

Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations New York

Press Release: Visit of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India to attend the First International Day of Yoga Celebration at United Nations



Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India visited New York 20-22 June, 2015 to lead the first International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebration at the United Nations.

2. The IDY celebration at United Nations featured participation from the President of 69th UN General Assembly, H.E. Sam Kutesa, UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Congresswoman from Hawaii, Mr. Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance and a large array of Permanent Representatives, senior diplomats from the UN, and members of the civil society, academia and the yoga-loving fraternity.

3. The celebration at the United Nations was broadcast on UN TV and watched live on several key screens at Times Square where audience of several thousands followed the UN celebration. Founder of 'Art of Living Foundation' Sri Sri Ravi Shankar led a brief Yoga session at the United Nations which was joined in by several dignitaries including the UN Secretary-General. Several thousand New Yorkers at Times Square also closely followed the yoga asanas which were being led by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at the UN celebration.

4. The UN Secretary-General issued a special message on the IDY, a week in advance, to popularize the event. The UN Department of Public Information partnered with the Indian Mission to launch a massive social media campaign. The United Nations also set up a dedicated website for the IDY celebration.

5. The celebration at the United Nations was unprecedented as it was the centerpiece of global IDY celebration. This was also the first time that a celebration at the United Nations was integrated with New York City. The event at the United Nations was being seen live on giant LED screens at Times Square, where some 33,000 New Yorkers had gathered.

6. In addition to participation at the IDY celebration, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister also held bilateral meetings with President of the 69th UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General on the sidelines. Under Secretary General for Department of Field Support UN Peacekeeping, Mr. Atul Khare called on the Hon'ble EAM and discussed the situation pertaining to Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan. Separately, a book chronicling the role of Indian Peacekeepers in major current UN Peacekeeping Missions was also released by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister. The web link to the E-version of the book is available at https://www.pminewyork.org/slide_book/peace_keeping/



[Hon'ble EAM releasing the India and UN Peacekeeping book with Under Secretary General Atul Khare and Indian Ambassador & Permanent Representative Asoke Kumar Mukerji on 21 June, 2015]
