

Loka-Varta - 'Scientific Explanation of Rituals'

Date: 4th March, 2022

India is a diverse country with so many rich cultures and traditions. As mentioned in our Smriti *granthas*, even till today we are living our lives in accordance with the sixteen *Sanskaras* alongside various festivals of our country. But each culture has its own way of celebrating and following these occasions with their own specific Rites & Rituals. In the 21st Century, it is very difficult now-a-days to understand and follow our age-old Rituals. Not just that, even we can't expect our children to follow these blindly or as superstitious. Therefore, we must explore and integrate scientific explanations to our day-to day rituals which allow us to have firm faith in them.

With due respect to all our ancient scriptures without talking about the authenticity of any belief or ritual, Institute of Advanced Sciences through its School of Indic Studies has taken an initiative to have open discussions over the issues that are related & affects our day-to day life. This time 'रीति-रिवाज़ों की वैज्ञानिक व्याख्या / Scientific Explanation of Rituals' was the theme of a recent discussion among the invited panellists.



'रीति-रिवाज़ों की वैज्ञानिक व्याख्या'
'Scientific Explanation of Rituals'

Loka-Vārtā

Panelists

 Prof. Bal Ram Singh Director, INADS, Dartmouth, MA, USA	 Prof. Nilesh Oak Management Professional & Adjunct Faculty, INADS	 Ms. Anuja Sinha Director, TCN Media, Maryada Foundation	 Dr. Umesh Kr. Singh Assistant Professor, SIS, INADS, Dartmouth, MA, USA	 Dr. Dhananjay M Tripathi Assistant Professor, Sanskrit, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi	 Sh. Alok Kr. Dwivedi SRF, Philosophy, Univ. of Allahabad, UP
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You all are cordially invited.

Organized by
School of Indic Studies,
Institute of Advanced Sciences,
Dartmouth, MA, USA

Join us on 

Day & Date : Saturday 26th February, 2022
Time : From 6.00 PM to 8.00 PM (IST)

Coordinator :
Dr. Aparna Dhir Khandelwal
Assistant Professor, SIS, INADS, USA

Watch Live on INADS Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/instituteofadvancedsciences>

On 26th February, 2022, a 'Loka-Varta' on above theme was organised by the School of Indic Studies, Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, MA, USA. To have lively and scholarly interaction, a few renowned scholars as panellists were invited. Scholars having different expertise participated in this panel discussion presenting viewpoints from various fields of knowledge. Among them were - Prof. Bal Ram Singh, President, Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, USA & Director, WAVES International; Prof. Nilesh Oak, Adjunct Faculty, INADS & Board Member WAVES International; Ms. Anuja Sinha, Director, TCN Media; Dr. Umesh Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, SIS, INADS; Dr. Dhananjay Mani Tripathi, Assistant Professor, Sanskrit, Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, Delhi and Sh. Alok Kumar Dwivedi, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy at University of Allahabad. This Loka-Varta was well coordinated and moderated by Dr. Aparna Dhir Khandelwal, Assistant Professor, INADS.



The discussion started with the introductory views on the theme as reflected by Prof. Bal Ram Singh. Later, various dialogues and opinions among panellists were exchanged in this two- and half-hour session. Points related to Jyotish, Dharamshastras, Epics and Science were raised to understand the logic behind the rites and rituals. The origin of rituals from Vedic period to the present era...from village to modern society was the focal point in the discussion. Prof. Bal Ram Singh connected Ritual with 'Rta' and 'Rta' is nothing but 'Truth' so as Rituals. Prof. Nilesh Oak depicted these rituals as the source of unity in diversity and related these with body, mind and soul of an individual. Dr. Umesh Kumar Singh considered Rituals as the process of value transfer from one generation to another. Dr. Dhananjay Mani Tripathi narrated the significant role of time in observing rituals. Ms. Anuja Sinha discussed the social aspect of rituals with reference to positive learning through media and Sh. Alok Kumar Dwivedi correlated dieting and fasting as similar ways of doing 'Atamsudhi'. The discussion concluded with this observation that 'rites and rituals' are that truth to which if we all connect emotionally then these rituals can be turned into fruitful *Karma*.



This way there were many religious or traditional explanations and scientific perspectives on rituals. This whole discussion was found interesting by many who have attended through Zoom

or viewed live on INADS Facebook page. *'Yesterday's webinar was a good opportunity to discuss an important aspect of our lifestyle'*, as told by Dr. Dhananjay Ghare; Dr. Shashi Tiwari mentioned *'It was really interesting to see all panellists with so many new ideas'*; Sh. Amit Srivastava said *'I think rituals are the applied technology of science of consciousness to make inner life better'*; *'Excellent discussion from Group of people'*, as appears to Dr. Raghava Boddupalli; Ms. Nidhi Mishra Pandey stated that *'Great discussion, provided so many new inputs'*, are among some of the comments received via email or chat on social media. Thus, INADS provided a fruitful platform to all to reach the path of knowledge with its innovative ideas and approach. The program concluded with vote of thanks to all and *Kalyan-mantra*.
