



सत्यमेव जयते  
Government of India

International Day of  
**YOGA**

Common Yoga Protocol

21<sup>st</sup> June



Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani,  
Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)



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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

## Common Yoga Protocol



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Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)

## 1. INVOCATION

Yogic Practice shall start with a prayer or prayerful mood to enhance the benefits of practice.

ॐ संगच्छ्वं संवदध्वं  
सं वो मनांसि जानताम्  
देवा भागं यथा पूर्वं  
सञ्जानाना उपासते ।।

ॐ Samgacchadhvam samvadadhvam  
sam vo manāmsi jānatām  
devābhāgam yathā pūrve  
sanjānānā upāsate ||



May you move in harmony; may you speak in unison; let our mind be equanimous like in the beginning; let the divinity manifest in your sacred endeavours.

## 2. SADILAJA/CĀLANAKRIYĀS/LOOSENING PRACTICES

The Cālana Kriyās/loosening practices/Yogic Sūkṣma Vyāyāmas help to increase microcirculation. These practices can be done while standing and sitting.

### 1. NECK BENDING (Grivā Śakti Vikāśaka)

*Sthiti: Samasthiti* (Alert Posture)

**Technique**

#### Stage i: (Forward and Backward Bending/Stretching)

- ♦ Stand with the feet 2-3 inches apart.
- ♦ Keep the hands straight beside the body.
- ♦ This is **Samasthiti**. This is also called **Tāḍāsana**.
- ♦ Keep your palms on the waist.
- ♦ While exhaling, move the head forward slowly and try to touch the chin to the chest.
- ♦ While inhaling, move the head up and bend back comfortably.
- ♦ This is one round: repeat 2 more rounds.



#### Stage - ii: (Right and Left bending/Stretching)

- ♦ While exhaling, bend the head slowly to the right;
- ♦ bring the ear as close as possible to the shoulder without raising the shoulder.
- ♦ While inhaling, bring the head to the normal position.
- ♦ Similarly, while exhaling bend the head to the left side.
- ♦ Inhale and bring the head up to normal position.
- ♦ This is one round: repeat 2 more rounds.





## Common Yoga Protocol

### Stage - iii : (Right and Left Twisting)

- Keep the head upright.
- While exhaling, gently turn the head to the right so that the chin is in line with the shoulder.
- While inhaling, bring the head to the normal position.
- Similarly, while exhaling, turn the head to the left.
- Inhale and bring the head to the normal position.
- This is one round: repeat 2 more rounds.



### Stage iv: Neck Rotation

- Exhale; bend the head forward to touch the chin to the chest.
- Inhale; slowly rotate the head clockwise in a circular motion, exhale while coming down.
- Do a full rotation.
- Then rotate the head in an anti-clockwise direction.
- Inhale; go back and exhale, come down.
- This is one round: repeat 2 more rounds.



### Note:

- Move the head as far as possible. Do not over strain.
- Keep the shoulders relaxed and steady.
- Feel the stretch around the neck and loosening up of the joints and muscles of the neck.
- Can also be practiced sitting on a chair.
- People with neck pain can do the practice gently especially when taking the head back to the extent it is comfortable.
- Elderly people and persons with chronic cervical spondylitis may avoid these practices.

## II. SHOULDER'S MOVEMENT

*Stithi: Samasthiti* (Alert Posture)

### Stage i: (Shoulder's Stretch)

#### Technique:

- Keep the feet together, the body straight and the arms by the sides.
- While inhaling; raise your both arms sideways above your head with the palm outward.



- ♦ Exhale and bring it down in the same manner.
- ♦ Palms must be opened, with fingers together.

#### Stage ii: Skandha Cakra (shoulder Rotation)

- ♦ Stand erect.
- ♦ Place the fingers of left hand on the left shoulder and the fingers of right hand on the right shoulder.
- ♦ Full rotation of the both elbows in a circular manner.
- ♦ Inhale and raise your elbows & bring them back when you exhale.
- ♦ Try to touch the elbows in front of the chest on the forward movement, stretch the elbows back in the backward movement and touch the side of the trunk while coming down.
- ♦ Repeat this 2 times rotating from front to back.
- ♦ Do the same in reverse manner. Inhale while raising the elbows & exhale while bringing them down.



#### Benefits:

- ♦ Practice of this Yogic kriyā makes the bones, muscles and nerves of the neck and shoulder healthy.
- ♦ These practices are helpful in cervical spondylosis and frozen shoulder.

### III. TRUNK MOVEMENT (Kaṭīśakti Vikāśaka)

**Sthiti:** Samasthiti (Alert Posture)

#### Technique

- ♦ Keep the legs about 2-3 feet apart.
- ♦ Raise both the arms up to shoulder level with palms facing each other and keep them parallel.
- ♦ While exhaling, twist the body towards the left side so that the right palm touches the left shoulder, come back with inhalation.
- ♦ While exhaling, twist the body towards the right side so that the left palm touches the right shoulder, come back with inhalation.
- ♦ This is one round: repeat it two more times.
- ♦ Relax in Samasthiti.



## Common Yoga Protocol

### Note:

- Do it slowly with coordination of breathing.
- Cardiac patients shall do with care.
- Avoid this practice in case of severe back pain, vertebral and intervertebral disc disorders and during menstruation.

## IV. KNEE MOVEMENT

**Sthiti:** *Samasthiti* (Alert Posture)

### Technique

- Inhale; lift your arms up to the shoulder level, palms facing downwards.
- Exhale; bend the knees and bring down the body to the semi squatting position.
- In the final position, both the arms and thighs should be parallel to the ground.
- Inhale; and straighten the body.
- Exhale while bringing down the hands.
- Repeat it two more times.



### Note:

- Helps to strengthen knees and hip joints.
- Avoid this asana in case of acute conditions of arthritis.

## 3. YOGĀSANAS

### A. STANDING POSTURES

#### TĀḌĀSANA (Palm Tree Posture)

*Tāḍa* means palm tree or mountain. This asana teaches one to attain stability and firmness and forms the base for all the standing asana.

### Technique

- Stand with feet 2 inches apart.
- Inhale, lift your arms up to the shoulder level in the front.
- Interlock the fingers, and turn the wrist outwards. Now inhale, raise the arms up above your head.
- Raise the heels off the floor and balance on the toes as you raise your arms.
- Stay in this position for 10-30 seconds.
- Bring the heels down.
- Exhale, release the interlock of the fingers and bring the arms down and come back to standing posture.





## Common Yoga Protocol

### Benefits

- This *āsana* brings stability in the body, helps to clear up congestion of the spinal nerves and corrects faulty posture.

### Caution

- Avoid lifting the heels in case of arthritis, varicose veins and vertigo.

### VRKṢĀSANA (The Tree Posture)

*Vṛkṣa* means tree. The final position of this *āsana* resembles the shape of a tree, hence the name.

### Technique

- Stand with feet 2 inches apart.
- Focus on a point in front.
- Exhale, hold and bend the right leg then place the foot on the inner side of the left thigh. The heel should be touching the perineum region.
- Inhale and extend the arms up and join the palms together for Namaskar Mudra.
- Stay in the position for 10 to 30 seconds and breathe normally.
- Exhale bring the arms down. Release the right leg and bring it to initial position.
- Repeat this *āsana* from the left side also.



### Benefits

- Helps to improve neuro-muscular coordination, balance, endurance, alertness and concentration.

### Caution

- Please avoid this practice in case of arthritis, vertigo.

### PĀDA-HASTĀSANA (The Hands to Feet Posture)

*Pāda* means feet, *hastā* means hands. Therefore, *Pāda Hastāsana* means keeping the palms down towards the feet. This is also referred as *Uttānāsana*.

### Technique

- Stand straight with feet 2 inches apart.
- Inhale slowly and raise the arms up.
- Stretch up the body from the waist.
- Exhale and bend forward until both palms rest on the ground.
- Stretch the back, to make it straight as much as possible.
- Maintain this final posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Those who are suffering with stiff back should bend according to their capacity.



## Common Yoga Protocol

- Now inhale, come up slowly to the upright position and stretch the arms straight above the head.
- Exhale, slowly return to the starting position in the reverse order.
- Relax in *Samasthiti*.

### Benefits

- Makes the spine flexible, improves digestion, and helps in overcoming menstrual problems.

### Caution

- Please avoid this practice in case of cardiac disorders, vertebral and disc disorders, abdominal inflammation, hernia and ulcers, glaucoma, myopia, vertigo.



## ARDHA CAKRĀSANA (The Half Wheel Posture)

*Ardha* means half. *Cakra* means wheel. In this posture, as the body takes the shape of a half wheel, hence it is called *Ardha Cakrāsana*.

### Technique

- Stand straight with feet 2 inches apart.
- Support the back at the sides of the waist with the fingers.
- Try to keep the elbows parallel.
- Drop the head backwards stretching the neck muscles.
- As you inhale, bend backwards from the lumbar region; exhale and relax.
- Stay here for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Inhale and slowly come up.



### Benefits

- Ardha Cakrāsana makes the spine flexible and strengthens the spinal nerves and muscles.
- Helps in management of cervical spondylosis.

### Caution

- Avoid this posture in case of vertigo or a tendency to giddiness.
- Hypertensive patients should bend with care.



## Common Yoga Protocol

### TRIKONĀSANA (The Triangle Posture)

*Trikoṇā* means triangle. *Tri* means three and *koṇa* means an angle. As the āsana resembles the triangle made by the trunk, arms and legs, hence the name *Trikoṇāsana*.

#### Technique

- Stand with your feet with 3 feet apart.
- Inhale slowly raise both the arms sideways upto shoulder level.
- Turn the right foot towards right side.
- Exhale, slowly bend to the right side and place the right hand fingers just behind the right foot.
- The left arm straight in line the right arm.
- Turn the left palm forward.
- Turn your head and gaze at the tip of the left middle finger.
- Remain in the posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Inhale, slowly come up.
- Repeat the same procedure from the left side.



#### Benefits

- Makes the spine flexible, strengthens calf, thigh and waist muscles and improves lungs capacity.

#### Caution

- Avoid this posture in case of slipped disc, sciatica, and after undergoing abdominal surgery.
- Do not try beyond limits and over do the lateral stretch.
- If one cannot touch the feet, one can reach for the knees instead.

## B. SITTING POSTURES

### BHADRĀSANA (The Firm/Auspicious Posture)

*Bhadra* means firm or auspicious.

**Stithi:** Long sitting posture (Viśrāmāsana)

- Sit erect with both the legs stretched forward.
- Support the back with hands. Body should be relaxed totally. This is Viśrāmāsana.

#### Technique

- Sit straight with legs stretched out in the front.
- Keep the hands beside the hips and palms resting on the floor.
- This is **Daṇḍāsana**.
- Now put the soles of your feet together.



- ♦ Exhale and clasp your hands together over your toes. Inhale, pull your heels as close as possible up to perineum region. If your thighs are not touching or are not close to the floor; place a soft cushion underneath the knees for support.
- ♦ This is the final position.
- ♦ Stay in this position for sometime with normal breathing.



#### Benefits

- ♦ Helps to keep the body firm and stabilizes the mind.
- ♦ Helps during pregnancy and relieves abdominal pain often experienced during menstruation.

#### Caution

- ♦ Avoid this practice in case of severe arthritis and sciatica.

#### VAJRĀSANA (Thunderbolt Posture)

This is considered as one of the meditative posture. While practicing it for meditative purposes, one should close his/her eyes at the final stage.

*Sthiti:* Daṇḍāsana.

#### Technique

- ♦ Sit with extended legs together, hands by the side of the body, palm resting on the ground, fingers pointing forward.
- ♦ Fold the right leg at the knee and place the foot under the right buttock.
- ♦ Similarly folding the left leg, place left foot under the left buttock.
- ♦ Place both the heels so that the big toes touch each other.
- ♦ Position of the buttocks is in the space between the heels.
- ♦ Keep both hands on respective knees.
- ♦ Keep the spine erect, gaze in front or close the eyes.
- ♦ While returning to the starting position, bend a little towards right side, take out your left leg and extend it.
- ♦ Similarly extend your right leg and return to the starting position.
- ♦ Relax in Viśrāmāsana.



#### Benefits

- ♦ This āsana is good for digestion, strengthens thigh muscles and calf muscles.

## Common Yoga Protocol

### Caution

- ♦ Persons suffering from piles should not practise this *āsana*.
- ♦ Those who are suffering from knee pain and ankle injury should avoid this practice.

### ARDHA UṢṬRĀSANA (The Half Camel Posture)

**Sthiti:** Long sitting posture (Viśrāmāsana)

Uṣṭrā means camel. The final version of this *āsana* resembles the hump of a camel. In this version, only the first stage (half) of the *āsana* is being practiced.

### Technique

- ♦ Sit in Viśrāmāsana.
- ♦ Come to Daṇḍāsana.
- ♦ Fold your legs and sit in Vajrāsana.
- ♦ Stand on your knees.
- ♦ Place the hands on the hips with fingers pointing downwards.
- ♦ Keep the elbows and shoulders parallel.
- ♦ Bend the head back and stretch the neck muscles; inhale and bend the trunk backwards as much as possible. Now exhale and relax.
- ♦ Keep the thighs perpendicular to the ground.
- ♦ Remain in the posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- ♦ Return with inhalation; sit in Vajrāsana.
- ♦ Relax in Viśrāmāsana.



### Benefits

- ♦ It helps to strengthen back and neck muscles.
- ♦ Relieves constipation and back pain.
- ♦ Increases blood circulation to the head and cardiac region.

### Caution

- ♦ In case of hernia and abdominal injuries, arthritis and vertigo please avoid doing this *āsana*.

### UṢṬRĀSANA (Camel Posture)

Uṣṭra means camel. The body in this pose resembles a camel, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** Vajrāsana

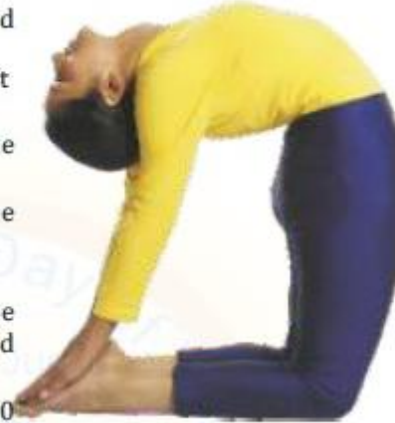
### Technique

- ♦ Sit in Vajrāsana.
- ♦ Bring the knees and the feet about few inches apart and stand on your knees.



## Common Yoga Protocol

- While inhaling bend backward place the right palm on right heel and left palm on left heel and exhale.
- Be careful not to jerk the neck while bending backward.
- In final position, thighs will be vertical to the floor and head tilted backwards.
- Weight of the body should be evenly distributed on the arms and legs.
- Remain in the posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Return with inhalation; sit in Vajrāsana.
- Relax in Viśrāmāsana



### Benefits

- Uṣṭrāsana is extremely useful for defective eyesight.
- This is useful in relieving back and neck pain.
- It helps to reduce fat over the abdomen and hips.
- It is helpful in digestive problems and cardio-respiratory disorders.

### Caution

- Those suffering from heart diseases or hernia should not practice it.

## ŚAŚAKĀSANA (The Hare Posture)

Śaśaka means hare. The body in this pose resembles the hare, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** Daṇḍāsana.

### Technique

- Sit in Vajrāsana.
- Spread both the knees wide apart, keep the big toes touching.
- Inhale keep the palms between the knees.
- Exhale, bend forward with arms outstretched and place the chin on the ground.
- Keep the arms parallel.
- Look in front and maintain the posture.
- Inhale and come up.
- Come back to Vajrāsana.
- Come to Daṇḍāsana and rest in Viśrāmāsana



### Benefits

- Helps to reduce stress and anxiety.

## Common Yoga Protocol

- Tones up reproductive organs, relieves constipation, improves digestion and helps to relieve back pain.

### Caution

- Please avoid this posture in case of acute backache.
- Patients with osteoarthritis of the knees should avoid Vajrāsana.

### UTTĀNA MANDŪKĀSANA (Stretched up-frog posture)

*Uttāna* means upright and *Maṇḍūkā* means frog. The final position of *Uttāna Maṇḍūkāsana* resembles an upright frog, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** Daṇḍāsana.

### Technique

- Sit in Vajrāsana
- Spread both the knees wide apart while big toes touching each other.
- Raise your right arm, fold it from elbow and take it backward above the left shoulder and place the palm on the left shoulder blade.
- Now fold left arm similarly and place the palm on the right shoulder blade.
- Maintain the position for a while, then come back slowly in the reverse order.
- Relax in Viśrāmāsana.



### Benefits

- This āsana is helpful in back and neck pain especially cervical spondylosis.
- Improves the diaphragmatic movements and lungs capacity.

### Caution

- Person with severe knee joint pain should not perform it.

### VAKRĀSANA (The Spinal Twist Posture)

*Vakra* means twisted. In this āsana, the spine is twisted which has a rejuvenating effect on its functioning.

**Sthiti:** Daṇḍāsana

### Technique

- Bend the right leg and place the right foot beside the left knee.
- Bring the left arm around the right knee and clasp the right big toe or place the palm beside right foot.



## Common Yoga Protocol

- Take the right arm back and keep the palm on the ground with the back straight.
- Exhale, twist your body to the right.
- Remain in the posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing and relax.
- Inhale take out your hands and exhale to relax.
- Repeat the same on the other side.

### Benefits

- Helps to increase flexibility of the spine.
- Stimulates pancreas functions and helps in the management of diabetes.

### Caution

- Please avoid this posture in case of acute back pain, spinal disorders, after abdominal surgery and during menstruation.

## C. PRONE POSTURES

### MAKARĀSANA (The Crocodile Posture)

In Sanskrit, *Makara* means crocodile. In this *āsana*, the body resembles the crocodile, hence the name.

**Stithi:** Prone relaxation posture

### Technique

- Lie down on your stomach
- with feet wide apart, toes pointing outward.
- Bend both the arms and place the right palm on the left palm.
- Place the head either left or right on your hands.
- Keep the eyes closed and relax the whole body. This is Makarāsana.
- This *āsana* is practiced for relaxation in all prone postures.



### Benefits

- Promotes relaxation of the whole body.
- Helps in recovery of back problems.
- Indicated to counter stress and anxiety.

### Caution

- Avoid this practice in case of pregnancy and frozen shoulders.

### BHUJĀṆGĀSANA (The Cobra Posture)

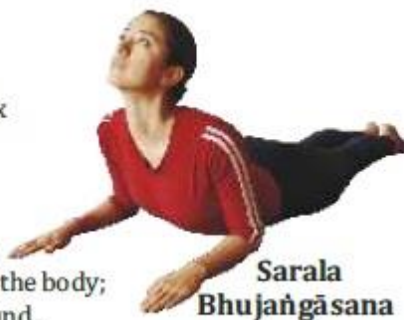
*Bhujāṅga* means snake or cobra. In this *āsana*, the body is raised like the hood of the snake, hence the name.

**Stithi:** Prone posture or Makarāsana



### Technique

- ♦ Lie down on your stomach, rest your head on your hands and relax the body.
- ♦ Now join your legs and stretch your arms.
- ♦ Keep the forehead on the ground.
- ♦ Now place your hands just beside the body; keep palms and elbow on the ground.
- ♦ As you inhale slowly, lift the head and chest up to navel region without changing in the position of hands.
- ♦ Stay there comfortably.
- ♦ This is called Sarala Bhujāṅgāsana.
- ♦ Now come back and place your forehead on the ground.
- ♦ Keep your palms besides the chest and raise your elbows where they are.
- ♦ Inhale, slowly lift the head and chest up to navel region.
- ♦ Keep the elbows parallel and maintain the posture for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- ♦ This is Bhujāṅgāsana.
- ♦ Exhale, rest your forehead on the ground, come back to Makarāsana and relax.



Sarala  
Bhujāṅgāsana



Bhujāṅgāsana

### Note:

- ♦ Keep the legs firm so that no load or strain is felt on the lumbar spine.

### Benefits

- ♦ This āsana relieves stress, reduces abdominal fat and relieves constipation.
- ♦ Helps to relieve backache and bronchial problems.

### Caution

- ♦ Those who have undergone abdominal surgery should avoid this āsana for 2-3 months.
- ♦ Those who suffer from hernia, ulcers should not practice this āsana.

### ŚALABHĀSANA (The Locust Posture)

Śalabha means a locust.

**Sthiti:** Prone posture or Makarāsana

### Technique

- ♦ Lie down on your stomach in Makarāsana.

## Common Yoga Protocol

- Rest the chin on the floor, keep both hands beside the body, palms facing upwards.
- Inhale, raise the legs off the floor as much as you can without bending the knees.
- Extend the arms and legs well to ease lifting the body off the floor.
- Stay in this position for 10-30 seconds breathing normally.
- Exhale, bring the legs down towards the floor.
- Rest for a few seconds in Makarāsana.



### Note:

- Pull up the knee caps and squeeze the buttocks to improve the posture. This āsana is more beneficial when performed after Bhujangāsana

### Benefits

- Relieves sciatica and lower backache.
- Helps to reduce fat in the thighs and buttocks, good in weight management.
- Helps to improve lungs capacity.

### Caution

- Please proceed cautiously in case of severe lower back pain.
- People with high blood pressure, peptic ulcer and hernia should also avoid this posture.

## D. SUPINE POSTURES

### SETUBANDHĀSANA (The Bridge Posture)

*Setubandha* means formation of bridge. In this posture, the body is positioned like a bridge, hence the name. This is also called as *Catuspādāsana*.

**Sthiti:** Supine lying or Śavāsana.

### Technique

- Bend both the legs at the knees and bring the heels near the buttocks.
- While holding both the ankles firmly keep the knees and feet in one straight line.
- Inhale, slowly raise your buttocks and trunk up as much as you can to form bridge.
- Remain in this position for 10-30 seconds, with normal breathing.
- Exhale, slowly return to the original position and relax in Śavāsana.



### Note

- In the final position, the both shoulders, neck and head remain in contact with the floor.
- If required, in the final position, you can support your body at the waist with your hands.

## Common Yoga Protocol

### Benefits

- Relieves depression, anxiety and strengthens lower back muscles.
- Stretches abdominal organs, improves digestion and helps to relieve constipation.

### Caution

- People suffering from ulcer and hernia etc. should not practice this āsana.

### UTTĀNAPĀDĀSANA (Raised feet posture)

*Uttāna* means raised-upward and *Pāda* means leg. In this āsana, the legs are raised upward in supine position, hence the name.

#### Technique

- Lie comfortably on the ground with legs stretched out.
- Hands should be placed by the sides.
- While inhaling slowly raise both the legs without bending them at the knees and bring them to 30° angle with the ground.
- Maintain the position for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Exhale, slowly bring both the legs down and place them on the ground.
- Relax in Śavāsana.



### Benefits

- It balances the navel centre (*Nābhi, Maṇipuracakra*).
- It is helpful in relieving abdominal pain, flatulence, indigestion and diarrhea.
- It strengthens the abdominal and pelvic floor muscles.
- Effective in overcoming depression and anxiety.

### Caution

- People with hypertension and back pain shall practice it with one leg alternatively without holding the breath.

### ARDHA HALĀSANA (Half plough posture)

*'Ardha'* means half and *'Hala'* means plough. This posture is known as *Ardha Halāsana* because in its final position, the body resembles half the shape of an Indian plough.

#### Technique

- Take supine position, keep hands besides the body and palms resting on the ground.
- Inhale, slowly raise your legs together without bending knees and bring them up to at 90° angle with the ground.
- The body from hips to shoulder should be kept straight.





## Common Yoga Protocol

- Maintain this position comfortably for 10-30 seconds with normal breathing.
- Exhale, slowly bring the legs down to the ground without lifting the head.
- Relax in Śavāsana.

### Benefits

- This āsana relieves constipation, beneficial for Hypertensive patients but needs to be practiced under supervision.

### Caution

- Those who have lumbosacral (lower back) pain should not perform with both legs together.
- Avoid this practice in case of abdominal injuries, hernia etc.

### PAVANA MUKTĀSANA (The Wind Releasing Posture)

*Pavana* means wind and *mukta* means to release or to make free. As the name suggests, this āsana is useful in removing wind or flatulence from the stomach and intestines.

**Sthiti:** Śavāsana

### Technique

- Lie down flat on the back.
- Bend both the knees.
- Exhale, bring both the knees towards the chest.
- Inhale, interlock the fingers and clasp the shin below knees.
- Exhale, raise the head till your chin touches the knees and relax.
- This is *Pavanamuktāsana*.
- Bring the head back to the ground.
- While exhaling, bring the legs back to the floor.
- Rest in Śavāsana



### Note

- Synchronise your breathing with the leg movement.
- While touching the knee with the nose/ forehead, you should be able to feel the lumbar region stretch; keep the eyes closed and focus your attention on the pelvic and lumbar region.

### Benefits

- Removes constipation; gives relief from flatulence, decreases the bloating sensation in the abdomen and aids digestion.
- Generates deep internal pressure, improves stretching of the highly complicated network of muscles, ligaments and tendons in the pelvis and waist region.
- It tones up the back muscles and spinal nerves.

### Caution

- Please avoid this practice in case of abdominal injuries, hernia, sciatica, severe back pain and during pregnancy.

### ŚAVĀSANA (The Corpse/ Dead Body Posture)

*Sava* means dead body. The final position in this āsana resembles a corpse/dead body.

## Common Yoga Protocol

**Sthiti:** Supine Relaxation Posture

### Technique

- Lie down on your back with arms and legs comfortably apart.
- Palms facing upward, eyes closed.
- Relax the whole body consciously.
- Become aware of natural breath and allow it to become slow and shallow.
- Remain in the position till you feel refresh and relaxed.



### Benefits

- Helps to relieve all kinds of tensions and gives rest to both body and mind.
- Relaxes the whole psycho-physiological system.
- The mind, which is constantly attracted to the outer world, takes a U-turn and moves inwards, thus gradually getting absorbed; as the mind turns quiet and absorbed, the practitioner remains undisturbed by the external environment.
- It is found very beneficial in the management of stress and its consequences.

## 4. KAPĀLABHĀTĪ

**Sthiti:** Any comfortable or meditative posture e.g. *Sukhāsana/ Padmāsana/ Vajrāsana*

### Technique

- Sit in any comfortable posture.
- Close your eyes and relax the whole body.
- Inhale deeply through both nostrils, expand the chest.
- Expel the breath with forceful contractions of the pelvic and abdominal muscles and inhale passively.
- Do not strain.
- Continue active/forceful exhalation and passive inhalation.
- Complete 30 rapid breaths, then take a deep breath, exhale slowly and relax completely.
- This is one round of *Kapālabhāti*.
- Each round shall be followed by being still for a while.
- Repeat 2 more rounds.



**Breathing:** Forceful exhalation by contracting the abdominal muscles, without any undue movements in the chest and shoulder region. Inhalation should be passive throughout the practice.

**Number of rounds:** Beginners can practice up to 3 rounds of 20 rapid breaths each. The count and rounds can be increased gradually over a period of time.

### Benefits

- Kapālabhāti purifies the frontal air sinuses; helps to overcome cough disorders.



## Common Yoga Protocol

- It is useful in treating cold, rhinitis, sinusitis, asthma and bronchial infections.
- It rejuvenates the whole body, and keeps the face glowing and vibrant.
- It strengthens the nervous system and tones up the digestive organs.

### Caution

- Please avoid this practice in case of cardiac conditions, giddiness, high blood pressure, vertigo, chronic bleeding in the nose, epilepsy, migraine, stroke, hernia, gastric ulcer, pregnancy and during menstrual cycle.

## 5. PRĀNĀYĀMA

### NĀDĪŚODHANA or ANULOMA VILOMA PRĀNĀYĀMA (Alternate Nostril Breathing)

The main characteristic feature of this *prānāyāma* is alternate breathing through the left and right nostrils without or with retention of breath (*kumbhaka*).

**Sthiti:** Any comfortable posture.

### Technique

- Sit in any comfortable posture.
- Keep the spine and head straight with eyes closed.
- Relax the body with few deep breaths.
- Keep the left palm on the left knee in Jñāna mudra and the right palm should be in Nāsāgra mudra.
- Place the ring and small fingers on the left nostril and fold the middle and index finger. Place the right thumb on the right nostril.
- Open the left nostril, breathe in from the left nostril, close the left nostril with the small and ring fingers and release the thumb from the right nostril; exhale through the right nostril.
- Next, inhale through the right nostril. At the end of inhalation, close the right nostril, open the left nostril and exhale through it.
- This completes one round of the Nādiśodhana or Anuloma Viloma Prāṇāyāma
- Repeat for another 4 rounds.



### Ratio and timing

- For beginners, the duration of inhalation and exhalation should be equal.
- Gradually make the ratio 1:2, inhalation: exhalation respectively.

### Breathing

- Breath should be slow, steady and controlled. It should not be forced or restricted in anyway.

### Benefits

- Induces tranquillity and helps to improve concentration.
- Increases vitality and lowers the level of stress and anxiety.
- It alleviates cough disorders.

### ŚĪTALĪ PRĀNĀYĀMA

*Śitalī* means cooling. It also means calm and passionless. As the name indicates this *prānāyāma* cools the mind-body. It is specially designed to reduce the body temperature. Practice of this *prānāyāma* brings harmony in the body system and calms the mind.



## Common Yoga Protocol

### Technique

- Sit in Padmāsana or any other comfortable posture.
- Place the hand on the knees in Jñānamudrā or anjalimudrā.
- Roll the tongue from the sides to shape it as a tube.
- Inhale through this tube shaped tongue, fill the lungs with air to their maximum capacity, take the tongue inside the mouth and close the mouth.
- Then slowly exhale through both the nostrils.
- This is one round of Śitalī prāṇāyāma.
- Repeat it 4 more times.



### Benefits

- It has cooling effect on body and mind.
- It is beneficial for persons suffering from high blood pressure.
- It satisfies thirst and appeases hunger.
- It relieves indigestion and disorders caused by phlegm (cough) and bile (pitta).
- It destroys the disorders of gulma (chronic dyspepsia) and spleen or other related diseases (H.P 2/58).
- It is beneficial for skin and eyes.

### Caution

- Those who are suffering from severe cold, cough or tonsillitis should not do this Prāṇāyāma.

### BHRĀMARĪ PRĀṆĀYĀMA (BHRĀMARĪ RECAKA)

*Bhrāmārī* is derived from *bhrāmara* which means black bee. During the practice of this *prāṇāyāma*, the sound produced resembles the buzzing of a black bee, hence the name.

**Sthiti:** Any comfortable posture.

- Sit in any comfortable posture with eyes closed.
- Inhale deeply through the nose.
- Close the eyes with index fingers, place the middle finger side of nose, don't close it, mouth with ring and small fingers, ears from respective thumbs as shown in the figure. This is also called Sanmukhi Mudrā.
- Exhale slowly in a controlled manner while making a deep, steady humming sound such as that of black bee. This is one round of *Bhrāmārī*.
- Repeat it for 4 more rounds.



### Benefits

- The practice of *Bhrāmārī* relieves stress and helps in alleviating anxiety, anger and hyperactivity.
- The resonance effect of humming sound creates a soothing effect on the nervous system and mind.
- It is a great tranquiliser, found good in the management of stress related disorders.
- It is a useful preparatory *prāṇāyāma* for concentration and meditation

### Caution

- Please avoid this practice in case of nose and ear infections.

## Common Yoga Protocol

### 6. DHYĀNA

*Dhyāna* or meditation is an act of continuous contemplation.

*Sthiti*: Any comfortable posture.

#### Technique

- Sit in any comfortable posture.
- Keep your spine comfortably erect.
- Adopt *Jnāna mudra* or *Dhyana mudra* as in the figure.
- Touch the tip of the thumb to the tip of the index finger, forming a circle. The other three fingers are straight and relaxed. All three fingers are side-by-side and touching.
- Keep your palms facing upwards upon the thighs.
- Arms and shoulders should be loose and relaxed.
- Close your eyes and sit with a slightly upturned face.
- You need not concentrate. Just maintain a mild focus between the eyebrows and be conscious of your breath.
- Dissolve your thoughts and try to attain single and pure thought.
- Meditate.



#### Benefits

- Meditation is the most important component of Yoga practice.
- It helps the practitioner to eliminate negative emotions like fear, anger, depression, anxiety and to develop positive emotions.
- Keeps the mind calm and quiet.
- Increases concentration, memory, clarity of thought and willpower.
- Rejuvenates the whole body and mind giving them proper rest.
- Meditation leads to self-realisation.

### 7. SANKALPA

*Hame apne man ko hamesha santulit rakhana hai,  
Isi main hi hamaraa atma vikas samaaya hai.*

*Main apne kartavya khud ke prati, kutumb ki prati, kaam, samaj aur vishwa ke  
prati, shanti, anand*

*aur swasthya ke prachar ke liye baddh hun*

**SANKALPA** (End the Yoga Practice Session with a *Sankalpa*)

*I commit myself to remain in a balanced state of mind all the time. It is in this state that my development reaches its greatest possibility. I commit to do my duty to self, family, at work, to society, and to the world, for the promotion of peace, health and harmony.*

### 8. Śāntih Pātha

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः, सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु, मा कश्चिदुःखमागवेत्।

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः॥

ॐ *Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaḥ,  
Sarve Santu Nirāmayāḥ  
Sarve Bhadrāṇi Paśyantu,  
Mā kaścit Duḥkha Bhāgbhavet*

ॐ *Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ*

सब सुखी हो, सब निरोग हो।

सब निरामय हो, सबका भद्र हो।

कोई दुःखी न हो।

*May All become Happy, May All be Free from Illness.*

*May All See what is Auspicious, May no one Suffer.*

*Om Peace, Peace, Peace.*

**Note:** INSTITUTIONAL YOGA PRACTICES (IYP) 15 Minutes

(Preferably Prāṇāyāma, Dhyāna, Yoga Nidra and Satsaṅga etc.)

Shall be introduced after the practice of Prāṇāyāma or Dhyāna / Meditation Session but before the Sankalpa

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## International Day of Yoga

### Yoga Geet (Yoga Song)

तन मन जीवन चलो संवारे  
योग मार्ग अपनाएँ,  
वैर भाव को त्याग सभी हम  
गीत मिलन के गायें।

आनंदमय हो जीवन सबका  
योग यही सिखलाये  
हों तनाव भयमुक्त सभी जन  
दिव्य प्रेम सरसाये।

यम और नियम हमारे सम्बल  
सुखमय जगत बनाएँ,  
आसन प्राणायाम ध्यान से  
स्वास्थ्य शांति सब पाएँ!

ऊर्जावान बने सब साधक  
संशय सभी मिटायें  
विश्व एक परिवार योग कर  
स्वर्ग धरा पर लाएँ।”

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Let us ameliorate body, mind and life  
Embrace Yoga as a way of life  
Leaving animosity behind  
Sing a harmony lay

Life should be blissful  
-is the lesson of Yoga  
Let's everybody live without fear  
Thus, divine love may prevail

Yama and Niyama empower one  
To enhance the happiness everywhere  
Practice Aasana Pranayama and Dhayan  
To get health and peace

May energy is bestowed to all Yogis  
Doubts are unfastened  
Entire world becomes Yoga wreath  
Earth transformed into heaven