

# Educational Institutions

**Presented by**

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# The Foundation of Indic Culture – Yagya

- Yagya is the perennial symbol of this divine culture. No other topic is discussed so extensively in the Vedas as those pertaining to Yagya. Yagyas were pivotal in the all-round progress, prosperity and happiness in that Age. This was indeed natural, as the philosophy and science of Yagya and the different modes of performing Yagyas – were discovered and developed by the rishis based on their in-depth understanding and research of the human self, the intricacies of the social system and the mysteries of Nature.

# The Meaning of Yagya

- Yagya is a spiritual experiment of sacrificing and sublimating the havan samagri in the yagyagni with chanting of vedic mantras. However, the meaning of Yagya is not confined to this sacrificial fire-process. It has much wider and deeper meaning. Linguistically, the word Yagya is derived from the Sanskrit verb yaj, which means – devapujan (worshiping divinity), sangatikanana (harmonious association) and dana (charity). Spiritual implications of these are: devapujan – recognition, respect, consecration (in the individual self) and expansion of the divine virtue; sangatikanana – coherent conjunction (of the thoughts and deeds) with the divine disciplines; dana – donation, sacrifice of one's talents and resources for divine causes and noble purposes.

# Types of Yagya

Apart from fire-based scientific experiment (or fire-ritual, as popularly known), other principal types of yagyas signified in the vedic culture are :

- The Seva Yagna - altruist service of the society is a noble example of Yagya.
- The Gyan Yagya- similarly implies the service of people by enlightening their lives in the glow of knowledge and education.
- The Prana Yagya implies - the service of saving the lives of people from suffering and agonies and inspiring liveliness and respect for life in them. A variety of such Yagyas are described in the Shastras.

