

## *Fasting Muslims to take part in Yoga Day event*

LUCKNOW, June 11: At this year's International Yoga Day celebrations here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have for company scores of *Roza*-observing Muslims who will be performing various *asanas*.

At least 300 Muslim men and women under the banner of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch will be among the 55,000-strong participants at the Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan.

"More than 1,000 Muslims had contacted us about participating in the International Yoga Day celebrations, but at least 300 have confirmed their participation. Most of the participants will be observing *Roza*, while performing yoga.

"In fact most of them are likely to arrive at the programme venue after *Sehri* (pre-dawn meal)," Mahiraj

Dhwaj Singh, national co-convenor (organisation) of Muslim Rashtriya Manch for UP and Uttarakhand, told this news agency. Azam Khan, the national president of Shriram Mandir Nirman Muslim Karsevak Manch, will also be performing yoga while fasting.

"I will be participating in the third International Yoga Day celebrations and performing various yoga *asanas* (postures)," he said.

Singh said a request seeking a separate area for the Muslim participants will be made to the organisers.

Mohsin Raza, Minister of State for Muslim Waqf and Haj, when contacted, said, "I will also participate and perform yoga while observing *roza*. Both yoga and *roza* are good for one's health."

Raees Khan, the UP and

Uttarakhand in-charge of Muslim Rashtriya Manch, informed that the manch is trying to ensure attendance of at least 1,000 Muslim yoga enthusiasts at Modi's programme.

"So far, 300 have already confirmed their participation. Most of the participants will be *rozadars*. Since 15 days, the participants have been practicing different *asanas* and postures," he said.

Member of UP unit of BJP Iqbal Haidar, who also heads a brotherhood committee of Muslims and had pledged to build the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, said: "I will be fasting, but at the same time participate in the Yoga Day celebrations. Yoga and *roza* are two different entities, and there should be no confusion in this regard, he said. – PTI