



**Embassy of India
Djibouti

Press Release

International Day of Yoga (IDY)

The Mission celebrated the International Day of Yoga in Kempinski Hotel on 19th June 2019 at 5.30 PM. This is a new Mission which is in the process of being established and is presently functioning from a temporary Chancery. The event was enthusiastically attended by about 125 persons, which included people from Indian and Djiboutian communities, local government, diplomatic corps & international organizations, and international guests from the hotel. The Mission had invited Mohamed Warsama Dirieh, Minister of Health, Government of Djibouti, as the Chief Guest for the function. However, while senior officials from Government of Djibouti joined the event, the Minister could not attend due to his last minute engagement with the Prime Minister of Djibouti. Ambassadors from USA, China, Ethiopia, Yemen and Palestine attended the event along with representatives from UN organizations in Djibouti. The message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the IYD was shown to the gathering.

2. In his address Shri Ashok Kumar, the Ambassador expressed happiness on the large attendance of the yoga enthusiasts for the maiden event organized by the Mission. The Ambassador mentioned that yoga was the ancient Indian heritage and that India is happy to share it with the world community. He stated that Yoga is all the more relevant now due to stressful lifestyles of current times. He said after the UN declared 21 June as the International Day of Yoga in 2014, the entire world has recognized the significance of Yoga.

3. There are practically no qualified Yoga teachers in Djibouti but the Mission was able to locate Sh. Suresh K, an Indian national and a Yoga Trainer in Djibouti, who conducted the standard yoga protocol exercises for the yoga enthusiasts. He also delivered a short talk dwelling on the significance of yoga for good health.

4. The representatives from 'La Nation' the local French newspaper as well as the state owned Radio & Television Djibouti (RTD) covered the IDY 2019 well. The video clip was carried by the RTD in its news bulletin on 20th June 2019.

5. The event was well received and appreciated by the yoga participants and the guests alike. The event was able to create the desirable. Yoga is relatively lesser

known Indian ancient art form in Djibouti and to popularize it, the Mission has requested the ICCR to deploy a Yoga Instructor (TIC) to EoI Djibouti.

Place: Djibouti

Dated: 20th June 2019