



## *New York - Bengaluru Vision Statement 2019 towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through Collaboration, Mainstreaming and Accreditation*

**Preamble:** The “Global Yoga Accreditation Summit: *Beginning of a Conversation towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through Collaboration, Mainstreaming and Accreditation* (here after referred as GYAS 2019)” 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA was firm on the intent of bringing Yoga stakeholders towards beginning of a conversation on collaboration, mainstreaming and accreditation of Yoga programs within the Higher Education ambit worldwide.

Yoga being widely considered as an ‘immortal cultural outcome’ of Indus Saraswati Valley civilization, it was in India that the Yogic system found its fullest expression. Yoga as one of the ‘Shad Darshanas’ (six systems of Indian philosophies) is deeply rooted in the Vedas (ancient texts on knowledge) and at the same time is a scientific endeavour towards human growth and excellence. Different Indian philosophies, traditions, lineages and Guru-shishya parampara (*teacher - student relation*) of Yoga have led to the emergence of varied traditional schools. Yoga has also now been inscribed as an element in UNESCO’s list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity.

The resolution of **21<sup>st</sup> June 2015** as the 'International Day of Yoga (*IDY*)', introduced by India to the United Nations (UN) and **having more than 170 member countries** - the highest number ever for any general assembly resolution, has now become a global phenomenon. The IDY has resulted in creating a huge impact all around the world particularly in America, Canada, US, UK, London, China, Australia and New Zealand to name a few.

However, at the same time, there is a widespread concern on the lack as well as the quality and relevance of Yoga programmes specially both within and outside the ambit of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) – An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, has taken the initiative to collaborate, mainstream and accredit Yoga programmes globally within the HEIs by developing a framework.

NAAC has been the organiser of the “*Global Summit 2016 on Quality Higher Education: Sharing Values and Fostering Trust Beyond Borders*” at Bengaluru, India on re-affirming previous relevant commitments such as the Incheon Declaration-2015 “Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”. In addition, the “*Bengaluru Statement 2016 on Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: A Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership Beyond Borders*”, which was the culmination of the global summit organised by NAAC and Asian Pacific Quality Network (APQN) is counted as a major landmark in the International history of higher education quality assurance. Recently, 36 representatives of yoga therapy organizations from 13 countries came together in Sendai, Japan and adopted Sendai Declaration “*In the interest of developing and promoting yoga therapy around the world to contribute to the health and wellness of our communities*”.

Keeping in view of the above, NAAC has taken the historic leap on developing the First Draft of The Yoga Accreditation Manual, launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 at Bengaluru for all Yoga programs offered under the umbrella of HEI’s in India.

Noting the implication towards a need for systemic co-ordination and co-operation amongst various institutions and stakeholders across the globe involved in offering and / or accreditation of Yoga programmes, GYAS-2019 affirmed the following common statement of intents:

**1.0 Representation:** We, the organizers, partners, participants and supportive members of the “*GYAS 2019*” are being represented by key National and International governmental policy makers, Global leaders of Accreditation Bodies / Networks, Quality Assurance Agencies, Prominent representatives within and outside the Higher Education providers in Yoga and Yoga experts.

**1.1** We as a global community of representatives **commit** to

1.1.1 Moving together to claim and preserve Authentic Yoga Tradition in its truest essence while respecting the diversity of different schools of thoughts.

1.1.2 We **strive** to enter into a mutual dialogue and process towards creating a global ecosystem in collaborating, mainstreaming and accreditation of Yoga Programs within the HEI ambit by

- Amalgamating a harmonization between the traditional philosophy and modern practices
- Scientifically opening every possibility of research exploration (tapped-untapped) across various dimensions of Traditional Yogic Principles
- Grounding on:
  - *Authenticity of curriculum based on traditional philosophical foundations.*
  - *Research, innovation and extension of Yogic ecosystem,*

- *Yoga as a key tool for promotion of health*
- *Values such as global peace and harmony, global citizenship etc*
- *Application of the Yogic domain.*

**2.1** We further **ensure** to together promote Yoga Programs that are well contained within a shared understanding of international standards and quality framework.

**2.2** We shall strive to Nurture and groom both artistic and scientific temperaments towards this vast reservoir of Yogic knowledge

**2.3** Promote and Present globally the vast scope of

- Vedic Psychology (the realm of mind, behaviour etc) within Ayurveda applications as antidotes/solution to stress and growing lifestyle diseases
- Vedic Sciences including all aspects of Yoga that enhances positive human dynamics as well as facilitate salutogenesis in individuals and in and social systems worldwide."

**2.4** Raise the benchmark on scientifically approaching the study of Yoga and provide further impetus to the growth and promotion of Yoga in a harmonised manner globally and unearth the techniques and innovatively adopt them for the benefits of the modern society.

**3.** We collectively and collaboratively agree on our aspirations and actions to:

3.1 Explore the formalization of an International framework and Protocol on the Mainstreaming of Yoga Programs & its Accreditation within the HEI ambit.

3.2 Advocate with various policy makers on Mainstreaming & the Accreditation of Yoga Programs into the HEI ambit.

3.3 Mobilising funds to support Yoga Higher Education Institutions and provide scholarships to students and research grants to teachers.

3.4 Setting up a Global Vision Group to take forward the conversations and outcomes of global summit "Beginning of a Conversation Towards a Global Ecosystem in Yoga Higher Education through Accreditation

**4.** While complementing Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN), National Assessment and Accreditation (NAAC) and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (UN), in taking up this global yoga accreditation initiative, with leadership from its origin in India, we commit our support in taking forward this New York- Bengaluru Vision / Initiative to all stakeholders in the best interest of health, peace and humanity.

**Draft initiated on 26<sup>th</sup>April, 2019 at United Nations Headquarters, New York and adopted at Bengaluru, New Delhi and worldwide on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.**

**List of Participating Organisations:**



*National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India*



*Asia Pacific Quality Network, Shanghai, China*



*Canada India Network Society, Canada*



*Benson Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine, USA*



*Life in Yoga and Foundation, USA*



*Sarva Yoga International, Italy*



*Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, India*



*University of Patanjali, India*



*Sri Sri University, India*



*Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, India*



*Varad Ashram Intercultural Service Humanitarian World Association (VISWA), Canada*



*Yoga Consciousness Trust, India*



*The Yoga Institute, India*



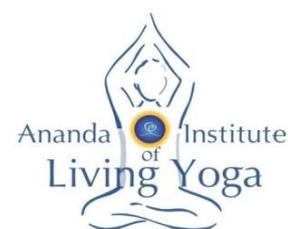
*Assoyoga Italia, Italy*



*Kaivalyadhama Yoga Institute, India*



*Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, India*



*Ananda Institute of Living Yoga, USA*