

## **Centre plans to declare 100 yoga parks in the country**

As it gears up for the mega Yoga Day celebrations, the Centre has plans to declare a hundred parks, especially dedicated for yoga activities across the country to promote its practice. Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow will host the main event of the International Day of Yoga on June 21 where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate. Around 150 countries are expected to participate in the mega event.

**PTI**

# Govt set to create 100 yoga parks this year

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**NEW DELHI:** India plans to create 100 “yoga parks” across the country by the end of 2017 to encourage people to learn and practise yoga, said AYUSH minister Shripad Yesso Naik, a month before the International Yoga Day on June 21.

These parks will promote yoga by organising activities throughout the year, including classes at dawn and sundown.

These parks will be managed by voluntary yoga organisations, the minister said.

This year, the main International Yoga Day event will take place in Rambhai Ambedkar Sabha Sthal, Lucknow, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior Union ministers and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

Around 51,000 people are expected to join the Prime Minister and his entourage to do yoga in Lucknow.

Apart from the parks, the government will engage in several activities to promote the traditional practice, including a quiz competition on the ministry’s official website and essay writing on the effects of yoga on depression, ante-natal care and cancer care.

“Last year, we had invited scientific articles from medical graduates and yoga graduates on these topics. This year, we have opened it to all — people can write about how they have bene-

fitted from yoga,” said CK Mishra, acting secretary of ministry of AYUSH.

The ministry is also conducting research on the effects of yoga on these non-communicable diseases.

The ministry will also award four persons — two nationally and two internationally — for propagating and contributing towards yoga. These awards would be announced by the Prime Minister on the International Yoga Day.

# Govt shapes up for Yoga Day

**ON THE International Day of Yoga, the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga, at the national and international level, will be given to individuals or the organisations who have made significant impact on society for a sustained time period, by way of promotion and development of the ancient discipline. This year, 150 countries are expected to participate on June 21.**

# 'Number of yoga practitioners increased in USA, UK, India'

**New Delhi:** As the country gears up for mega Yoga Day celebrations on June 21 in Lucknow, the Government on Thursday claimed that number of yoga practitioners are on the rise in the developed nations like USA and the UK as in India.

“Last two years, the IDY was celebrated across the globe with active participation of more than 190 countries,” Ayush Minister Shripad Yesso Naik told reporters here adding the event to be held at Ramabhai Ambedkar Sabha Sthal in Lucknow in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi



and a galaxy of yoga gurus, will see 51,000 people demonstrate common yoga protocol.

“Yoga events will be held in different parts of the country as well as main cities like Paris, London and New York,” the Minister said.

Dr Ishwara N Acharya, Director of Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), which is conducting one month free yoga camp across States, cited last year's ASSOCHAM study conducted in ten metro cities which said there has been a spurt in the number of people that have taken up yoga. **PNS**

# Govt plans to declare 100 yoga parks across the nation

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

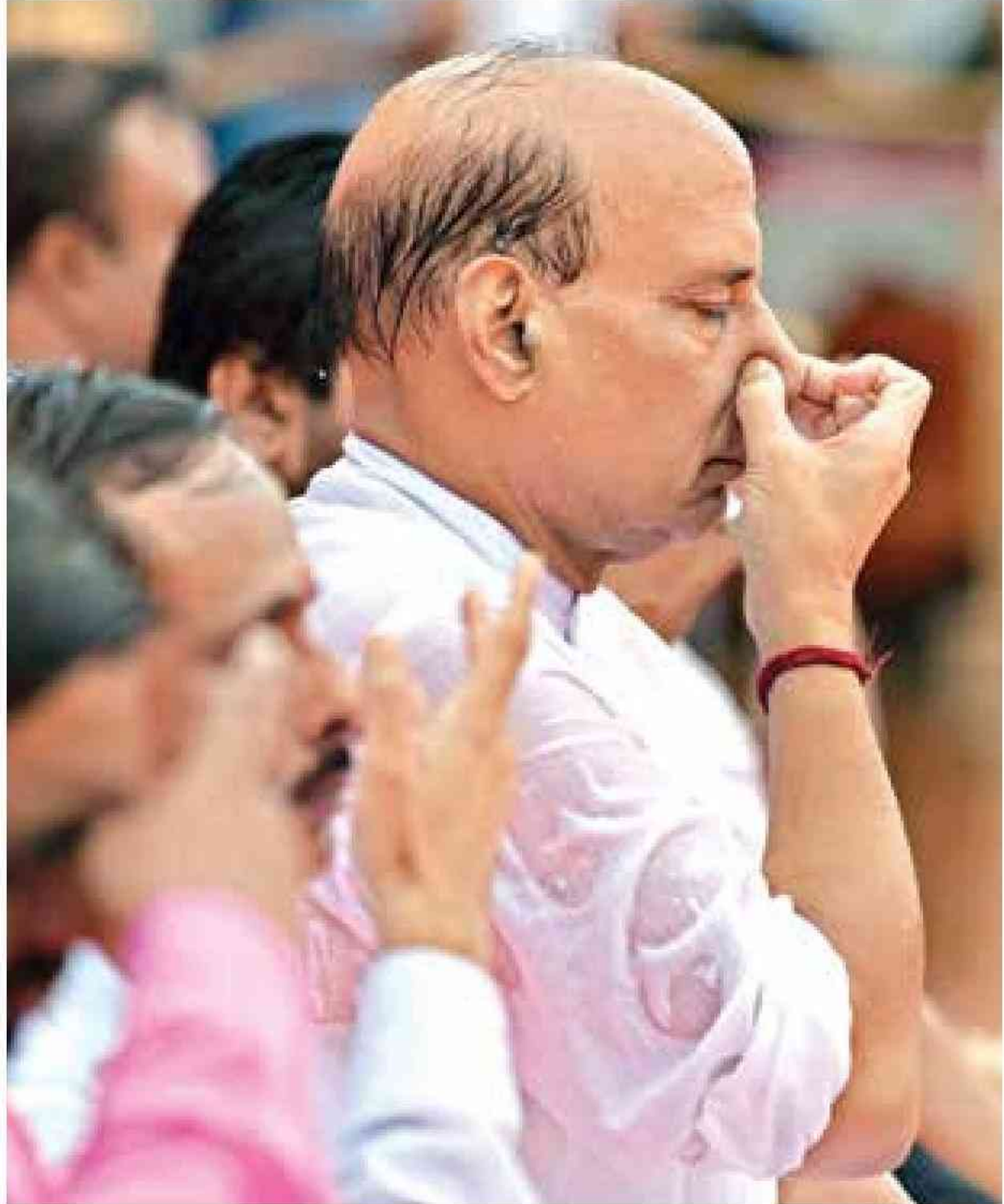
**NEW DELHI:** As it gears up for mega Yoga Day celebrations, the government has plans to declare a hundred parks especially dedicated for yoga activities across the country to promote this traditional practice.

Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow will host the main event of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21 this year where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate.

Around 150 countries are expected to participate in the mega event, with Indian Missions in those nations coordinating the activities. IDY will be observed at some of the major landmarks like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Trafalgar Square in London and the Central Park in New York among others.

“It would be no exaggeration to say that the world has acknowledged the supremacy of India in the field of yoga. Last two years, the IDY was celebrated across the globe with active participation of more than 190 countries,” Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik said.

The Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga at national and international level will be given to individuals or organisations who have made significant impact on the society for a sustained period of time by way of promotion and development of Yoga, Naik said.



A screening committee chaired by AYUSH secretary has been constituted to recommend the names and the jury headed by Cabinet Secretary will finalise the four winners, two in each category.

The ministry is also planning to have 100 Yoga parks across the country which will be managed by Yoga or other organisations voluntarily.

The prime minister, senior ministers, Uttar Pradesh chief minister and yoga gurus along with nearly 51,000 people are expected to take part in the event. In Delhi, seven main events are being planned in dif-

ferent places in association with NDMC, DDA and Yoga organisations. Apart from this, yoga events will be held in different parts of the country as well as main cities like Paris, London and New York across the globe.

The ministry on its official website has requested the people visiting the web page related to IDY to take a pledge to make yoga an integral part of their daily life. The first IDY celebration was organised at Rajpath in New Delhi on June 21, 2015 in which representatives of 191 countries had participated. Last year, the main function was in Chandigarh.