

**Embassy of India**

**The Hague**

**Press Release**

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**Yoga and Ayurveda can reduce medical costs and treat diseases  
western medicine unable to address says Minister AYUSH Mr. Shripad**

**Yesso Naik at Seminar on “India-Netherlands collaboration in  
Healthcare, including Ayurveda” organized in the Netherlands**

Indian Minister for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy), Mr. Shripad Yesso Naik addressed a special Seminar organized by the Indian Embassy titled “India-Netherlands collaboration in Healthcare, including Ayurveda” at Leiden, Netherlands today.

Speaking at the seminar, the AYUSH minister said the scope for cooperation between the two countries is immense. India is the world’s largest producer of generic medicine and there is wide scope for medical value travel to India, both in conventional and alternative medical treatments such as Ayurveda. The healthcare system in Netherlands is one

of the best in Europe, and there is a lot of potential to integrate traditional knowledge from India. Both countries have top class medical practitioners. The Netherlands, with its 235,000 Indian origin population can lead the way in promoting complementary and traditional medicine across Europe. India and the Netherlands can work together closely to promote healthy living, he said.

The Dutch Minister for Medical Care and Sport Bruno Bruins also addressed the Seminar. Minister Bruno Bruins was member of the Trade Mission which accompanied Prime Minister Rutte to India on May 24, 2018. He commented that Ayurveda's approach for healthcare differs for individuals and how being healthy does not only mean being free from illness but also being independent, functional and participating in society. Cooperation between India and the Netherlands in healthcare can become stronger with both countries working together to deal with the issue of Antibiotic Resistance.

Mr Alojz Peterle, Former Prime Minister of Slovenia and current Member of European Parliament remarked how many considered Ayurveda the mother of modern medicine and how a new paradigm and a new science of cooperation can help healthcare systems across the world in dealing with challenges of efficacy, high healthcare costs and

antibiotic resistance. He said Indo-European strategic cooperation should also include healthcare.

The Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands Mr Venu Rajamony pointed out that the biggest health challenge the Netherlands faces is high costs and the need for care for an ageing population. Ayurveda and Yoga can help reduce costs and promote healthy ageing.

Other speakers at the Seminar included Dr. Tony Nader, World Head of Transcendental Meditation Movement, Ms Amanda Mackintosh, Board Member, Task Force for Healthcare and Dr. G.P. Geetha Krishnan, World Health Organization (WHO).

This Seminar was the concluding event of the Fourth International Ayurveda Congress organized by International Maharishi AyurVedaFoundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and the International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune in association with the Indian Embassy in the Netherlands.

The Ayush Minister is on a visit to the Netherlands from September 1-4, 2018 leading a delegation comprising senior officials from Ministry of AYUSH including the Pharmacopoeia Commission of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy. The Minister will meet the Deputy Mayor of the City of The Hague in charge of healthcare, witness a yoga demonstration by Dutch yoga enthusiasts and visit the Samadhi Sthal of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in Vlodrop, Limburg Province of the Netherlands tomorrow during his stay in the Netherlands.