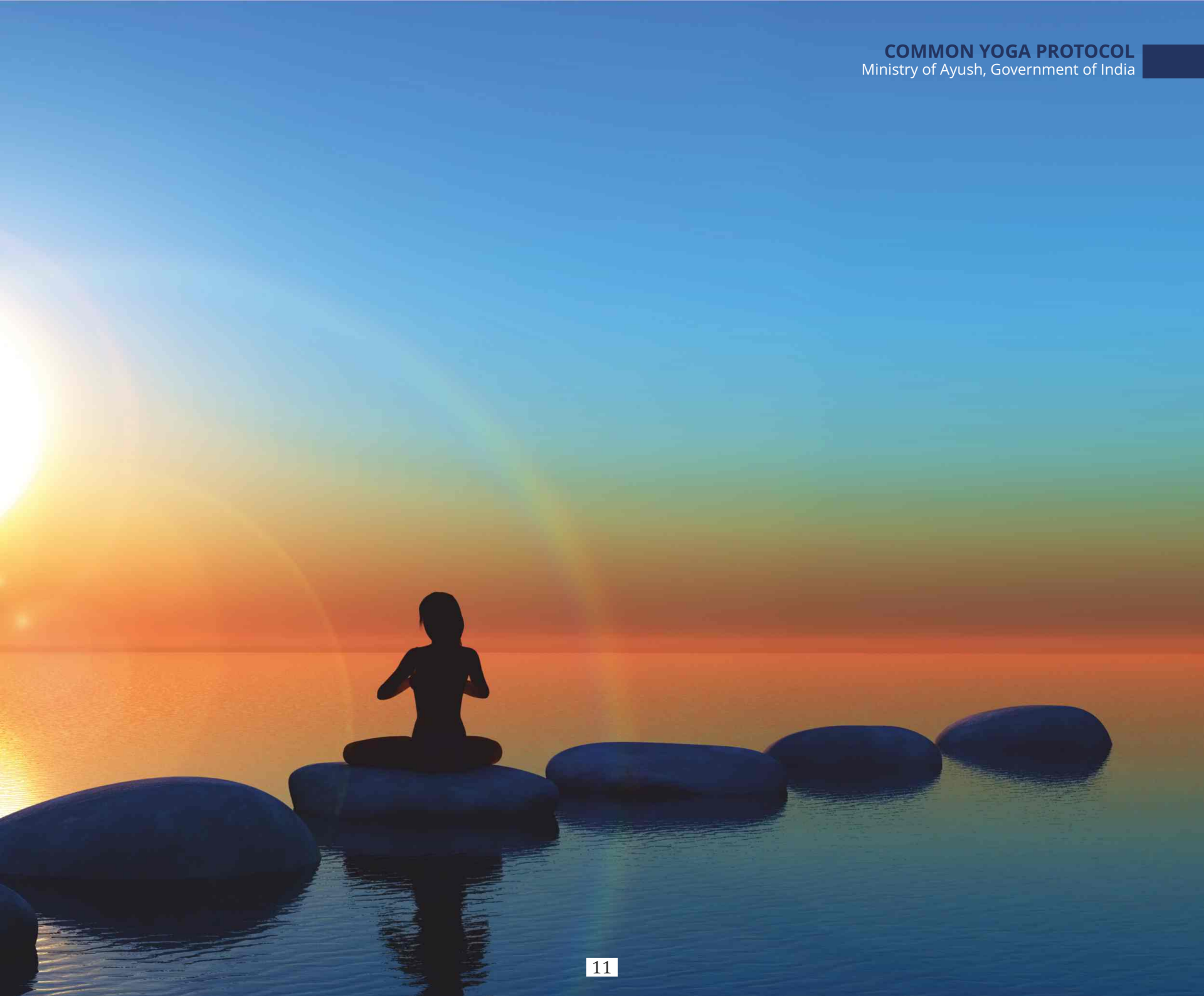
## **Food for Thought**

A few dietary guidelines can ensure that the body and mind are flexible and well-prepared for Yoga practice. A vegetarian diet is usually recommended, and for a person over 30 years, two meals a day should suffice, except in cases of illness or high physical activity or labour.

## **How Yoga Can Help**

Yoga is essentially a path to liberation from all bondage. However, medical research in recent years has uncovered many physical and mental benefits that Yoga offers, corroborating the experiences of millions of practitioners. A small sampling of research points to certain benefits of practising Yoga such as the ones listed below:

- Yoga is beneficial for physical fitness, musculo-skeletal functioning, and cardio-vascular health.
- It is beneficial in the management of diabetes, respiratory disorders, hypertension, hypotension, and many lifestyle-related disorders.
- Yoga helps to reduce depression, fatigue, anxiety disorders, and stress.
- Yoga helps to regulate menstrual and menopausal symptoms.
- Yoga is the process of creating a healthy body and a stable mind, which are prerequisites for leading an exuberant and fulfilling life.



# 1|Invocation/Prayer



Yogic practice shall start with a prayer or prayerful mood to enhance the benefits of practice.

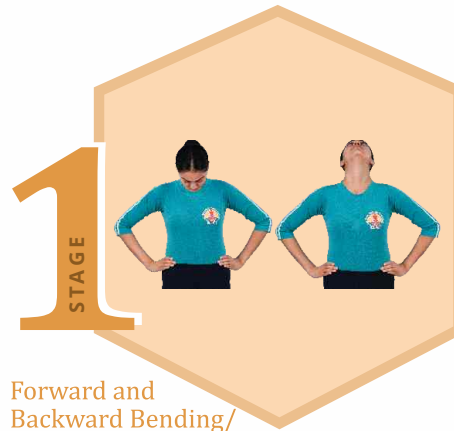
ॐ Samṅacchadhvam̐ samvadadhvam̐  
sam̐ vo manāmsi jānatām  
devā bhāgam̐ yathā pūrve  
sañjānānā upāsate ||

.Rgveda 10/191/2

May you move in harmony; may you speak in unison;  
let our mind be equanimous like in the beginning; let the  
divinity manifest in your sacred endeavours.

## 2 | SADILAJA/CĀLANA KRIYĀS/ LOOSENING PRACTICES

The Cālana Kriyās/loosening practices/Yogic Sūkṣma Vyāyāmas help to increase microcirculation. These practices can be done while standing and sitting.



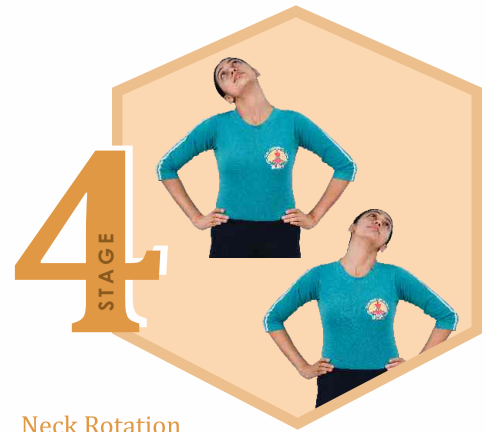
1  
STAGE  
Forward and  
Backward Bending/  
Stretching



2  
STAGE  
Right & Left  
bending/stretching



3  
STAGE  
Right and  
Left Twisting



4  
STAGE  
Neck Rotation



# I. NECK MOVEMENTS (Grīvā Śakti Vikāsaka)

[Sthiti: Samasthiti (Alert Posture)]

## TECHNIQUE

### STAGE-1

#### Forward and Backward Bending/Stretching

- Stand with the feet 2-3 inches apart.
- Keep the hands straight beside the body.
- This is **Samasthiti**. This is also called **Tādāsana**.
- Keep your palms on the waist.
- While exhaling, move the head forward slowly and try to touch the chin to the chest.
- While inhaling, move the head up and bend back comfortably.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.

### STAGE-2

#### Right and Left Bending/Stretching

- While exhaling, bend the head slowly to the right; bring the ear as close as possible to the shoulder without raising the shoulder.
- While inhaling, bring the head to the normal position. Similarly, while exhaling bend the head to the left side.
- Inhale and bring the head up to normal position.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.

### STAGE-3

#### Right and Left Twisting

- Keep the head upright.
- While exhaling, gently turn the head to the right so that the chin is in line with the shoulder.
- While inhaling, bring the head to the normal position.
- Similarly, while exhaling, turn the head to the left.
- Inhale and bring the head to the normal position.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.

### STAGE-4

#### Neck Rotation

- Exhale; bend the head forward to touch the chin to the chest.
- Inhale; slowly rotate the head clockwise in a circular motion, exhale while coming down.
- Do a full rotation.
- Then rotate the head in the anti-clockwise direction.
- Inhale; go back and exhale, come down.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.
- Come back & relax.

## NOTE

- Move the head as far as possible. Do not overstrain.
- Keep the shoulders relaxed and steady.
- Feel the stretch around the neck and loosening up of the joints and muscles of the neck.
- This can also be practised sitting on a chair.
- People with neck pain can do the practice gently especially when taking the head back to the extent it is comfortable.
- Elderly people and persons with chronic cervical spondylosis may avoid these practices.

## Shoulder movements



### STAGE-1



### STAGE-2



## II. SHOULDER MOVEMENTS

**Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert posture)

### TECHNIQUE

#### STAGE-1

##### Shoulder Stretch

- Keep the feet together, the body straight, and the arms by the sides.
- While inhaling, raise both arms sideways above the head with the palm outward.
- Exhale and bring it down in the same manner.
- Palms must be opened, with fingers together.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.

##### Benefits

- This Yogic *kriyā* makes the bones, muscles, and nerves of the neck and shoulder healthy.
- These practices are helpful in cervical spondylosis and frozen shoulder.

#### STAGE-2

##### Skandha Cakra (Shoulder Rotation)

- Stand erect.
- Place the fingers of left hand on the left shoulder and the fingers of right hand on the right shoulder.
- Full rotation of the elbows in a circular manner.
- Inhale and raise the elbows and bring them back while exhaling.
- Try to touch the elbows in front of the chest on the forward movement, stretch the elbows back in the backward movement and touch the side of the trunk while coming down.
- Do the same in reverse manner. Inhale while raising the elbows and exhale while bringing them down.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.
- Come back & Relax.





### III. TRUNK MOVEMENT

(Kaṭiśakti Vikāśaka)

| **Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert posture)



#### Technique

- Keep the legs about 1 foot apart.
- Raise both the arms up to shoulder level with palms facing each other and keep them parallel.
- While exhaling, twist the body towards the left side so that the right palm touches the left shoulder; come back with inhalation.
- While exhaling, twist the body towards the right side so that the left palm touches the right shoulder; come back with inhalation.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.
- Come back & relax.

#### NOTE

- Perform it slowly with coordination of breathing.
- Cardiac patients shall do with care.
- Avoid this practice in case of severe back pain, vertebral and intervertebral disc disorders, and during menstruation.

## IV. Knee movement

| *Sthiti: Samasthiti* (Alert posture)



### Technique

- Inhale; lift the arms up to the shoulder level, palms facing downwards.
- Exhale; bend the knees and bring down the body to the semi-squatting position.
- In the final position, both the arms and thighs should be parallel to the ground.
- Inhale and straighten the body.
- This is one round; repeat two more rounds.
- Come back & relax.

### NOTE

- It helps to strengthen knees and hip joints.
- Avoid this asana in case of acute conditions of arthritis.





## A. STANDING POSTURES

### 3 | YOGĀSANAS

#### TĀDĀSANA

(Palm-tree Posture)

*Tāḍa* means palm tree or mountain.

This *āsana* helps one to attain stability and firmness and forms the base for all standing *āsans*.

**Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert posture)

#### Technique

- Stand with feet 2 inches apart.
- Inhale, lift your arms up to the shoulder level in the front.
- Interlock the fingers, and turn the wrist outwards. Now inhale, raise the arms up above your head.
- Raise the heels off the floor and balance on the toes as you raise your arms. Stay in this position for 10–30 seconds and breathe normally.
- Bring the heels down on exhale, release the interlock of the fingers and bring the arms down and come back to standing posture.

#### Benefits

- This *āsana* brings stability in the body, helps to clear up congestion of the spinal nerves, and corrects faulty posture.

#### Caution

- Avoid lifting the heels in case of arthritis, varicose veins, and vertigo.





## PĀDA-HASTĀSANA

(The Hands-to-Feet Posture)

*Pāda* means feet, *hasta* means hands. Therefore, *Pāda-Hastāsana* means keeping the palms down towards the feet. This is also referred as *Uttānāsana*.  
**Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert posture)

### Technique

- Stand straight with feet 2 inches apart.
- Inhale slowly and raise the arms up.
- Stretch up the body from the waist.
- Exhale and bend forward until both palms rest on the ground.
- Stretch the back, to make it as straight as possible.
- Maintain this final posture for 10–30 seconds and breathe normally.
- Now inhale, come up slowly to the upright position and stretch the arms straight above the head.
- Exhale, slowly return to the starting position in the reverse order.
- Relax in *Samasthiti*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* makes the spine flexible, improves digestion, and helps in overcoming menstrual problems.

### Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of cardiac disorders, vertebral and disc disorders, abdominal inflammation, hernia and ulcers, glaucoma, myopia, and vertigo.

### NOTE

- Those who are suffering with stiff back should bend according to their capacity.



## ARDHACAKRĀSANA (The Half-Wheel Posture)

*Ardha* means half. *Cakra* means wheel. As the body takes the shape of a half wheel in this posture, it is called *ArdhaCakrāsana*.

**Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert posture)

### Technique

- Stand straight with feet 2 inches apart.
- Support the back at the sides of the waist with the fingers.
- Try to keep the elbows parallel.
- Inhale, Drop the head backwards feel the stretch in the neck.
- As you exhale, bend backwards from the lumbar region.
- Maintain this final posture for 10–30 seconds and breathe normally.
- Inhale and slowly come up.
- Relax in *Samasthiti*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* makes the spine flexible and strengthens the spinal nerves and muscles.
- It helps in the management of cervical spondylosis.

### Caution

- Avoid this posture if you have vertigo or a tendency to fall over or stagger (giddiness).
- Hypertensive patients should bend with care.





## TRIKOṆĀSANA (The Triangle Posture)

*Trikoṇā* means triangle. *Tri* means three and *koṇa* means angle. As the *āsana* resembles the shape of a triangle made by the trunk, arms, and legs, this *āsana* gets the name *Trikoṇāsana*.

**Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert posture)

### Technique

- Stand with feet 3 feet apart.
- Inhale slowly while raising both the arms sideways up to shoulder level.
- Turn the right foot towards right side.
- Exhale, slowly bend to the right side and place the right hand fingers just behind the right foot.
- The left arm should be straight in line with the right arm.
- Turn the head and gaze at the tip of the left middle finger.
- Remain in the posture for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Inhale, slowly come up.
- Repeat the same procedure from the left side.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* makes the spine flexible, strengthens calf, thigh and waist muscles, and improves the capacity of lungs.

### Caution

- Avoid this posture if you have slipped disc or sciatica.
- Avoid this posture after undergoing an abdominal surgery.
- Do not try beyond limits and over-do the lateral stretch.
- If you cannot touch the feet, you can reach for the knees instead.

## B. SITTING POSTURES

# BHADRĀSANA

(The Firm/Auspicious Posture)

*Bhadrā* means firm or auspicious.

**Sthiti:** *Viśrāmāsana* (Long sitting posture).

- Sit erect with both the legs stretched forward.
- Support the back with hands. Body should be relaxed totally.

### Technique

- Sit straight with legs stretched out in the front.
- Keep the hands beside the hips and palms resting on the floor. This is *Daṇḍāsana*.
- Now put the soles of your feet together.
- Exhale and clasp your hands together over your toes. Inhale, pull your heels as close as possible up to perineum region.
- Stay in this position for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* helps to keep the body firm and stabilise the mind.
- Helps during pregnancy and relieves abdominal pain often experienced during menstruation.

### Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of severe arthritis and sciatica.

### NOTE

- If your thighs are not touching or are not close to the floor, place a soft cushion underneath the knees for support.





## VAJRĀSANA

(Thunderbolt Posture)

This is considered as one of the meditative postures. While practising it for meditative purposes, one should close his/her eyes at the final stage.

**Sthiti:** *Viśrāmāsana* (Long sitting posture)

### Technique

- Sit with extended legs together, hands by the side of the body, palm resting on the ground, fingers pointing forward.
- Fold the right leg at the knee and place the foot under the right buttock.
- Similarly, fold the left leg and place the left foot under the left buttock.
- Place both the heels such that the big toes touch each other.
- Position of the buttocks is in the space between the heels.
- Keep both hands on knees respectively.
- Keep the spine erect, gaze in front or close the eyes.
- Remain in the posture for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* is good for digestion, and strengthens the thigh and calf muscles.

### Caution

- Persons suffering from piles should not practise this *āsana*.
- Those who are suffering from knee pain and ankle injury should avoid this practice.



## ARDHAUṢṬRĀSANA (The Half-Camel Posture)

*Uṣṭrā* means camel. The final version of this *āsana* will resemble the hump of a camel. In this version, only the first stage (half) of the *āsana* is being practised.

**Sthiti:** *Vajrāsana*



### Technique

- Sit in *Vajrāsana*.
- Stand on your knees.
- Place the hands on the hips with fingers pointing downwards.
- Keep the elbows and shoulders parallel.
- Inhale, and bend the head back and stretch the neck muscles; exhale and bend the trunk backwards as much as possible.
- Keep the thighs perpendicular to the ground.
- Remain in the posture for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Return with inhalation; sit in *Vajrāsana*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* strengthens the back and neck muscles.
- It relieves constipation and back pain.
- It increases blood circulation to the head and cardiac regions.

### Caution

- Avoid doing this *āsana* in case of hernia and abdominal injuries, arthritis, and vertigo.





## UṢṬRĀSANA (The Camel Posture)

*Uṣṭra* means camel. The body in this pose will resemble the hump of a camel, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** *Vajrāsana*

### Technique

- Sit in *Vajrāsana*.
- Bring the knees and the feet a few inches apart and stand on your knees. While inhaling, bend backwards with the right palm on right heel and the left palm on left heel; exhale.
- Be careful not to jerk the neck while bending backwards.
- In the final position, the thighs will be vertical to the floor and head tilted backwards.
- The weight of the body should be evenly distributed on the arms and legs.
- Remain in the posture for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Return with inhalation; sit in *Vajrāsana*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* is extremely useful for defective eyesight.
- It is useful in relieving back and neck pain.
- It helps to reduce fat over the abdomen and hip.
- It is helpful in digestive problems and cardio-respiratory disorders.

### Caution

- Persons suffering from heart diseases or hernia should not practise it.





### Technique

- Sit in *Vajrāsana*.
- Spread both the knees wide apart, keep the big toes touching.
- Inhale, keep the palms between the knees.
- Exhale, bend forward with arms outstretched and place the chin on the ground.
- Keep the arms parallel.
- Maintain the posture for 10-30 seconds and breathe normally.
- Come back to *Vajrāsana*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* helps to reduce stress and anxiety.
- It tones up reproductive organs, relieves constipation, improves digestion, and helps to relieve back pain.

### Caution

- Patients with osteoarthritis of the knees and acute backache should avoid this *āsana*.

## ŚAŚAKĀSANA (The Hare Posture)

*Śaśaka* means hare. The body in this pose will resemble a hare, hence the name.

**Stithi:** *Vajrāsana*





## UTTĀNAMAṆḌŪKĀSANA (Stretched-up Frog Posture)

*Uttāna* means upright and *Maṇḍūka* means frog. The final position of *Uttānamaṇḍūkasana* would resemble an upright frog, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** *Vajrāsana*

### Technique

- Sit in *Vajrāsana*.
- Spread both the knees wide apart while big toes touching each other.
- Raise your right arm, fold it from the elbow, and take it backwards above the left shoulder and place the palm on the left shoulder blade.
- Now fold the left arm similarly and place the palm on the right shoulder blade.
- Maintain the position for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing, then come back slowly in the reverse order.
- While returning to the starting position, bend a little the right side; take out the left leg and extend it.
- Similarly extend the right leg and sit with extended legs together.
- Relax in *Viśrāmāsana*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* is helpful in relieving back and neck pain, especially cervical pain.
- It improves the diaphragmatic movements and lungs capacity.

### Caution

- Person with severe knee joint pain should avoid this practice.





## VAKRĀSANA/MARĪCHYĀSANA (The Spinal Twist Posture)

*Vakrā* means twisted. In this *āsana*, the spine is twisted, which has a rejuvenating effect on its functioning.

**Sthiti:** *Viśrāmāsana*

### Technique

- Sit with extended legs together, hands by the side of the body, palm resting on the ground in *dandāsana*.
- Bend the right leg and place the right foot beside the left knee.
- Bring the left arm around the right knee and clasp the right big toe or place the palm beside right foot.
- Take the right arm back and keep the palm on the ground with the back straight.
- Exhale, twist the body to the right.
- Remain in the posture for 10–30 seconds with normal breathing and relax.
- Inhale, take out the hands, and exhale to relax.
- Repeat the same on the other side.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* increases the flexibility of the spine and stimulates the functioning of the pancreas, which helps in the management of diabetes.

### Caution

- Avoid this posture in case of acute back pain, spinal disorders, after abdominal surgery, and during menstruation.



### C. PRONE POSTURES

## MAKARĀSANA

(The Crocodile Posture)

In Sanskrit, *Makara* means crocodile.  
In this *āsana*, the body would resemble crocodile, hence this name.

**Sthiti:** Prone relaxation posture

### Technique

- Lie down on stomach with the feet wide apart, toes pointing outwards.
- Bend both the arms and place the right palm on the left palm.
- Place the head either the left side or the right side on your hands.
- Keep the eyes closed and relax the whole body. This is *Makarāsana*.

### Benefits

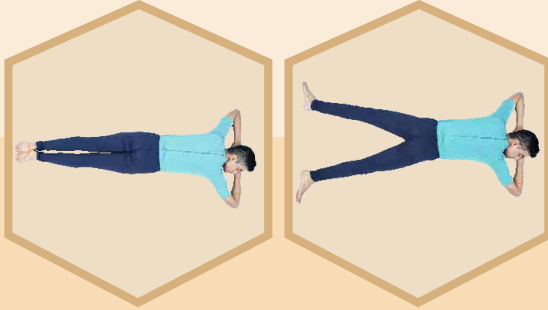
- This *āsana* promotes relaxation of the whole body.
- It helps in the recovery of back problems.

### Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of pregnancy and frozen shoulders.

### NOTE

- This *āsana* is practised for relaxation in all prone postures.



## BHUJAṄĀSANA

(The Cobra Posture)

*Bhujāṅga* means snake or cobra. In this *āsana*, the body is raised like the hood of a snake, hence the name.  
**Stithi:** *Makarāsana* (Prone relaxation posture)

### Technique

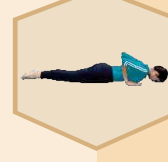
- Lie down on your stomach, rest your head on your hands and relax the body.
- Now join your legs and stretch your arms.
- Keep the forehead on the ground.
- Now place your hands just beside the body; keep the palms and elbows on the ground.
- As you inhale slowly, lift the head and chest up to the navel region without changing the position of hands.
- Stay there comfortably.
- This is called *Saral Bhujāṅgāsana*.
- Now come back and place your forehead on the ground.
- Keep your palms besides the chest and raise your elbows from where they are.
- Inhale, slowly lift the head and the chest up to the navel region.
- Keep the elbows parallel and maintain the posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- This is *Bhujāṅgāsana*.
- Exhale, rest your forehead on the ground, come back to *Makarāsana*, and relax.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* relieves stress and constipation, and reduces abdominal fat.
- It helps to relieve backache and bronchial problems.

### Caution

- Those who have undergone abdominal surgery should avoid this *āsana* for 2-3 months.
- Those who are suffering from hernia or ulcers should not practise this *āsana*.



NOTE

- Keep the legs firm so that no strain is felt on the lumbar spine.

## ŚALABHĀSANA

(The Locust Posture)

Śalabha means a locust.

**Sthiti:** *Makarāsana* (Prone relaxation posture)

NOTE

- Pull up the knee caps and squeeze the buttocks to improve the posture. This āsana is more beneficial when performed after *Bhujāṅgāsana*.

### Technique

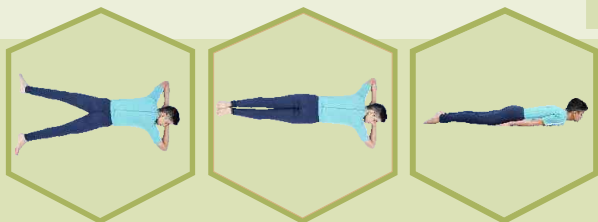
- Lie down on stomach in *Makarāsana*.
- Rest the chin on the floor, keep both hands beside the body, palms facing downwards.
- Inhale, raise the legs off the floor as per one's capacity without bending the knees.
- Extend the arms and the legs well to ease lifting the body off the floor.
- Stay in this position for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Exhale; bring the legs down towards the floor.
- Relax in *Makarāsana*.

### Benefits

- This āsana relieves in sciatica pain and lower backache.
- It helps to reduce fat in the thighs and buttocks, and is also good in weight management.
- It helps to improve the capacity of lungs .

### Caution

- One should proceed cautiously in case of severe lower back pain.
- People with high blood pressure, peptic ulcer or hernia should avoid this posture.



### Technique

- Bend both the legs at the knees and bring the heels near the buttocks.
- While holding both the ankles firmly, keep the knees and feet in one straight line.
- Inhale, slowly raise your buttocks and trunk up as much as you can to form a bridge.
- Remain in this position for 10-30 seconds, with normal breathing.
- Exhale, slowly return to the original position and relax in Śavāsana.

### Benefits

- It relieves depression and, anxiety and also strengthens the lower back muscles.
- It stretches abdominal organs, improves digestion, and helps to relieve constipation.

### Caution

- People suffering from ulcer, hernia, etc. should not practise this āsana.

NOTE

- In the final position, both the shoulders, the neck, and the head remain in contact with the floor.
- If required, in the final position, you can support the body at the waist with the hands.

### D. SUPINE POSTURES

## SETUBANDHĀSANA (The Bridge Posture)

*Setubandha* means formation of bridge. In this posture, the body is positioned like a bridge, hence the name. This is also called as *Catuspādāsana*.

**Sthiti:** Śavāsana (Supine lying posture)

- Lie down on back with arms & legs comfortably apart.



## UTTĀNAPĀDĀSANA

(Raised feet posture)

*Uttāna* means raised-upwards and *Pāda* means leg. In this *āsana*, the legs are raised upwards in supine position, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** *Śavāsana* (Supine lying posture)

### Technique

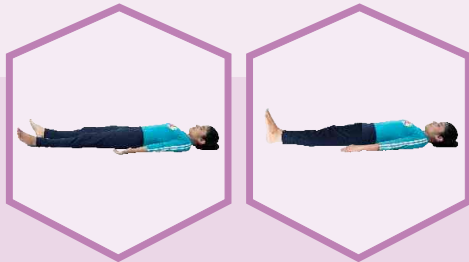
- Lie comfortably on the ground with the legs stretched out.
- Hands should be placed by the sides.
- While inhaling, slowly raise both the legs without bending them at the knees and bring them to 30° angle with the ground.
- Maintain the position for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Exhale, slowly bring both the legs down and place them on the ground.
- Relax in *Śavāsana*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* helps in balancing the navel centre (*Nābhi, Maṇipuracakra*).
- It is helpful in relieving abdominal pain, flatulence, indigestion and diarrhea.
- It strengthens the abdominal and pelvic floor muscles.
- It is effective in overcoming depression and anxiety.

### Caution

- People with hypertension and back pain shall practise it with one leg alternatively without holding the breath.



## ARDHAHALĀSANA (Half-Plough Posture)

'Ardha' means half and 'Hala' means plough. This posture is known as *Ardhahalāsana* because in its final position, the body would resemble half the shape of an Indian plough.

**Sthiti:** *Śavāsana* (Supine lying posture)

### Technique

- Take supine position, keep the hands besides the body and the palms resting on the ground.
- Inhale, slowly raise your legs together without bending knees and bring them upto 90° angle with the ground.
- The body from hips to shoulder should be kept straight.
- Maintain this position comfortably for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Exhale, slowly bring the legs down to the ground without lifting the head.
- Relax in *Śavāsana*.

### Benefits

- This *āsana* relieves constipation and is beneficial for hypertensive patients; however, it needs to be practised under supervision.

### Caution

- Those who have lumbo-sacral (lower back) pain should not perform with both the legs together.
- Avoid this practice in case of abdominal injuries, hernia etc .





## PAVANAMUKTĀSANA (Wind-Releasing Posture)

*Pavana* means wind and *mukta* means to release or to make free. As the name suggests, this *āsana* is useful in removing wind or flatulence from the stomach and the intestine.

**Sthiti:** Śavāsana (Supine lying posture)

### Technique

- Lie down flat on the back.
- Bend both the knees.
- Exhale, bring both the knees towards the chest.
- Inhale, interlock the fingers and clasp the shin below the knees.
- Exhale, raise the head till your chin/nose touches the knees and relax.
- Maintain the position for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Bring the head back to the ground.
- While exhaling, bring the legs back to the floor.
- Rest in Śavāsana.

### Benefits

- It removes constipation, gives relief from flatulence, decreases the bloating sensation in the abdomen, and aids digestion.
- It generates deep internal pressure, and improves stretching of the highly complicated network of muscles, ligaments, and tendons in the pelvic and waist regions.
- It tones up the back muscles and spinal nerves.

### Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of abdominal injuries, hernia, sciatica, severe back pain, and during pregnancy.

### NOTE

- One should synchronise breathing with the leg movement.
- While touching the knee with the nose/chin, one should be able to feel the lumbar region stretch; keep the eyes closed and focus on the pelvic and lumbar regions.

## ŚAVĀSANA

(Corpse/ Dead-Body Posture)

Śava means dead body. The final position, in this āsana would resemble a corpse/dead body.

**Sthiti:** Śavāsana (Supine lying posture)

### Technique

- Lie down on back with arms and legs comfortably apart.
- Palms facing upwards, eyes closed.
- Relax the whole body consciously.
- Become aware of natural breath and allow it to become slow and shallow.
- Remain in the position till you feel refresh and relaxed.

### Benefits

- This āsana helps to relieve all kinds of tension and gives rest to both body and mind.
- The mind, which is constantly attracted to the outer world, takes a U-turn and moves inwards, thus, gradually getting absorbed; as the mind turns quiet and absorbed, the practitioner remains undisturbed by the external environment.
- It is found beneficial in the management of stress and its consequences.





## 4 | KAPĀLABHĀTI

*Kapal* means skull, *bhati* means to shine or to cleanse. It is a cleansing practice which helps to clean the frontal sinuses and upper respiring tract.

**Sthiti:** *Sukhāsana/Padmāsana/Vajrāsana* (Any meditative posture)

### Technique

- Sit in any comfortable posture.
- Close your eyes and relax the whole body.
- Inhale deeply through both the nostrils, expand the chest.
- Expel the breath with forceful contractions of the pelvic and abdominal muscles and inhale passively.
- Do not strain.
- Continue active/forceful exhalation and passive inhalation.
- Complete 30 rapid breaths, then take a deep breath, exhale slowly, and relax completely.
- This is one round of *Kapālabhāti*.
- Each round should be followed by being still for a while.
- Repeat two more rounds.

### Breathing

- Forceful exhalation by contracting the abdominal muscles, without any undue movements in the chest and shoulder region. Inhalation should be passive throughout the practice.

### Number of rounds

- Beginners can practise up to 3 rounds of 20 rapid breaths each.
- The count and rounds can be increased gradually over a period of time.



## Benefits

- This practice purifies the frontal air sinuses; helps to overcome cough disorders.
- It is useful in treating cold, rhinitis, sinusitis, asthma, and bronchial infections.
- It rejuvenates the whole body, and keeps the face glowing and vibrant.
- It strengthens the nervous system and tones up the digestive organs.

## Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of cardiac conditions, giddiness, high blood pressure, vertigo, chronic bleeding in the nose, epilepsy, migraine, stroke, hernia, gastric ulcer, pregnancy, and during menstrual cycle.

भस्त्रावल्लोहकारस्य रेचपूरौ ससंभ्रमौ ।  
कपालभातिर्विख्याता कफदोषविशोषणी ॥

Bhararyavallohakarsya renchapuro sasambhramou |  
Kapalbhativikhyata kaphadosha vishoshani ||





## 5 | PRĀṆĀYĀMA NĀḌĪŚODHANA or ANULOMA VILOMA PRĀṆĀYĀMA

(Alternate Nostril Breathing)

The main characteristic feature of this *prāṇāyāma* is alternate breathing through the left and right nostrils with or without retention of breath (*kumbhaka*).

**Sthiti:** Any comfortable posture

### Technique

- Sit in any comfortable posture.
- Keep the spine and the head straight with eyes closed.
- Relax the body with a few deep breaths.
- Keep the left palm on the left knee in *Jnāna* mudra and the right palm should be in *Nāsāgra mudrā*.
- Place the ring and small fingers on the left nostril and fold the middle and index finger. Place the right thumb on the right nostril.
- Open the left nostril and breathe in from the left nostril; close the left nostril with the small and ring fingers and release the thumb from the right nostril; exhale through the right nostril.
- Next, inhale through the right nostril. At the end of inhalation, close the right nostril, open the left nostril and exhale through it.
- This completes one round of the *Nāḍīśodhana* or *Anuloma Viloma Prāṇāyāma*.
- Repeat for another four rounds.

### Ratio and Timing

- For beginners, the duration of inhalation and exhalation should be equal.





- Gradually make the ratio 1:2 (inhalation:exhalation, respectively).

### Breathing

- Breath should be slow, steady, and controlled. It should not be forced or restricted in anyway.

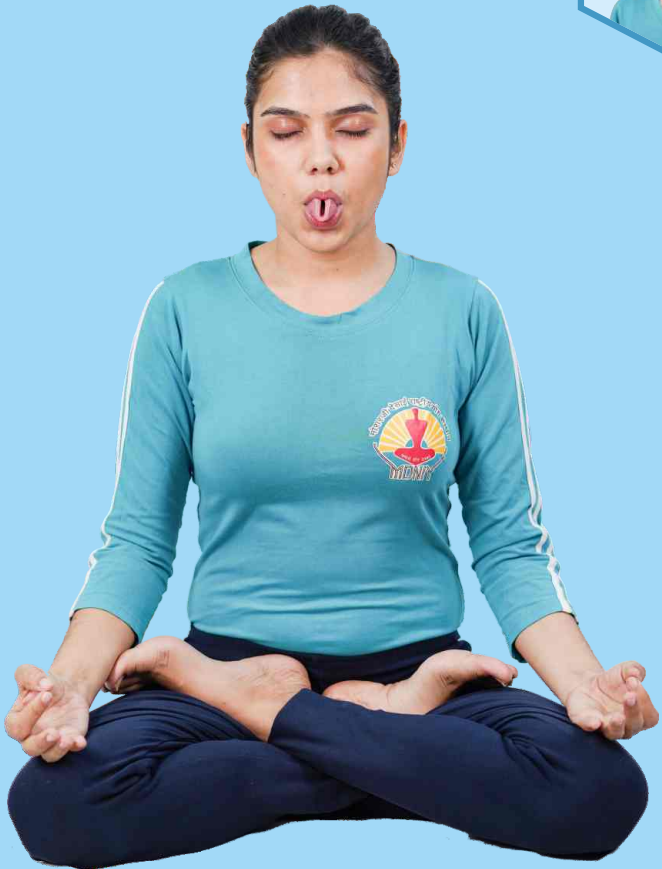
### Benefits

- It induces tranquillity and helps to improve concentration.
- It increases vitality and lowers the level of stress and anxiety.
- It alleviates cough disorders.

प्राणस्येद वशे सर्वं त्रिदिवे यत् प्रतिष्ठितम् ।  
मातेव पुत्रान् रक्षस्व श्रीश्च प्रज्ञां च विधेहि नः इति ॥  
(प्रश्नोपनिषद् 2/13)

Prāṇasyedaṁ vaśe sarvaṁ tridive yat pratiṣṭhitam;  
Māteva putrān rakṣasva śrīśca prajñāṁca vidhehi nahiti





## ŚĪTALĪ PRĀṆĀYĀMA

*Śītalī* means cooling. It also means calm and passionless. As the name indicates, this *prāṇāyāma* cools the mind - and body. It is specially designed to reduce the body temperature. Practice of this *prāṇāyāma* brings harmony in the body system and calms the mind.

**Sthiti:** Sit in any comfortable position.

### Technique

- Sit in *Padmāsana* or any other comfortable posture.
- Place the hand on the knees in *Jñānamudrā* or *anjālimudrā*.
- Roll the tongue from the sides to shape it as a tube.
- Inhale through the tube-shaped tongue; fill the lungs with air to their maximum capacity; take the tongue inside the mouth and close the mouth.
- Exhale slowly through both the nostrils.
- This is one round of *Śītalī prāṇāyāma*.
- Repeat it four more times.

### Benefits

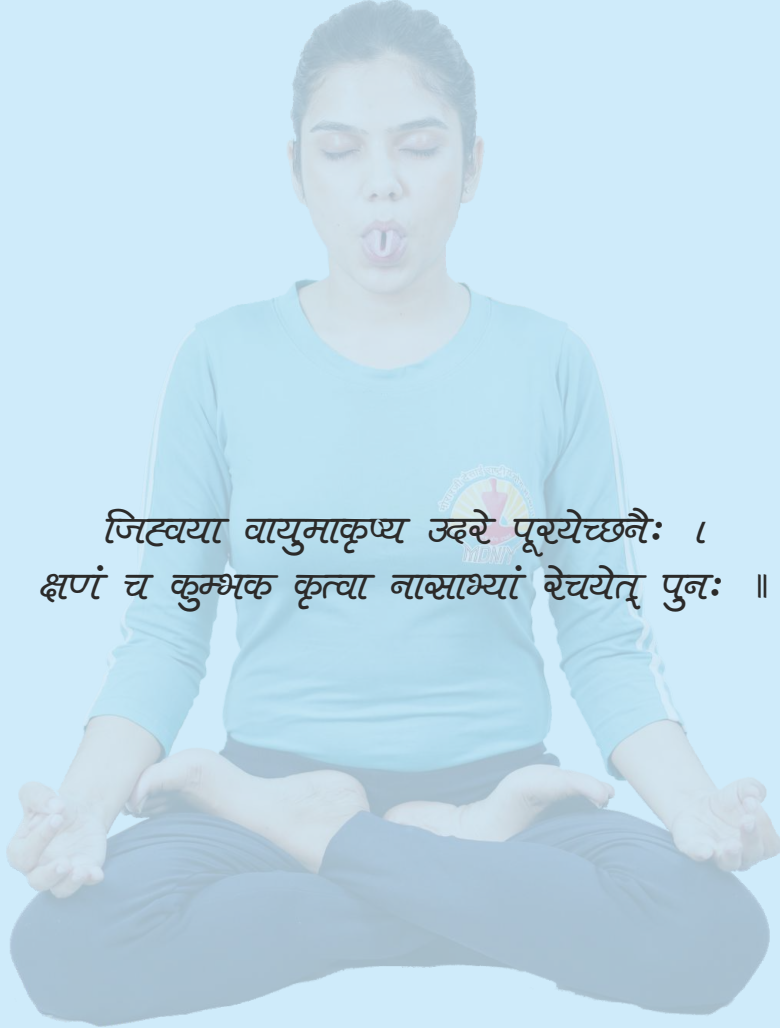
- This *prāṇāyāma* has a cooling effect on the body and mind.
- It is beneficial for persons suffering from high blood pressure.
- It satisfies thirst and appeases hunger.

### Benefits

- It relieves indigestion and disorders caused by phlegm (cough) and bile (pitta).
- It destroys the disorders of *gulma* (chronic dyspepsia) and spleen or other related diseases (H.P 2/58).
- It is beneficial for skin and eyes.

### Caution

- Those who are suffering from severe cold, cough or tonsillitis should not do this *prāṇāyāma*.



जिह्वया वायुमाकृष्य उदरे पूरयेच्छनैः ।  
क्षणं च कुम्भक कृत्वा नासाभ्यां रेचयेत् पुनः ॥





## BHRĀMARĪ PRĀṄĀYĀMA

*Bhrāmarī* is derived from *bhramara*, which means black bee. During the practice of this *prāṅyāma*, the sound produced resembles the buzzing of a black bee, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** Any comfortable position

### Technique

#### Type-1

- Sit in any comfortable posture with eyes closed.
- Inhale deeply through the nose.
- Exhale slowly in a controlled manner while making a deep, steady humming sound such as that of black bee. This is one round of *Bhrāmarī*.
- Repeat for four more rounds.
- This is a simple version of *Bhrāmarī Prāṅyāma*.

#### Type-2

- Sit in any comfortable posture with eyes closed.
- Inhale deeply through the nose.
- Close the eyes with index fingers, place the middle finger side of nose, don't close it, mouth with ring and small fingers, ears from respective thumbs as shown in the figure. This is also called *Śanmukhī Mudrā*.
- Exhale slowly in a controlled manner while making a deep, steady humming sound such as that of black bee. This is one round of *Bhrāmarī*.
- Repeat it for four more rounds.



### Benefits

- It relieves stress and helps in alleviating anxiety, anger, and hyper activity.
- It creates a soothing effect on the nervous system and mind.
- It is a great tranquiliser, and found good in the management of stress-related disorders.
- It is a useful preparatory *prāṇāyāma* for concentration and meditation.

### Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of nose and ear infections.

वेगाद्घोषं पूरकं भृंगनादं भृंगीनादं रेचकं मंदमंदम् ।  
योगीन्द्राणामेवमभ्यासयोगाच्चित्ते जाता काचिदानंदलीला ॥





## 6 | DHYĀNA

Dhyāna or meditation is an act of continuous contemplation.

**Sthiti:** Any comfortable posture.

### Technique

- Sit in any comfortable posture.
- Adopt *Jnāna mudrā* or *Dhyānā mudrā* as in the figure.
- Arms and shoulders should be loose and relaxed.
- Gently, close the eyes and sit with a slightly upturned face.
- Maintain a mild focus between the eyebrows and be conscious of the breath.
- Dissolve thoughts and try to attain single and pure thought.
- Meditate.

### Benefits

- It helps the practitioner to eliminate negative emotions such as fear, anger, depression, and anxiety and aids in developing positive emotions.
- It keeps the mind calm and quiet.
- It increases concentration, memory, clarity of thought and willpower.
- It rejuvenates the whole body and mind giving them proper rest.

### NOTE

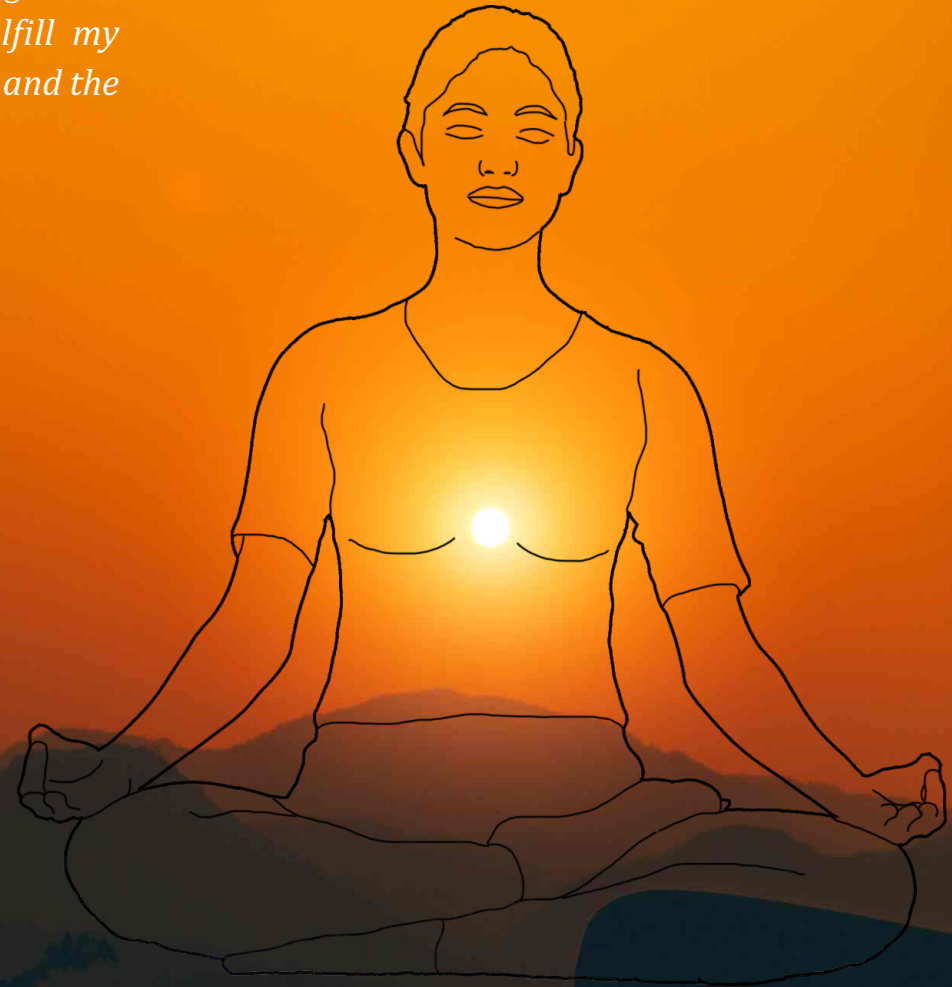
- For beginners, soothing music may be placed in the background during meditation.
- Stay as long as you can.



## 7. *SAN̄KALPA*

---

*I commit myself to maintaining a balanced state of mind at all times. It is in this state that my growth reaches its fullest potential. I pledge to fulfill my responsibilities to myself, family, work, society, and the world to promote peace, health, and harmony.*



## 8. Śāntih Pāṭha

*Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaḥ,  
Sarve Santu Nirāmayāḥ  
Sarve Bhadrāṇi Paśyantu,  
Mā kaścit Duḥkha Bhāgbhavet  
Om Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ*

*May All become Happy, May All be Free from Illness. May All See what is Auspicious,  
May No One Suffer. Om Peace, Peace, Peace.*

**Note: INSTITUTIONAL YOGA PRACTICES (IYP) 15 Minutes**

(Preferably Prāṇāyāma, Dhyāna, Yoga Nidrā , Satsaṅga, etc.)

Shall be introduced after the practice of Prāṇāyāma or Dhyāna / Meditation Session but before the Saṅkalpa

## Textual References

1. **Prayer:** Rigveda-10.191.2.
2. **Sadilaja/Cālanakriyā/Yogic Sūksma Vyāyāma:** Also referred as Caaranaa in Hathatavakaumudi- 9.13-16, Yogic Sukshma Vyayama of Swami Dheerendra Bhrmhachari.
3. **Tādāsana:** Also called as Taalaasana, Yogarahasya of Nathamuni, Kirana Tika, a commentary on Yoga sutras, Shri Yoga Kaustubha-25, SachitraCaurasi Asana-34, Yoga Asanas by Swami Shivananda.
4. **Vrksāsana:** Gheranda Samhitā-ii.36, BrihadyogaSopana, Hathayoga Samhita-43, Yoga Marga Pradipa-11.
5. **Ardha Cakrāsana:** Traditional Cakrasana has several varieties quite different from this which is practised over the years.
6. **Pada-hastāsana/Uttānāsana:** Shri Yoga Kaustubha. Yogarahasya of Nāthamunī.
7. **Trikoṅāsana:** Yogarahasya-ii. 20 of Nāthamunī.
8. **Bhadrāsana:** Hathapradipika-i. 53-54.
9. **Vajrāsana:** Gheranda Samhitā II-12, Hathayoga- Samhitā-Āsana- 20, Brhada Yoga Sopāna III-14, Sacitra Vyavahārika 16, Nārada Purāna-33-112.
10. **Uṣṭrāsana:** Śrī Yoga Kaustubha, NagojiBhattaVritti on Yogasutra-ii. 46, GherandaSamhita - ii. 41 describes Ustrasana, which is done lying in prone position.
11. **Śāsakāsana:** Gheranda Samhitā-ii.12 calls it as Vajrāsana, Hathayoga Samhita, Brhada Yoga Sopāna, SachitraVyavaharika Yoga-16, Nārada Purāna-33-112, Brihannāradiya Purāna, Yogamārgapradīpa, Yoga Bija-90, Yogaśikṣopaniṣad-I.111- 112, Hatharatnāvali-iii.
12. **Uttāna Mandūkāsana:** Hathayoga- Samhitā -Āsana-42, Çré Yoga Kaustubha-58, Gheranda Samhitā II-35, Brhada Yoga Sopāna III-41, Sacitra Cauryayasin Asane 81.
13. **Vakrāsana:** Easier version of Matsyendrasana (mentioned in Hathapradipikā) given by Swami Kuvalayananda in his book Asan.
14. **Makarāsana:** Jaipur Central Museum, with some variation in hands position.
15. **Bhujāṅgāsana:** Gheranda Samhitā .ii.42, with some variation, Kirana Tikā-ii. 46 on Yoga sūtra, Hatha yoga Samhitā-49, Śrī Yoga Kaustubha-62, Yogamārgapradīpa-19, YogaRahasya of Nāthamunī-ii.14, Jaypur CentralMuseum-7174.
16. **Śalabhāsana:** Gheranda Samhitā-ii.39, Brihada Yoga Sopāna-iii46, Hathayoga Samhitā- 46,Yogamārgapradīpa-33.
17. **Setubandhāsana/Catuśpādāsana:** Yogarahasya of Nāthamunī.
18. **Uttāna Pādāsana:** Śrī Yoga Kaustubha-94.
19. **Ardha Halāsana:** Yoga-rahasya II- 17.
20. **Pavanamuktāsana:** Śrī Yoga Kaustubha. It is done in sitting as per Yoga Asanas-3, Sachitra cauryasin Asane-5-7, Shri Yoga Kaustubha-5, Kirana Tika-ii.46 on Yoga Sutra.
21. **Śavāsana:** Gheranda Samhitā-ii.19, Hathapradipikā-i.32, Hatharatnāvalī-iii.20,76, KapālaKurantakaHathabhāśya Paddhatī-111, Yuktabhavadeva-vi.21, Asanani-14, Yoga Siddhānta Chandrikā-ii.46, Śrīratva Nidhī-70, KiranaTikā on Yogasutra-ii.46, Brhada Yoga Sopāna-iii.24, Hathapradipika, ŚrīYoga Kaustubha-17.
22. **Kapālabhātī:** A variation of Bhastrikā Kumbhaka of Gheranda Samhitā-v.70-72, Kumbhaka Paddhatī-164-165, Hathapradipikā, Hatharatnāvalī-22-24, Hathatavakaumudi-x.12-14, Yuktabhāvadeva-vii.110-118.
23. **Nādīśhodhana / AnulomaViloma Prāṇāyāma:** Hathapradipikā, It has visualisation and internal retention, breath. Additionally, Gheranda Samhitā-v.38-45 has time units for inhalation, retention, and exhalation.
24. **Bhrāmari Prāṇāyāma :** Hathapradipikā, Hatharatnāvalī- ii.26, Kumbhaka Paddhati- 169.
25. **Śītalī Prāṇāyāma:** Śiva Samhitā III-81-82, Gheranda, Samhitā V-69, Hathapradipikā-II-57-58.
26. **Dhyāna:** Yoga Sūtra of Patanjali III.2.

# International Day of Yoga

## Yoga Geet (Yoga Song)

तेन मन जीवन चलो संवारें  
योग मार्ग अपनाएँ,  
वैर भाव को त्याग सभी हम  
गीत मिलन के गायें।

आनंदमय हो जीवन सबका  
योग यही सिखलाये  
हों तनाव भयमुक्त सभी जन  
दिव्य प्रेम सरसाये।

यम और नियम हमारे सम्बल  
सुखमय जगत बनाएँ,  
आसन प्राणायाम ध्यान से  
स्वास्थ्य शांति सब पाएँ!

ऊर्जावान बने सब साधक  
संशय सभी मिटायें  
विश्व एक परिवार योग कर  
स्वर्ग धरा पर लाएँ।”

Let us ameliorate body, mind and life  
Embrace Yoga as a way of life  
Leaving animosity behind  
Sing a harmony lay

Life should be blissful  
-is the lesson of Yoga  
Let's everybody live without fear  
Thus, divine love may prevail

Yama and Niyama empower one  
To enhance the happiness everywhere  
Practise Aasana Pranayama and Dhayan  
To get health and peace

May energy is bestowed to all Yogis  
Doubts are unfastened  
Entire world becomes Yoga wreath  
Earth transformed into heaven

## **COMMITTEE OF YOGA EXPERTS**

1. Dr. H. R. Nagendra, President, S-VYASA, Bengaluru, Chairman
2. Sh. Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush
3. Sh. O.P. Tiwari, Secretary, S.M.Y.M Samiti, Kaivalyadhama, Lonavla
4. Smt. Hamsaji Jayadeva Yogendra, Director, The Yoga Institute, Santacruz, Mumbai
5. Sri Sridharan, Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai
6. Swami Bharat Bhushan, President, Mokshayatan Yogashram, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh
7. Swami Shant Atmanand, President, Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi
8. Dr. Jaideep Arya, Patanjala Yoga Peeth, Haridwar
9. Sh. Gaurav Verma, Art of Living Foundation, New Delhi
10. Swami Ullasa, Isha Yoga Foundation, Coimbatore
11. Dr. Rajvi Mehta, Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Iyengar Yogashraya, Mumbai
12. Dr. Prashant Shetty, SDM College of Naturopathy & Yogic Sciences, Shantivan Trust, Ujire
13. Dr. Chandrasinh Jhala, Vice-Chancellor, Lakulish Yoga University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
14. Late Swami Dharmananda Ji, Adhyatma Sadhana Kendra, New Delhi
15. Shri Kalicharan, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Shantikunj, Haridwar
16. Representative of Bihar School of Yoga, Munger, Bihar
17. Sister Asha, Brahma Kumari University, New Delhi
18. Ananda Balayogi, Director, ICYER, Puducherry
19. Dr. I.N. Acharya, Former Director, CCRYN, New Delhi
20. Ramanand Meena, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Ayush
21. Dr. Ishwar V. Basavaraddi, Former Director, MDNIY, New Delhi, Member Secretary



Journey of



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**





## FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The Ministry of Ayush successfully organised the 1<sup>st</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21 June, 2015 at Rajpath, New Delhi. Two Guinness World Records were made, namely, the Largest Yoga Lesson involving 35,985 participants and maximum number of nationalities (84) participated in a single Yoga lesson. A Two-day International Conference on '*Yoga for Holistic Health*' was organised on 21 and 22 June, 2015 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, wherein about 1300 delegates from India and abroad participated.

Millions of people in India and across the globe participated in the first ever International Day of Yoga celebrations.

Common Yoga Protocol and Yoga DVDs were prepared to disseminate awareness of Yoga among the masses. Outside India, IDY was celebrated in all the UNGA member countries except war-torn Yemen, by the missions, Ministry of External Affairs in association with Ministry of Ayush and various Yoga institutions and organisations.

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The Ministry of Ayush, in association with leading Yoga Institutions, Central and State Governments, State Departments and Chandigarh Central Administration, successfully organised 2nd International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21 June, 2016 at the Capitol Complex, Chandigarh.

More than over 30,000 people joined our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for the Second International Day of Yoga celebrations where he pitched for treating diseases like diabetes through the ancient spiritual discipline Yoga. For the first time in International Day of Yoga, 150 divyangas performed Yoga Protocol during the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the Capitol Complex, Chandigarh. A two-day International Conference on *Yoga for Body and Beyond* was organised on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

As many as 192 United Nations Member States participated in the 2nd International Day of Yoga.





## THIRD INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The Ministry of Ayush in association with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh successfully organised the 3rd International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21 June, 2017, at Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan, Lucknow. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji inaugurated the event where 51,000 participants practised Common Yoga Protocol along with him. The Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the gathering and emphasised on the fact that Yoga has become a crucial factor in binding the world as it has become a part of everyone's lifestyle. He said that Yoga is a kind of health insurance. It is not even expensive to practise. The event was also graced by Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.); Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of U.P. and many other dignitaries. A two-day International Conference on *Yoga for Wellness* was organised from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi .

Millions of people in India and across the globe participated in the third International Day of Yoga celebrations.

## FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The 4th International day (IDY) of Yoga was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with leading Yoga institutions, Central and State Governments, on 21 June, 2018, at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. More than 50,000 people participated in the grand event along with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Following the grand celebration, the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, organised the fourth International Conference at Goa Kala Academy, Panaji from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The theme of the conference was *Yoga for Public Health*. More than 850 experts from Yoga and allied sciences, including delegates and Yoga enthusiasts from India and abroad participated in the conference. The aim of the conference was to further the cause of Yoga in the field of public health and to encourage wide-scale research in the field and also highlight the latest research trends in the domain of Yoga.





## FIFTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The 5th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with leading Yoga institutions, Central and State Governments, on 21 June, 2019, at the Prabhat Tara Maidan, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

More than 30,000 people participated in the grand event along with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Following the grand celebration, the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India organised the fifth International Conference on 15 -16 November, 2019, at Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, Karnataka.

The theme of the Conference was *Yoga for Heart Care*. Over 800 experts of Yoga and allied sciences, including delegates and Yoga enthusiasts from India and abroad, participated in the Conference. The aim of the conference was to further the cause of Yoga in the field of public health and encourage wide-scale research in the field and also highlight the latest research trends in the domain of Yoga.



## SIXTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The 6th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with leading Yoga institutions, Centre and State Governments, on 21 June 2020, through digital mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Ayush tried to bring more citizens into the fold of the activities of IDY 2020 compared to previous years, thereby spreading the message of Yoga for the physical and emotional well-being of people from all sections of society.

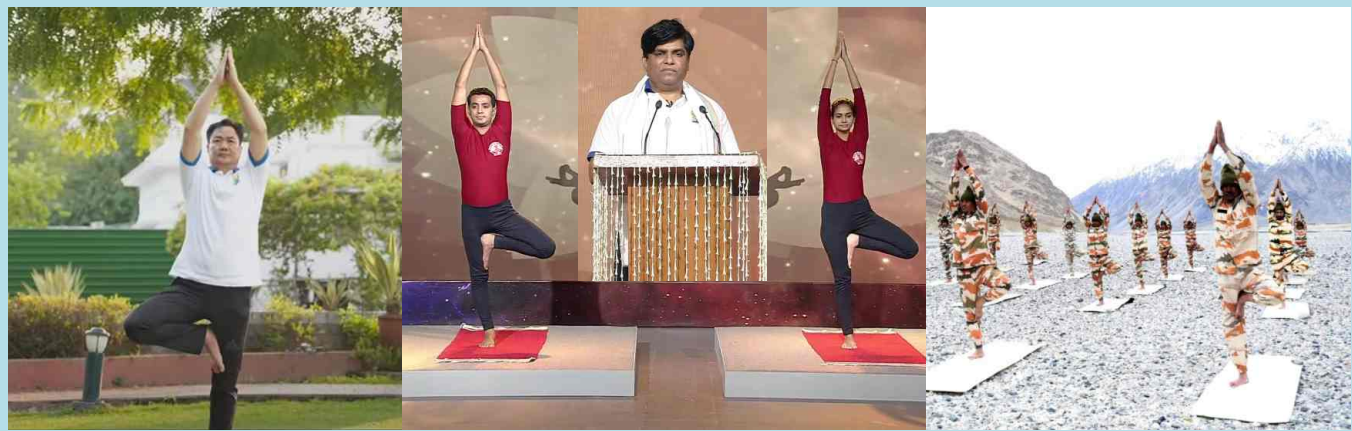
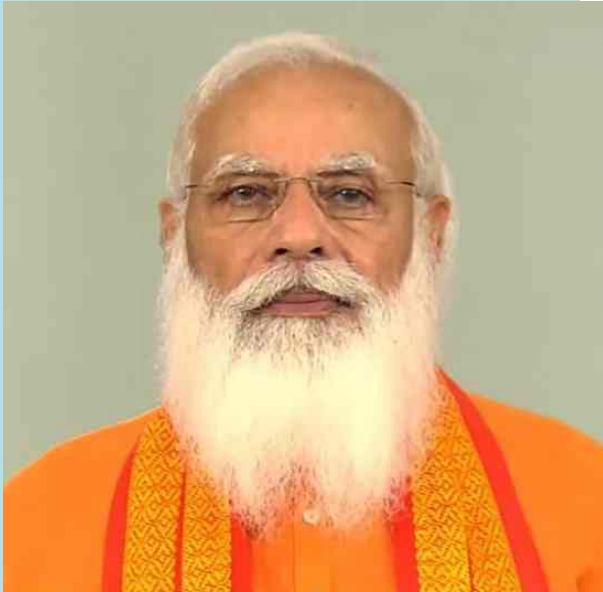
With a deviation from the earlier approach, the Ministry of Ayush encouraged people to practice Yoga at their homes, with participation from the entire family, using social and digital media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Millions of people in India and across the globe participated in the digital format of IDY 2020 celebration on the theme of 'Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family'.

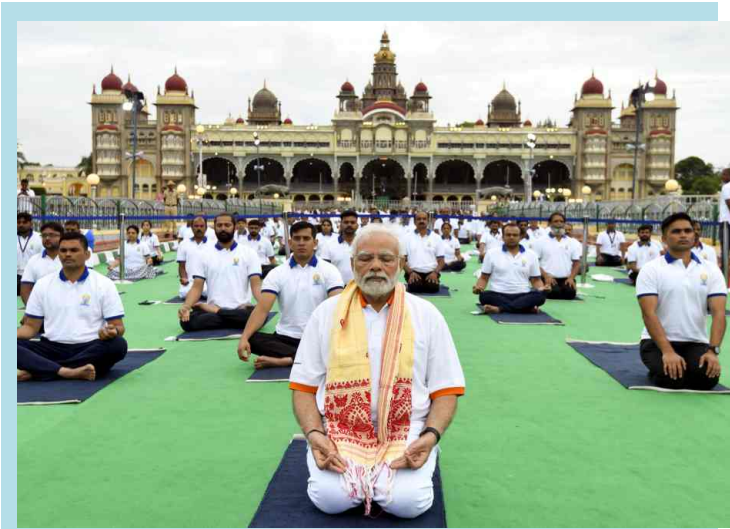


## SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with leading Yoga Institutions, Centre and State Governments, on 21st June 2021 through the virtual mode following the COVID-19 protocol. The Ministry of Ayush created a buzz in the digital space that encouraged Yoga enthusiasts and citizens to participate in IDY 2021 activities, thereby millions of people across the globe observed IDY 2021 within the confines of their homes.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed through the virtual mode and said that “Despite the pandemic, this year’s theme for International Yoga Day – “Yoga for wellness” has raised the morale of people and he wished for the health of every country, society and individual and hoped that we will be united and will strengthen each other.” Numerous digital initiatives were taken by the Ministry together with other stake-holding institutions made the practice of Yoga accessible to the public, despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.





## **EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**

The 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with leading Yoga Institutes, Centre and State Governments, on 21st June 2022 at Mysore Palace, Mysuru, Karnataka. The theme of IDY- 2022 was "Yoga for Humanity". Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji inaugurated the event and led the Common Yoga Protocol where 15,000 Yoga enthusiasts, participated along with the Chief Minister of Karnataka Sh. Basavaraj Somappa Bommai, Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal Union Minister of Ministry of Ayush and many other dignitaries. To commemorate 75 years of Independence under the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" initiative, the International Day of Yoga was observed at 75 heritage sites nationwide, led by 75 Union Ministers. IDY-2022 witnessed an exceptional and inventive program "The Guardian Ring", the movement of the sun was celebrated, emphasizing the concept of "One Sun, One Earth," while showcasing the integrating power of Yoga. It served as a collaborative endeavour among several countries, UN organizations, and Indian Missions worldwide.

The eighth edition of IDY introduced a digital exhibition that presented cutting-edge technologies like Virtual Reality (VR) to showcase the rich history and wisdom of Yoga. Furthermore, the exhibition included an interactive feature that challenged visitors to accurately perform Yoga postures using posture recognition Kinect technology.

## NINTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA



Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India led the 9th International Day of Yoga at the iconic North Lawn of the UN Headquarters in New York City, graced by delegates from over 135 nations. Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar led the event at Garrison Ground, Jabalpur wherein more than 15,000 people participated in CYP session. Notably, an estimated more than 113 crore individuals were participated in the event across the globe, centred around the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' meaning One Earth, One Family, One Future.

"Har Aangan Yoga" translates to "Yoga in Every Courtyard" and was a key initiative for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2023. It was a successful strategy to make IDY 2023 more inclusive and accessible, potentially reaching a wider audience and promoting Yoga as a practice for everyone.



## TENTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA



The Ministry of Ayush spearheaded the 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on 21st June 2024, commemorating a decade of global observance. Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India led the national event at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. Negotiating valiantly the odds of weather, more than 7,000 Yoga enthusiasts participated in the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) session on the rain-drenched ground of SKICC. Additionally, 20,000 people participated in Yoga sessions held across 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. IDY 2024 was celebrated worldwide with the theme "Yoga for Self and Society," highlighting Yoga's role in personal well-being and social harmony.

A key highlight of IDY 2024 was the "Yoga for Space" initiative, supported by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), where scientists and officials across

all ISRO centers, including the Gaganyaan project team, practiced Yoga, showcasing its importance in high-performance environments. The event also promoted inclusivity with the launch of a Braille CYP book, making Yoga accessible to visually impaired individuals, and the release of the "Professor Ayushman" Comic Book, designed to introduce children to Yoga in an engaging way.

Several records were set, including a Guinness World Record for the Yoga Shapath Abhiyan in Uttar Pradesh, where 25.93 lakh individuals pledged their commitment to Yoga, and a large-scale demonstration in Andhra Pradesh with 1,000 participants, including 600 differently-abled individuals. The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in collaboration with PGIMER, Chandigarh, received recognition from the Asia Book of Records for mobilizing the highest number of healthcare professionals practicing the Common Yoga Protocol. Overall, IDY 2024 saw an estimated participation of 24.53 crore people, further strengthening Yoga's global influence.



## ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

The 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was observed on 21 June, 2025, with the national event led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The programme was organised at Ramakrishna Beach, where over 3 lakh participants took part in a mass Yoga demonstration.

The event was organised under the theme “Yoga for One Earth, One Health,” emphasising the interconnection between individual well-being and planetary health.

Across India, a total of 13.04 lakh Yoga Sangam events were registered on the Yoga Portal as of 20 June 2025, indicating widespread community participation and grassroots engagement.

At the international level, Yoga demonstrations were conducted in 191 countries at nearly 1,300 locations outside India, with approximately 2,000 events organised globally, reflecting the growing global acceptance of Yoga as a tool for health and well-being.

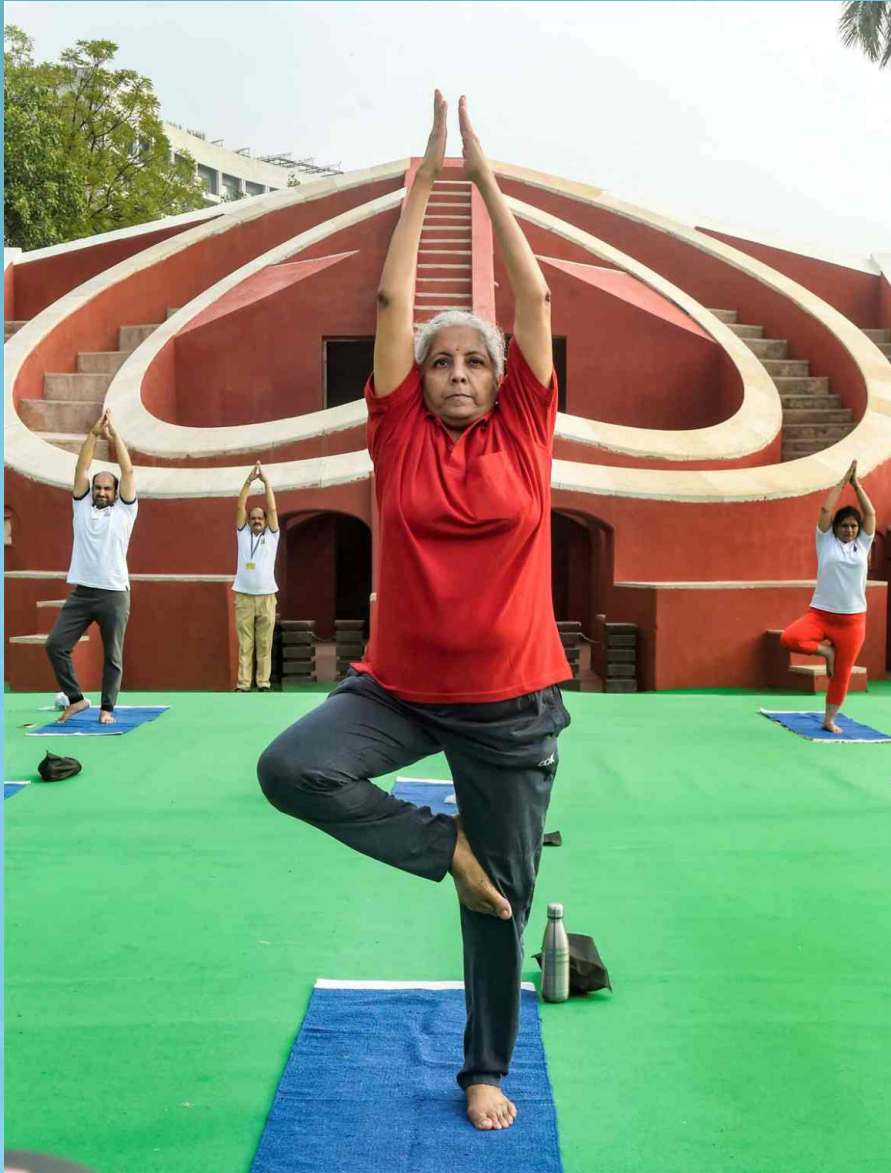


To mark a decade of the International Day of Yoga, the Ministry of Ayush organised ten signature initiatives, namely: Yoga Sangam, Yoga Bandhan, Yoga Parks, Yoga Samavesh, Yoga Prabhava, Yoga Connect, Harit Yoga, Yoga Unplugged, Yoga Maha Kumbh, and Samyoga. These initiatives aimed at expanding outreach, strengthening partnerships, and promoting inclusive participation.

During the celebrations, India also achieved two Guinness World Records. The first was for the largest Yoga session at a single venue, with 3.02 lakh participants in Visakhapatnam. The second was for the largest mass Surya Namaskar demonstration, in which 22,122 tribal students participated on 20 June 2025. These milestones reflect the scale, inclusivity, and organisational capacity of IDY initiatives.



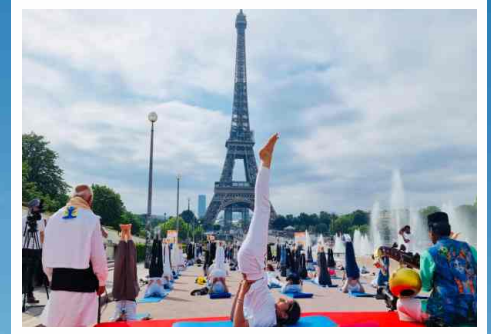
## Photo Gallery of 75 Iconic Locations



**COMMON YOGA PROTOCOL**  
Ministry of Ayush, Government of India



## Guardian Ring











**About the  
LOGO OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**

*Folding of both hands in the logo symbolises Yoga, which reflects the union of individual consciousness with that of universal consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind and body, man and nature, the holistic approach to health and well-being.*

*The brown leaves in the logo symbolise the earth element, the green leaves of nature, blue the fire element while the sun symbolises the source of energy and inspiration.*



Government of India

**Ministry of Ayush**

Ayush Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex,  
INA, New Delhi - 110023