

Yoga Event at Buenos Aires

My translation to English of news reports about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the yoga event held in "La Rural" convention center, Thursday 29 November 2018, in Buenos Aires follows. This was the day before the Group of 20, G20 meeting of world heads of state took place in the capital of Argentina. The first report is from La Nacion.

Swamini Vilasananda

"Yoga is a gift of India and it means Union."

It was a collective meditation with Hindu music and fervour almost "rockero". Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, practiced yoga together with some 5000 people and asked that both countries strengthen their ties. Hardly the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, had dreamt that in Buenos Aires, on the other side of the world, he would have such a grand reception.

In the meeting, Yoga for Peace, organized in the Rural by the Art of Living and the Embassy of India, some 5000 people welcomed him singing "Olī, Olī, Olī, Modi, Modi, Modi" and applauded with fanfare when the Prime Minister finished each paragraph of the speech that he gave, even before they translated his words.

A vegetarian and fervent promoter of yoga (to the point that he created a ministry for its diffusion), Modi arrived in the country for the G20 summit. Leader of a country with more than 1.3 billion people, he called for closer relations with Argentina and to encourage trade between the two countries.

"I have come very recently, after a trip of more than 24 hours, but I feel as if I were still in India," said Modi. And he congratulated the attendees for the way that they had practiced yoga minutes before.

Thousands of people dressed in white practiced yoga on their mats, while others did less complicated exercises seated on their chairs. Also there was space for Indian melodies played by a band of 70 musicians and for which Patricia Sosa sang "The Truth of Love".

"Yoga gives us good health, both physical and mental. It strengthens our body and our mind. Only when the human being has a peaceful mind there will be peace in the world. Yoga is a gift of India and its significance is union. It diminishes the distance between India and Argentina and unites us in a relationship full of meaning," Modi affirmed.

Patricia Sosa, who had met Modi in Delhi during a meditation of millions of people, affirmed: "He did not talk of politics, he was genuine, all love. Enough of battles, of violence! Meditation is a therapy for becoming peaceful," she said.

Madav Suncho, an Indian pharmacist who has worked for a year in Argentina for a company of his country, also came to hear Modi and described his talk as "very good."
LA NACION (This article was inside on page 21, Friday 30 Nov.).

The following is from Clarin. I abbreviated it. There was a caption and photo of Modi on the cover page which continued on page 14. "Peace and Love. The Indian Modi in La Rural. A massive meditation class with the the Prime Minister of India."

"It was in La Rural with more than 4000 persons. There was music and Patricia Sosa sang. The Indian Narendra Modi chanted the mantra "Om"

On page 14:

Headlines: "A moment of peace before the G20"

"Massive meditation along with the Prime Minister of India, in the middle of stress" --Julietta Roffo

"It turns out that a couple of almighty guys come along, and we're going to get a life."

The girl is 30 years old, wears a black shirt, shoes with flowers and carries a mat -in fact a mat used to practice yoga- under the arm. The bag of fabric that wraps the mat has a print that says "Inhale & Exhale." The girl is in the line on Santa Fe Avenue as she explains to a friend what she thinks about the G20.

The friend speaks with Clarin (reporter): "We came to seek some peace, a union between the body, the mind and the soul," she explains.

The two wait for La Rural to open its doors in order to unroll their mats on the floor of the ocher pavilion and participate in a meeting of yoga and meditation. They are not alone: the line measures almost two blocks.

Once inside the event began with the massive yoga practice while waiting for the arrival of the Prime Minister. This was all organized by "El arte de vivir".

Olutely spectacular. Tremendous happiness filled the hearts of all.]

There was applause and argentininos who shouted "olī olī olī olī, Modi, Modi, Modi..."

The Prime Minister smiled, he sat down and he listened to a mantra typical of his country that was heard live coming from a group of 70 musicians. And Patricia Sosa sang a song that says "Spread the faith to those who cannot see".

"Yoga and meditation serve to have mental control and stay focused no matter how much chaos there is around," says Keymmilee (29) while wrapping her mat to return home.

The event lasted almost four hours.

Swamini Vilasananda Saraswati

