

Embassy of India
The Hague

Press Release

June 17, 2020

Representatives of the Dutch Army and Police to join International Yoga Day celebrations in the Netherlands along with host of Dutch and Indian Dignitaries

International Yoga Day will be celebrated in the Netherlands online on June 21 by Embassy of India in The Hague, with participation by Representatives of Dutch Army and Police as well as an impressive line-up of Dutch and Indian Dignitaries. Prime Minister Modi's Yoga Day Message and 3D animated images of him doing Yoga will also be part of the celebrations.

The Yoga Day Programme will be opened by Ambassador Venu Rajamony, Ambassador of India to The Netherlands. The Representatives of Dutch Army and Police will demonstrate their yoga skills as part of the online celebrations while messages and artistic contributions will be delivered by celebrities such as Spiritual Leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, internationally acclaimed Flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Violin Maestro Dr L Subramaniam, Playback Singers Kavita Krishnamurthy and Vijay Prakash, Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, Film Stars Raadhika, Sarathkumar and Bhumika Chawla, Cricketer Suresh Raina, Tennis Stars Ramesh Krishnan and Rohan Bopanna, Yoga Guru and Artist Bharat Thakur, Olympic Ice Skater Vishwaraj Jadeja and Michelin Star Chef Vikas Khanna. Actress Afke Reijenga, Extreme Sportsman popularly known as "The Iceman" Wim Hof, Singers Charlie Dée and Anouk Maas are amongst the Dutch stars who will feature in the celebrations.

The program will include a Kathak recital on 'Ayush' choreographed by Dutch Choreographer Leo Spreksel and performed by eminent Kathak Dancers Hari and Chetna. It will also showcase Hollywood and Bollywood celebrities, who have made yoga a part of their lives. Further, there will be a group yoga session of Ambassadors of various countries based in The Hague and Yoga/Pranayam and Meditation Sessions led by well known gurus like Swami Jyotirmayaa, Manish Pole, Mark Dowe, Patty Jongemaets and Marcel van de Vis Heil.

The program will be interactive and viewers will be invited to send their Yoga Videos on this year's Theme of "Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family" with prizes being given for the best entry. Details of a Video Blogging Contest jointly organized by Ministry of Ayush and Indian Council for Cultural Relations will also be publicised.

The online celebrations will commence at 1100 Hours CET on June 21 and will be streamed to over 145000 followers of the Embassy's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube Channels as well as on the websites of the Embassy and Stichting International Yoga Day. This video will be repeated during the day for the convenience of viewers.

This will be the second time the Dutch Armed Forces will have participated in the International Yoga Day celebrations organised by Embassy of India in The Hague. The Dutch Ministry of Defence has introduced yoga for Armed Forces to enrich their training program and reduce stress with Yoga sessions being held weekly at various Barracks. Yoga Instructors have been recruited to strengthen the physical and mental fitness and agility of soldiers.

In 2018 and 2019, the Embassy organized celebrations in the heart of the capital city Amsterdam at the prestigious Museumplein and Dam Square as a whole day wellness festival that witnessed participation of thousands.

Free yoga lessons are being offered at The Gandhi Centre which is the Cultural Wing of the Embassy of India in The Hague.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a Resolution on December 11, 2014, at the initiative of India, declaring June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The Resolution calls upon Governments and People all over the world to observe this day in an appropriate manner and to raise awareness of the benefits of practicing yoga. It notes the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices. The resolution also points out that global health is a long term development objective and yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being and a wider dissemination of information on the benefits of yoga would be beneficial for both physical and mental health of the world population. This is the sixth time the International Day of Yoga is being celebrated in the Netherlands.
