

## **INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2023**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) celebrates the International Day of Yoga each year with a mission to promote Yoga as a universal means for harmony and peace across cultures and borders.

Just like in previous years, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and its 37 Indian Cultural Centers abroad organized events dedicated to the International Yoga Day, both in India and overseas. It is pertinent to mention that ICCR collaborated with over 190 Indian Missions and Posts globally to host events at more than 800 prominent locations. Some of these iconic locations included 'Bundesplatz' in Switzerland, a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site; the historic 'Tavrichesky Garden' in Russia; the 'Monument to the Revolution' in Mexico; and the UNESCO World Heritage Site, 'Qal'at al-Bahrain' in Bahrain, among many others.

Additionally, President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe attended a global conference organized by ICCR, titled "Shaping the future of the world by holistic Yoga beyond physiology" at the Yog Vidhya Ashram in Germany on 19th and 20th June 2023. This conference attracted 120 delegates from 20 countries who addressed diverse themes related to the conference topic. Yoga experts from various countries, including France, Greece, Italy, and Portugal, not only delivered speeches but also served as Yoga guides for the attendees. Among the notable gurus were Swami Suryananda from Italy, Padmashri Amrata Suryananda Maharaj from Portugal, and Sukhdev Bretz from the Yog Vidhya Ashram in Germany.

On June 21st, 2023, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe traveled to Lisbon to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga. He graced the occasion by delivering an address at the celebrations held in the iconic Belem Garden, a UNESCO world heritage site. Furthermore, on 23 June 2023, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe in Geneva held meetings with the President of the UN Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, emphasizing the importance of accelerating progress on realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights through a commitment to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

