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| ashokachkra | **HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA  PORT LOUIS**  **MAURITIUS**  **PRESS RELEASE** |

The High Commission of India, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Ministry of Arts and Culture, organised the celebration of the Third International Day of Yoga at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre (SVICC) on Saturday, 24 June 2017.

President of the Republic, Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr. Prithvirajsing Roopun was the Guest of Honour.

The celebrations commenced with the screening of a video presentation on Yoga. In his remarks, the High Commissioner of India, Shri. Abhay Thakur, conveyed the message of the Prime Minister of India on the Third International Day of Yoga and thanked Government of Mauritius for its support for the listing of Yoga as an intangible heritage of humanity at the UNESCO meeting in December 2016. President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim spoke about the holistic health benefits of Yoga and how Yoga, like Ayurveda, was a valuable ancient heritage shared by both India and Mauritius.

The Yoga teacher of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Ms. Neha Racca, accompanied by her 15 associates, demonstrated the Common Yoga Protocol, which was followed by around 2000 yoga enthusiasts from Mauritius who participated in the event at SVICC. Winners of the quiz contests on Yoga and Naturopathy held by the High Commission of India were also felicitated on the occasion.

*24 June 2017*

*Port Louis*

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