



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Celebration of 7<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga in Rome**

The Embassy of India in Rome organized celebrations of 7<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga in multiple cities and venues in Italy. Four main events were held in physical mode in iconic locations in Rome and San Marino and with the participation of dignitaries from the local government, yoga associations and yoga enthusiasts. For the first time, a joint celebration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) at the MOFA premises was held on June 21, 2021 in the presence of Under Secretary of State Mr. Manlio Di Stefano and DG Ambassador Lorenzo Angeloni. The event which was by invitation only and restricted to a total number of 150 due to Covid measures, had a long waiting list of those who wished to join. Separately, a massive yoga session was held on June 19, 2021 in a stunning and historical part of the city, Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome with a spectacular backdrop of the Castel and with the Tiber river flowing on the side. Hundreds of participants gathered to perform the yoga protocol guided by representatives of 10 yoga associations united on the stage. Organized with the support of the municipality of the Rome, this event was opened by the remarks of Daniele Diaco, President of the Environment Commission and Senator Lucio Malan who participated along with his family members including young children. Heads of Missions of various Foreign Embassies in Rome, were also among the participants.

For the first time celebration of IDY in Florence was organized on June 17, 2021 with the support of the Mayor Dr. Dario Nardella and local yoga associations at the iconic location of Piazza Santa Croce with its magnificent Basilica known as the church of "Italian Glories" overlooking the square. The celebrations were joined by Mayor of San Casciano in Val di Pesa, Deputy Mayor for Sports for the City of Florence, Cosimo Guccione.

In San Marino, the yoga session enriched by a music accompaniment was held on June 18, 2021 in a scenic location in the presence of Hon'ble Luca Beccari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hon'ble Andrea Belluzi, Minister of Culture & Education who also participated in the yoga practice in the beautiful green area of the 'ex tiro a volo' overlooking the sea.

Several other events including conferences on yoga and meditation practices started on June 15 in collaboration with 15 yoga associations and schools are being held online in social media channels of Embassy of India and will continue till 26 June, 2021.

The celebrations this year are in hybrid mode in order to maximize reach and give the opportunity to everyone to participate and derive benefits from yoga. Celebrations were not only a chance to practice different types of yoga but were also occasions for rejoining after the separation of the pandemic.

Enthusiastic participation in the yoga events organized by the Embassy are a testimony of ever increasing popularity of yoga in Italy and also an index of growing and multifaceted India-Italy partnership covering a wide range of areas. Manlio Di Stefano, Under Secretary of State in his remarks highlighted the recent notable developments in the bilateral relationship and extended warm welcome to External Affairs Minister who is expected to join for the G20 meeting, expressing hope for further intensification of relations.

Organized fully respecting local rules and regulations regarding Covid pandemic, IDY yoga sessions were, for many in Italy, the first public events after a long time and were thus, a ray of hope, a signal of optimism and an occasion to cement unity and harmony.

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