

Online
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR on Agnihotra

ON



Spiritual and Scientific Dimensions of Agnihotra

October 23, 2021 – October 27, 2021

Indian Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Mauritius Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

US New York Time: 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Canada (Ottawa) Time: 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

UK Time: 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Germany Time: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Australian Time: 11:30 PM to 1:30AM (Next day)

South African Time: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Trinidad & Tobago Time: 9:30 AM to 11:30 PM

Suriname Time: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Registration is Free

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/1EkCquUvj8LxgLvB6>

Google meet link: <https://meet.google.com/dgd-ouhq-xbp>



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Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana



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Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati
(1824-1883)

Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, who was a great philosopher, social reformer and embodiment of Vedic life and thought in 19th century India, always emphasized upon necessity of performing Pañchamahāyajñas (Five great yajñas) daily. Agnihotra is one of the Pañchamahāyajñas. He also pointed out the scientific significance of Agnihotra to be performed by human beings daily in a routine manner. According to him, human activities contribute to polluting the atmosphere and yajña is a process to reduce the pollution of the atmosphere. It has a lot of effect on our mental and physical health. That is why, he suggested performing Agnihotra daily and regularly during the Sandhyā periods, i.e. at the time of dawn and dusk. According to him :

अग्नये परमेश्वराय जलवायुशुद्धिकरणाय च, होत्रं हवनं दानं, यिस्मन् कमर्णि क्रियते तदिग्नहोत्रम्। ईश्वराज्ञापालनार्थं वा। सुगन्ध, पुष्टि, मिष्ट, बुद्धि-वृद्धि, शौच्यर्, धैर्यर्, बल, रोगनाशकरैर्गुणैर्युक्तानां द्रव्याणां होमकरणेन, वायुवृष्टिजलयोः शुद्ध्या, पुथिवीस्थपदाथानां सर्वेषां शुद्धवायुजलयोगात् सर्वेषां जीवानां परमसुखं भवत्येव। अतस्तुक्मर्कतृणां जनानां तदुपकारेणात्यन्तसुखमीश्वरानुग्रहश्च भवत्येतदाद्यथर्मिग्नहोत्रकरणम्।

(Rigvedādibhāṣya Bhūmikā, (Pañchamahāyajña Viśaya)

That is Agnihotra is a process of Havana/ or Homa wherein oblations are offered to worship God and to purify environment (air and rain water, etc.). This process is carried out to keep the environment clean as commanded by God. It goes without saying that when the objects that provide healthy fragrance, promote physical and mental health, sweet in taste, improve bravery, impart perseverance and physical power, cure diseases are offered in the fire of yajña, they also purify environment and the rain-waters. Healthy environment, pure air and water on the earth make all creatures dwelling on the earth hale and hearty. Because the performers of Agnihotra do good to all creatures, so they enjoy immense happiness and God's grace. This is the purpose of performing Agnihotra

Keeping in view of the importance of the Agnihotra in human life, the Chair hereby proposes to conduct a 5-days International seminar on 'Spiritual and Scientific Dimensions of Agnihotra'.



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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGNIHOTRA / PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sr. No.	Date	Indian Time	Name of Invited Speaker	Topic
1	23.10.2021	7:00 PM-7:40 PM	Dr. Ulrich Berk	Scientific Aspects of Agnihotra with the focus of effect of Agnihotra and Homa therapy in farming and on our mind
2		7:40 PM-8:20 PM	Prof. W. Selvamurthy	Agnihotra for Wellbeing and Prosperity of Humanity
3		8:20 PM-9:00 PM	Prof. Ganesh Umakant Thite	Significance of Agnihotra
4	24.10.2021	7:00 PM-7:40 PM	Prof. CSR. Prabhu	Agnihotra-A Survey of Scientific Research
5		7:40 PM-8:20 PM	Dr. Arun Upadhyaya, IPS (Retd.)	Science of Agnihotra
6		8:20 PM-9:00 PM	Dr. S. C. Sharma	Effects of Yajna on the environment
7	25.10.2021	7:00 PM-7:40 PM	Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar	Spiritual Dimensions of Vedic Yajña
8		7:40PM-8:20 PM	Col (Retd) Madan Deshpande , VSM	Scientific perspectives of Agnihotra
9		8:20 PM-9:00 PM	Ish Narang	Misconceptions about Agnihotra - a Scientific Analysis
10	26.10.2021	7:00 PM-7:30 PM	Krishna Barad	Agnihotra-Vedic Technique for healing, Holistic Health and Happiness
11		7:30 PM-8:00 PM	Dr. Shrikant Kallurkar	Agnihotra for development of Enterprising Personality
12		8:00 PM-8:30 PM	Dr. Pranay Dilip Abhang	Scientific Studies on Agnihotra in the Perspectives of Modern Sciences
13		8:30 PM-9:00 PM	Prof. S.K. Kulkarni	Heritage of Vedas, Agnihotra and its Benefits in the Present-day world
14	27.10.2021	7:00 PM-7:30 PM	Dr. Bhagyalata Pataskar	Spiritual and Scientific Dimensions of Agnihotra
15		7:30 PM-8:00 PM	Dr. Ms Vasanti Limaye	Bioenergetics of Agnihotra
16		8:00 PM-8:30 PM	Rajalakshmi Vidya Jharkhand	Effect of Agnihotra on environment comprising biotic and abiotic components
17		8:30 PM-9:00 PM	Prof. Ravi Prakash Arya	Rainmaking and warding off rain with the help of Yajña



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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY / ABSTRACT

-Alphabetical order-

Arun Upadhyaya, IPS (Retd)-Introduction-Born in 1952 in a family of Vedic tradition of Kashi. Did M.Sc. in Physics (1974), Forestry (1976), Mathematics (1981). Read Sanskrit and Vedic books since childhood and passed Prachina Madhyama from Darbhanga Sanskrit University. IFS in Punjab (1974-76), IPS in Odisha (1976-2012). Author of 10 books on astronomy, Vedic science, Calender, Indian chronology. Structure of language etc. About 100 papers in seminars and articles in journals on these subjects.

Science of Agnihotra

It starts with a definition to generalize different meanings and usage of words Agni and Hotra. The definition includes ancient and present practices. Agnihotra is described as the daily practices by each man for maintenance of himself, family, society and environment. How it is useful for the modern world in its traditional and modified forms. What are the harms of not following Agnihotra?

Bhagyalata Pataskar: She did her M.A. in linguistics and Ph.D in Vyakarana under Prof. S.D. Joshi. She worked on various posts from 1985 to 2000 in the Sanskrit Centre of Savitri Bai Phule, Pune Vidyapeetha. Since 2000, she is working as Director of Vaidika Samshodhana Mandala (ASSS), Pune. She has published 8 books and edited another 16 books. She has 100+ research papers to her credit. She has guided 7 students for their Ph.D. work.

Spiritual and Scientific Dimensions of Agnihotra

This is an amazing feature of *agnihotra* in that it is regarded as a religious ritual but is subject to scientific experiments. It inculcates spirituality and yields the mundane benefits such as good health. The present paper deals with the spiritual and scientific dimensions of *Agnihotra*. The secret of *agnihotra* inculcating spirituality lies in its structure and that of *agnihotra* attracting scientists lies in its effects. There are historical transformations in *agnihotra*. The *śrauta agnihotra* that we find in the Vedic texts. The *smārta agnihotra* and the simple, simpler versions of *agnihotra* which is now practiced popularly. Out of these three, the *śrauta agnihotra* is fully and transparently spiritual although we do not have the documents of the experiments carried on the *śrauta agnihotra* and also on *smārta agnihotra*. However, there are lots of scientific experiments carried on the compact form of *agnihotra*. Hence to shed light on the spiritual aspect of the *agnihotra*, the *śrauta* model of *agnihotra* was considered and to disclose the scientificity the modern compact model of *agnihotra* was considered.

CSR. Prabhu- Prof. Dr. C. S. R. Prabhu is an eminent Scientist who held many important positions in the Government of India and other Organizations. He superannuated as Director General from National Informatics Centre (NIC), MEITY, Govt of India, and New Delhi. He authored 16 textbooks of which 12 are on the latest topics in the IT sector such as Big Data Analytics and Fog Computing. He is the founder Chairman of Vishwa Yoga Vidyapeeth and authored two books on Yoga. He authored the book titled "The Physics of Vaiseshika" bringing out Physics in Vaiseshika Sutras of Kanada. He authored a joint book on Dharma Yoga as a Common Framework of all major Religions by bring out Scriptural evidence of Dharma and Yoga as Common Framework. He developed an Objective Knowledge Model for Knowledge Representation and as model for Big Data using the Sanskrit model of Asthadhyayi of Panini



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Agnihotra-A Survey of Scientific Research

Agnihotra or Homa is now globally popular as a technique (to be performed at sunrise and sunset) aimed at fumigation as well as a pollution control and management procedure. While ancient complex Vedic Yajna technology was very advanced and many different objectives met with modern Agnihotra or Homa techniques are simple taking only a few minutes to perform. In recent times we found that by performing Agnihotra regularly for many decades a family house in Bhopal was the only one family saved from death in Bhopal during the last calamity of Bhopal Gas Leak Tragedy where thousands perished or were injured due to Cyanide poisoning. Scientific studies showed a variety of beneficial effects if Agnihotra is regularly performed at homes. Such benefits included Protection from Diseases from Viruses and Bacteria. Up to one or two kilometers there was a bacteriostatic effect observed. In addition, the benefits of Agnihotra or Homa on individual health are numerous such as : reduction in bad cholesterol levels, reduction of asthma, other breathing problems, psychological problems, de-addiction from alcohol, tobacco, etc, was made possible too. The benefits or effects of using the Agnihotra Ash are many too. Applying on the body it firms a colloidal layer beneficial in skin conditions. Spraying or spreading Agnihotra Ash on green fields improves yields of crops, etc. There exist many benefits.

Ganesh Umakant Thite- Taught Post-graduate classes in the Department of Sanskrit and Prakrit languages, the University of Pune for the period 1974-2004. Ph.D. guide of 18 students. He held the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Prakrit languages, University of Pune and Retired in 2004. At present he is Emeritus Professor, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. General Editor, Mahabharata Cultural Index, Bhandarkar O. R. Institute. He is well versed in German, French, Sanskrit, Pali, Hindi, Marathi and English languages. He published 10 books, visited Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, U. S. A., France, Romania, Italy, and Russia for academic purposes. He guided 18 students for a Doctoral thesis and participated in numerous National and International conferences. He was awarded 1. Best Teacher award from Maharashtra Government (2004). 2. Academic prize of Maharshi Sandeepani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan (2004). 3. First Jagannath Shankarshet scholarship (1960). 4. An International Seminar was arranged at Berkeley University, California, USA (2016). He has also translated many books from German and French into English.

Significance of Agnihotra

Agnihotra is an obligatory ritual to be carried out by every person who has formally established sacred fires. It is to be performed everyday in the evening and in the morning. The main offering here is milk, although optionally one can use some other materials like Ghee, yogurt, Soma, etc. Theoretically, it is expected that one should be rich enough with animals like cows and similar other animals, agricultural land. In short, one is expected to be a well-to-do rich man who can afford to perform this ritual. In case the performer is too busy in some other activities, he can appoint a special employee called Kshirahotaa. Up to the last century, there were many kings and other rich people who used to be performers of Agnihotra. Even today there are about two hundred sacrificers carrying out Agnihotra daily. All the performers are situated in South India, mainly on the banks of the rivers Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri and their tributaries. Unfortunately, the mainland of Aryans (Punjab and neighbouring states) now does not contain this ritual.

Ish Narang- Retired as assistant Commissioner, Government of India, Dr. Ish Narang is a keen exponent of Agnihotra and an ardent follower of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati. He is a convener of



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the Centre for Scientific studies on Agnihotra, New Delhi and was also the convener for the International workshop on Agnihotra Research Organised during 2018 in Delhi. By profession a Dairy Technologist, he has a Master's degree in Vedic Literature from Gurukula Kangri University, Haridwar. He represented the Govt. of India in various International forums and meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a joint commission for WHO and FAO in the USA, New Zealand, Belgium, France, Uruguay.

Misconceptions about Agnihotra -a Scientific Analysis

Agnihotra is one of the five Yajnas/duties (panchamahayajna) to be performed by every householder twice a day. It has been an integral part of the Vedic Culture. All the 16 Sanskaras start with Agnihotra. It is a multi-dimensionally useful karma and a spiritually enlightening experience. It is the ancient most science of preventing pollution and post pollution purification of the environment. Over centuries of foreign rule, we have forgotten its real advantages and a lot of misconceptions have been planted in our minds. This paper deals with all such misconceptions and proves that misconceptions are, thus not based on any scientific facts but are only hearsay or appear to have been deliberately planted in our minds by willful distortions of facts by foreign rulers.

Krishna Barad- Sh. Krishna Barad has been practicing Agnihotra since 1990. He has done B.Sc. Electronics and Diploma In Export Management. He is currently working as a Partner at one of the leading Tax Advisory firm in India. He has visited Singapore, Thailand and China for Agnihotra propagation work. He has delivered lectures on Agnihotra at various schools, colleges and public gatherings. He has also organized a Mass Agnihotra celebration program in various cities. He has traveled to many cities in India to promote the Agnihotra message.

Agnihotra-Vedic Technique for healing, Holistic Health and Happiness

Madan Deshpande, VSM, Col. (Retd)-Col. (Retd) Madan Deshpande VSM MBBS, DOMS, MS Chief Medical Director, PBMA'S H. V. Desai Eye Hospital Ex. Prof. & Head of Ophthalmology, AFMC, Pune Col. (Retd) Madan Deshpande VSM is presently Chief Medical Director of PBMA'S H. V. Desai Eye Hospital, Pune. The hospital has two more satellite centers at Nandurbar and Jalgaon. We have performed more than 6.5 lakh eye surgeries out of which around 65% are free of cost. Has been in Indian Army w.e.f. 1964 to 1997. During this, he was actively involved in both the 65 & 71 Indo pak wars at the forefront with the infantry. He is a post-graduate teacher & examiner at various universities for the last 35 years. Examiner for Ph.D. at AIIMS - Dr. R. P. Center, Delhi; Various Awards few are: Vishist Seva Medal by the President of India in 1992 for distinguished special and exemplary service of very high order in eye care to the armed forces. Vishwa Mata Foundation in 2006, "Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award" by the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO), Busan, Korea on 15th April 2012 in recognition of individuals that have made scientific contributions to the prevention of blindness in the Asia Pacific Region. "Best Teacher Award" by Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society on 14th October 2012 during the Annual Conference of MOSCON held at Mahabaleshwar. "Life Time Achievement Award" by the Poona Ophthalmology Society during the Annual Conference of POS held on 21st & 23rd December 2012 for his commendable work in the prevention of blindness in Western Maharashtra. Life Time Achievement Award by Marathwada Ophthalmology Society Smita Albal Oration Award-2012 Life Time Achievement Award - ACOIN 2014 Tamilnadu Dr. G. Venkatswamy Community Ophthalmology Oration Award - 2015 Ophthal Laurel Award - 2018 for vast experience and dedication to the specialty of ophthalmology and the tremendous contribution have made to Indian Ophthalmology. Awarded Dr. Sri Ganesh Oration Award by Karnataka Ophthalmic Society. He has done capacity building, strategic planning and quality review 32 partner hospitals all across the country. Presently mentoring



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12 Eye Hospitals. He was President of Vision 2020- The Right to Sight, India for the period July 2011- June 2014 and President of the Association of Community Ophthalmology of India (ACOIN) and Maharashtra Ophthalmology Society. He has served as an expert for the appointment of Assistant Professor, UPSC and Associate Professor, AIIMS, New Delhi. Has authorized & presented a large number of papers in various conferences. Mentored the Government of Goa for establishing Community DR services. Has been working for Agnihotra for healing the Atmosphere and Equilibrium of the mind.

Scientific perspectives of Agnihotra

Agnihotra is the most ancient Vedic science of life. The present environment is polluted, destruction of flora and fauna, disturbed Eco cycles, global warming even minds are polluted with violence and hatred, complex family problems, need a solution which is Authentic in origin, holistic in approach, simple to comply & adopt that is Agnihotra successfully tried in past & present. Given for both material & spiritual development. Published studies will be discussed the effect on mind deaddiction effect on microflora, Kirlian photography, homa therapy, plant growth, effect on Agriculture. Mental tranquility studies with allied use of Agnihotra as an essential lifestyle will be discussed

Pranay Dilip Abhang - is D.SC. in Environmental Biotechnology and Ph.D. in Environmental Science. Presently posted as Assistant Professor and Head of the Environmental Science Department at Dr. D. Y. Patil Unitech Society's Dr. D. Y. Patil Arts, Commerce & Science College, Pimpri, Pune 411018, Maharashtra, India. He has 15 publications (2 patents, 1 book and 12 journal articles). He got 3 international, 4 national and 6 appreciation awards in the field of Traditional Knowledge, Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology. He is also an Academic advisory member for various national and state organizations, Reviewer and Editorial board member of reputed journals, Syllabus restructuring committee member at various Universities/ Colleges

Scientific Studies on Agnihotra in the Perspectives of Modern Sciences

Agnihotra is the simplest form of 'Yajnya/Homa' performed in many countries all over the world. Although it's an ancient fire ritual, it is based on scientific aspects. It invokes sunrise and sunset timings, when far infrared radiations are produced from the sun, the burning of cow ghee, dried cow dung, unpolished rice in the typical inverted pyramidal-shaped copper pot with the chanting of mantras about Sun (*Surya*) and fire (*Agni*). It is found that far infrared radiations of the sun and that of Agnihotra resonate to generate a huge amount of vital energy useful for life processes. The fumes and ash of Agnihotra are useful to purify water and air, ameliorate agriculture, reduces the pathogenicity of microorganisms and help to improve the health of living beings. Performing Agnihotra with the right timings and ingredients will create a conducive atmosphere in the surrounding for the well-being of life. Although Agnihotra is an ancient ritual nowadays it has been used as a therapy in many countries; to treat various plant or animal diseases, to control pollution procreated due to human interferences, to improve agricultural efficiency in perspectives of increase in productivity of crops, etc. Agnihotra technology has many applications in the different divisions' viz. medicine, agriculture, pollution control, technology and industry. As Agnihotra technology is nature-friendly, it maintains harmony between living beings and nature. To overcome the present-day problem one needs to expurgate proper use of Agnihotra, its fumes, and ash. One needs to understand Agnihotra technology by considering it's positive as well as negative, if any, prospective and required to implement as a solution for day to day problems

Ravi Prakash Arya - is Chair Professor on Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Chair (UGC) in Maharshi Dayanand University, India. He is a world-renowned Vedic Scholar, Philologist, historian and



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philosopher. He is a prolific speaker and writer. He is a widely travelled scholar who has delivered more than 350 popular and academic talks on various topics of Vedas, Indian History, Linguistics, Philosophy, Culture and Scientific Indian heritage in various countries of the world. He is doing pioneering work for preserving and propagating the universal and scientific Vedic heritage of India under the auspices of the 'Indian Foundation for Vedic science'. He has to his credit 75 research papers and 70 books running into 84 volumes on the various aspects of Vedas, Vedic Sciences, Vedic Exegesis, Vedic Philology, Vedic Philosophy, Religion, Indian History and Culture. He is the Chief Editor of a quarterly Research Journal 'Vedic Science' dealing with the scientific interpretation of Vedas & Allied literature and ancient Indian traditions. This Journal is acclaimed as an authoritative document on Vedic Sciences. He is also the editor of the annual 'World Vedic Calendar'. He has convened several national and international conferences/seminars/workshops on Vedic Sciences, Ayurveda, Yoga, Spirituality and Indian knowledge system. He is a recipient of many awards at the national and international levels. He also served the Higher Education Department of Haryana as Principal of various degree colleges for 9 years.

Rainmaking and warding off rain with the help of Yajña

Rainmaking and warding off rain with the help of Yajna is a very old Vedic technique. Rain was induced by forming clouds and thereby seeding them with a particular type of herbs. This paper presents methods of rainmaking attempted in India from time to time right from the Vedic period down to the present day.

Vijay lakshmi - She is working for the conservation of ancient knowledge and wisdom of India. She worked in Hindustan Times as a Reporter. She is running a production house Viraa Films since 2017. She also started an initiative COWKI for the conservation of ancient knowledge and wisdom of India. She made an audiovisual documentary on “the making of the newspaper”. Also, she made a documentary on Dalma wildlife sanctuary. Currently working with Banaras Hindu University on ancient science. Made an audio feature on “cancer disease”.

Effect of Agnihotra on environment comprising biotic and abiotic components.

Agnihotra is a scientific process of safeguarding and protecting the environment comprising of the biotic and abiotic components including humans, plants animals air-water, etc.

The qualitative fragrance medicinal herbs used in the Havana eliminates harmful bacteria and viruses from the surroundings and purifies the environment.

Moreover, heat energy and sonic waves are produced during agnihotra and are a source of divine energy.

Indeed it is an effective method of enhancing and utilizing life energy extracted from herbs, grains, milk products used during the process. The repeated use of the words swaha by the performers literally means, that the energy liberated in the agnihotra never departs from the performer.

Agnihotra has a significant effect on the environment. It decreases the harmful pollutant and microorganisms from the surrounding.

Moreover, it plays a vital role in purifying water and it is also an effective remedy for tuberculosis and many neurological issues like epilepsy, anxiety depression, etc.

On a whole, it is an eco-friendly process of purifying the environment and providing physical, mental and spiritual health to the mankind.



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Shashi Prabha Kumar- Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar is presently Dean, Sri Sankaracharya Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi. Earlier she was Founder Vice-Chancellor at the Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Madhya Pradesh and Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, JNU, New Delhi. She has a teaching experience of almost fifty years and administrative experience of more than twelve years. She has also taught at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies U.K. in the Trinity Term, (2007) as Shivdasani Visiting Fellow. She was offered ICCR visiting Chair at Silpakorn University, Bangkok (2008).

Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar is an acclaimed Sanskrit Scholar, well versed in classical Indian Philosophy, particularly the system of Vaisesika, which was her area for Ph.D. research at the University of Delhi (1983). Her current research interests include the philosophy of Vedas and Upaniṣads, Vaiśeṣika, Mīmāṃsā and Vedānta besides Buddhism and Jainism. She has supervised/guided more than fifty students for their Post-Doctoral, Ph.D. and M. Phil research at the University of Delhi and JNU.

She has received several prestigious awards, most significant of these are: “President’s Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit”, Government of India, New Delhi, (2014); “Honorary D.Litt.” conferred by Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar, (2016); “Mahākavi Kalidāsa Sanskrit Sāadhanā Puraskāra”, Department of Higher and Technical Education, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai, (2015); Ramakrishna Sanskrit Award from Canadian World Education Foundation, Canada, (2003) and Shankar Puraskar from K.K. Birla Foundation, New Delhi, (1999). Prof. Kumar has lectured extensively in India and abroad on various aspects of Indian philosophy and culture. She has thirty-five books, more than one hundred and fifty research papers/ review articles to her credit.

Spiritual Dimensions of Vedic Yajña

Vedic view of life and the word is very positive, profound and powerful. Usually, It is believed that Vedas are concerned with the external, ritualistic aspect of life only, but on closer analysis, it is revealed that they contain a much deeper message which is inclusive in approach and universal in appeal.

Yajna or the ritual is a central feature of Vedic philosophy, so much so that it has been proclaimed that Vedas are meant for propagating the performances of yajna: *veda hi yajñārthamabhipravttaḥ*. No doubt the Vedas focus on the ritual aspect of life and declare that yajna or Vedic ritual is the centre of cosmos: *ayam yajño bhuvanasya nābhiḥ*.

It is also true that all four Vedic Samhitas begin with verses related to the principle of yajña. In fact, the concept of yajna is so central in Vedic philosophy that one cannot understand the complete picture of life without an overt or covert reference of it. But more importantly, the Vedic principle of yajna is not merely an extrinsic act to be performed by a particular individual in a spatio-temporally limited sense. This implies a much broader idea which is linked with the microcosm (pinda) as well as macrocosm (brahmāṇḍa). From this point of view, the Vedic ritual of Yajna is spiritual in essence and finds expression in a symbolic manner. The secret of this symbol lies in offering oneself for the other *ayanta idhma ātmā jātavedastenedhyasva*. The same principle applies to life within the human body also where all the organs are offering themselves for the other and making life continue. It is therefore that human life itself is characterized as yajna: *puruṣo vāva yajñah*. In the well-known Puruṣa sukta of Ṛgveda, the Divine is said to have sacrificed Himself for the glory of creation. Accordingly, the sarvahuta yajna or total surrender is the key to cosmic cycle: *yajñena vajñamayajanata devastani*



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dharmāṇi prathamānyāsan. Once created, the whole universe is ordered in such a way that the principle of yajna is operating and sustaining it from within. In brief, the Vedic philosophy of yajna propounds that the formal and physical aspect of the ritual needs to be transcended because it is just a means and not the end in itself. The ultimate dimension of yajna is spiritual in nature, *Atmanyeva hitā bhavanti.*

S. C. Sharma, Mch FIACS FICS FICC Cardiovascular surgeon Bangalore

Effects of Yjñā on environment

Yajna is a well-defined process described in all its dimensions in Vedic texts. This process essentially involves the creation of fire in a controlled way and the offering of cow ghee and various medicinal herbs.

The benefits of Yajna described in Vedic texts are shuddhi of environment, water, earth food, Dyauloka and health of living beings. Our research was open end multifaceted controlled study to know the possible various effects of Yajñā on nonliving and living things. This abstract pertains to "EFFECTS OF YAGYNA ON MICROBES IN ENVIRONMENT". We collected different bacterial and fungal cultures by exposing culture plates for 1 hour at Yajna site before Yajna, during Yajna for 10 days and after Yajna. We also exposed disease-creating (pathological) bacteria cultures at Yajna site during Yajna for 1 hour every day and then kept them in an incubator to see growth compared to those cultures which were kept in an incubator only.

S.K. Kulkarni: S. K. Kulkarni is a veteran journalist, writer and orator and engaged in research work too. He is well-versed in Sanskrit and Pali. He was editor, SAKAL, a leading Marathi Daily H.O.D. & Prof., Dept. of Journalism (Pune University) Editor-Consultant, Kesari, Pune Editor, Swaraj Weekly, Pune Project Director, Dist. Journalist Training Programme, Western India (Sakal Papers Trust). He has more than 50 books to his credit and has edited many more. He has written books on several topics and subjects including the epoch-making events in 1969-70 of space-victory. He has delivered lectures on the Heritage of Vedas and Agnihotra, almost all over India. He has written books on Vedas - Rigveda Darshan Yajurveda Darshan Upanishad-Prabha Vedmahimā etc.

Heritage of Vedas, Agnihotra and its Benefits in the Present-day world

Vedas are books of Sacred Knowledge. They do not contain a history of any king and so on. They are in fact 'Word of God'. In other words, they are the ancient most holy literature of the world. Every syllable and every letter of the Vedas talk about Agni-Upasana- offering oblations to fire. Everyone is duty-bound to perform fire worship i.e. Agnihotra. Etymologically Agnihotra means offering oblations in the fire. Vedas or the benevolent speech of the Vedas is for everyone without exception. Rigveda tells us that Agnihotra is supreme Yajna and everyone is duty-bound to do that. Rigveda tells us, 'Oh fire, we come to you every day (at sunset and sunrise). Agnihotra (fire-worship) is one single important message of Vedas. The daily Agnihotra elevates the human mind, Agnihotra relieves it of tensions. The uttering of "इदं मम" (This is not mine) is a turning point. Agnihotra is in fact a mind training programme, It leads to spiritual upliftment. Our goal is but one Rigveda declares: Let our mind be one. Let our talk be one. Let our march on spirituality be one. Today in many parts, people feel, they are enjoying new life due to daily Agnihotra.

Shrikant Kallurkar- is a member Institute for studies in Vedic Sciences, Shivpuri, Akkalkot, Maharashtra and Principal, Atharva College of Engineering, Mumbai. He is B.E. Mechanicla, MMS, Doctorate in Industrial Engineering. Guided 22 Ph.D. students from 7 Universities in India. Published 100+



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Research Papers having 400+ citations and 40,000 Reads. He has worked on World Bank Projects through MHRD, Govt. of India for Development of Quality Technical Education in India.

Agnihotra for development of Enterprising Personality

Enterprising personality is the need for success as a personality trait for any individual, may it be business or any other profession. According to Prof. Mc Clelland from Harvard University, 'Need for Achievement Nach is the prime characteristic for development. The majority of Entrepreneurship development programs hang around the concept of Nach'. However, during training and immediately after training the level of 'Nach' among participants is quite high, but keeps on deteriorating over a period of time. This becomes one of the reasons for a low level of success or failure. There is a need to address qualities such as:- 1) Persistence, 2) Perseverance, 3) Ability to face negative situations, 4) Development of a complete personality, etc. Group of 400 participants were provided Agnihotra-based training programme for Business opportunity selection and Development of Enterprising personality. It was spread over 12 programs in 2 years. The model had a thrust upon 1] Development of a formula of professional / Entrepreneurial satisfaction 2] SWOT analysis 3] Creativity enhancement with Agnihotra as creative pause as a tool. Five-fold path 1] Yadnya 2] Dana 3] Tapa 4] Karma 5] Svadhyaya was used for the development of 5 Koshas (Sheaths) 1] Annamaya Kosha - Food Sheath. 2] Pranmaya Kosha - Breath Sheath 3] Manomay Kosha - Mind Sheath 4] Vijnanamaya Kosha - Knowledge Sheath 5] Anandmaya Kosh - Bliss Sheath. Personality comprises of 5 Koshas. The research was sponsored by AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) and supported by ISVS (Institute for Studies in Vedic Sciences) Akkalkot, MCED(Maharashtra centre for Entrepreneurship Development) Nanded & SGGSIET, Nanded. Participants were under observation for 2 years. Increase in persistence Increase in perseverance Increase in Ability to face a negative situation. An increase in willingness to repay loan, were observed to be the outcome of Agnihotra performance and training.

Ulrich Berk- Born in 1949 in Germany, Dr. Ulrich Berk did a study of Philosophy of Science, Logic and Mathematics in Munich and Erlangen. He obtained a Master's degree in 1974 from University Erlangen-Nürnberg (Philosophy of Science in Sociology), and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1976, University Erlangen-Nürnberg (Logic, Mathematics, Psychology). He was appointed Assistant Professor in Konstanz University, teaching Logic and Methodology of Sciences to students of different faculties. Since 1980, he is coordinating research on Homa Therapy in Eastern European countries like Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Yugoslavia, etc., and for a couple of years also in India. He published a book on '*Bringing Homa Organic Farming into the Mainstream of Indian Agricultural System*'. This book gives an overview of the research on Homa done so far in the field of agriculture and the environment. His other publications on Agnihotra are:

The Energy Field of Agnihotra,

Effects of Agnihotra on Microorganisms,

Effect of Agnihotra Ash on Drug-Resistant Escherichia coli in Water.

Manual titled 'Suggested Experiments with Agnihotra',

Global COVID 19 and Agnihotra,

Impact of Homa Organic Farming in Mitigating Soil, Water, and other Environmental Crises,

Agnihotra as an Inexpensive Method to Treat HIV/AIDS

Scientific Aspects of Agnihotra with a focus of effect of Agnihotra and Homa therapy in farming and on our mind

Pollution of the atmosphere, the soil, and water resources pattern is one of the biggest problems of our time and it affects all areas of life including the health of plants, animals, of humans. Some scientists even say that this problem is threatening the further existence of mankind. Pollution is on all levels - atmosphere, soil, and water resources, it also includes radioactive pollution. (*Paranjpe 1989*).



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In this situation, it seems plausible to make use of every method including traditional knowledge which may help to overcome these problems (as it was suggested in the Convention on Biological Diversity (known also as the Rio Convention)).

Especially it is worthwhile to look into Vedic Knowledge, the most ancient knowledge of mankind.

Agnihotra comes from this source and is said to have wide-reaching beneficial effects on our whole environment, means on our atmosphere, on the soil, and on our water resources.

But we do not take Vedic Knowledge for granted but instead treat such statements as hypotheses in terms of modern science, trying to confirm or refute these statements by conducting experiments in the different fields of science.

By now we have a lot of promising results, like:

Bacteria in the air are reduced, water purified, and beneficial bacteria in soil prosper whereas harmful microbes are controlled.

The medicinal power of plants which is now reduced because of pollution is again restored in Homa Atmosphere, and also biodiversity is increased.

In this presentation first, the method of Agnihotra and Homa Therapy will be explained.

Then I will give an overview of the research done so far and the research currently being carried out about how Agnihotra and Agnihotra Ash help to mitigate problems of the pollution of our atmosphere, the soil, and water resources. Also, the impact on agriculture and horticulture will be shown as well as effects on Human Mind and on Human Health. At the end, there will be suggestions for further research on this subject.

Vasanti Limaye (Ms)- is an independent researcher having a deep interest in ancient Vedic knowledge and systems, especially how it is helping and can help in the modern sciences. She has studied the effect of agnihotra ash on the water in Pasahan Lake in Pune and published few papers individually on agnihotra's effect on plant life. She has been attending international ASTRA (Ancient Science and Technology Retrospection and Aspirations) conferences being held in Pune. She has also been assisting Vedic Scholar SG Nene. She worked in JNU as a research scholar and as Project Associate in the Center for Environment Education in Delhi. Presented her research paper in Yajna conferences held in Pune, Delhi and Rishikesh.

Bioenergetics of Agnihotra

Agnihotra farming is being used not only in India but in many other countries to increase the yield and provide the crops with better disease resistance and resilience. She has been observing the effect of agnihotra performed at the exact time of sunrise and sunset on plants kept on my terrace as well as in fields. The effects observed are almost similar to the plant hormone brassinolide which has been very well documented to augment the flowering, fruiting and disease and stress resistance. The present paper documents the possibility of precursors of brassinosteroids being triggered by Agnihotra vapour.

W. Selvamurthy- Prof. W. Selvamurthy is presently working with Amity University as President, Amity Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation, Director General for Amity Directorate of Science and Innovation and Chancellor, Amity University, Chhattisgarh. Dr. Selvamurthy did his Masters (M.Sc.) in Human Physiology from Christian Medical College, Vellore (1972) and Doctorate (Ph.D.) (Faculty of Medical Science) from Delhi University (1982) and Doctorate of Science (D.Sc.) from



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Bangalore (2006). He was also awarded D.Sc. (h.c) from five universities in recognition of his outstanding research and development contributions in Life Sciences. Dr. Selvamurthy has served Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Government of India for 40 years in which, all the health-related and life science-related technologies were developed and inducted into the Armed Forces for keeping the health and efficiency of soldiers even in extreme operational environments. This biomedical research immensely benefited the Armed Forces personnel and gave a lot of spin-off benefits to the society at large. His R&D contributions include the development of life support technologies for soldiers, NBC Defence Technology, Nano Technology Application for Defence, Application of yoga for the Armed Forces, Military psychology and others. He was the leader of the first Indo-Soviet scientific expedition to the Arctic Circle for polar physiology research. He superannuated from DRDO on 28 February 2013 as Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller, Research & Development (Life Sciences & International Cooperation) and joined Amity University. He is presently a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to Cabinet (SAC-C), particularly in the field of Life Science, including health research. He is a member of the High Powered Committee appointed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to review its 12th plan proposal and Chairman of Technology Commercialization Committee of ICMR. He has published more than 250 research papers in journals of repute including 18 books. He has been a member of the Indian delegation to the World Health Assembly under the Chairmanship of Health Minister to speak about the complementary systems of medicine including Yoga. He has represented our country at the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the conference of State Parties, Executive Council, Working Group and Confidentiality Commission. TIFAC has entrusted the responsibility of Technology Vision (Health) – 2035 to Dr. Selvamurthy as Chairman to formulate Vision for the Nation for Health & Medical Sciences till the year 2035. In recognition of his significant contribution to Biomedical Research and Development, he has been awarded a number of prestigious research awards, including CSIR “National Award for S &T Innovations” presented by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India (2012), Academician Mirsaid Mirrakhimov award for “Contribution to High Altitude Medicine” from Kyrgyz Republic (2012), “Technology Leadership Award” by DRDO (2010) presented by Defence Minister, Lifetime Achievement Award from Hon’ble President of India in the field of Clinical and Preventive Cardiology (2006), ICMR Shakuntala Amir Chand Award (1986) and more.

Agnihotra for Wellbeing and Prosperity of Humanity

Agnihotra is a pearl of ancient Indian wisdom mentioned in Atharvaveda and propagated through generations. In recent years it has gained global acclaim and adoption by many citizens across the globe. The constituents of Agnihotra practice includes mantra, agni (fire) and the precise timing of its performance during sunrise and sunset. Many scientific studies conducted by various research groups across the globe have brought out the Prophylactic, Promotive and Curative potentials of Agnihotra. It impacts on human health, environmental healing and spreading positivity for global peace, harmony and creating a healthy and happy world. A physiological study conducted on human volunteer lucidity demonstrated the effect of Agnihotra on mental tranquility as evidenced by EEG and build-up of parasympathetic tone. Highlights of some of the scientific studies conducted on Agnihotra and its effect on the biosphere will be discussed

Convenor

Prof. Ravi Prakash Arya

Chair Professor

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