

## **NABCB grants first accreditation worldwide for Yoga scheme**

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), a constituent Board of the autonomous Quality Council of India (QCI), has granted the first accreditation worldwide to a Bangalore based subsidiary of a UK based personnel certification body as per ISO 17024. M/s APMG India Certification Pvt. Ltd. Has been accredited for certification of Instructors (Level 1) and Yoga Teachers (Level 2) under the Voluntary Certification Scheme for Yoga Professionals of the Ministry of AYUSH, designed and till recently operated by the QCI.

Yoga is considered as one of the most important traditional knowledge of India which due to its holistic approach towards the physical and mental health, has spread throughout the world.

However, due to lack of a formal and standardized training/education system as well as presence of different Yoga traditions, managing the quality of Yoga teachers has been a challenge. In pursuance of the directive of the Prime Minister Modi, of spreading India's traditional knowledge in Yoga worldwide with credible systems, Ministry of AYUSH had identified QCI to develop a voluntary scheme for evaluation and certification of Yoga Professionals. Accordingly, Yoga Professional certification scheme based on the international standard ISO 17024:2012 was launched by the Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh on 22 June 2015 as part of International Yoga Day celebrations. Yoga professional certification Scheme validates the competence of Yoga professionals for their knowledge and skills.

NABCB is the national accreditation body for accreditation of certification and inspection bodies as per international standards and is part of an international system under the aegis of the International Accreditation Forum which facilitates acceptance of inspections and certifications across borders. NABCB has earned international equivalence for most of its accreditation programmes and in some areas like Information security and food safety, it is way ahead of even European and American accreditation bodies.

With this unique and first of its kind accreditation in the world for Yoga Scheme which could justifiably be considered as another milestone for NABCB, it is now aiming for IAF mutual recognition arrangement for Personnel Certification scheme this year, which would bring along the benefit that its accredited certification bodies will be considered internationally equivalent.