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State's tryst with yoga day

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Bhubaneswar: Notwithstanding the rain, thousands of people gathered at Janata Maidan on Friday morning to celebrate International Day of Yoga. At the mega event organised by Yoga Mahotsav Samiti, Odisha, experts explained the benefits of yoga to the participants. Governor Ganeshi Lal, who attended the programme, urged everyone to take up yoga for inner peace.

Similarly, educational institutions, government, NGOs and central armed police forces celebrated the day with asanas, pranayam and meditation according to the protocol issued by the Union ministry of Ayush. The theme of this year's International Yoga Day is Yoga for Harmony, Peace and Progress.

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik in his tweet said "Yoga symbolises union of body with consciousness and there are innumerable benefits of this gift from ancient India. On International Day of Yoga, let us make this invaluable gift a way of life for a peaceful and healthy world."

The Sri Sri University, Cuttack, conducted an one-hour session for more than 150 students and faculty members. At IIT Bhubaneswar, a three-day programme culminated. KIIT and KISS, deemed to be universities, celebrated the day with thousands of students, teachers and staff. Siksha 'O' Anusandhan deemed to be univer-

Badrish Narayan Pati



BJP leaders Bajjayant Panda and Prakash Mishra do yoga in Bhubaneswar on Friday

Odia couple feted

An Odia couple delivered talks on yoga and taught the art of the ancient Indian system to students of Mahidol University in Thailand on International Day of Yoga on Friday and were felicitated by the university authorities. The couple — Dinesh Swain and his wife Prativa Shree — both yoga professors at Sri Sri University in Cuttack — were invited for the second consecutive year this time to Thailand to deliver lectures on yoga to the international students. **TNN**

sity, Utkal University, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, BJEM School and other educational institutions also observed the day. Yoga sessions were also organised by Nalco, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant and East Coast Railways in their offices. BSF troops deployed in Malkangiri and Koraput also performed yoga.