

By: BK Prafulchandra Shah, San Diego, USA. +91 98258 92710

The greatest legacy that Indian culture has given to the entire world is the science of Yoga. It is so accurate and comprehensive that a human being can make his life rich and divine in every area. But have we really understood this science correctly?

The doubt or confusion arises around this because wherever yoga training camps are organized in our country or abroad, it begins with the training of **Yogasana**, **Pranayama** and **Mudras** and ends up with the same. These are mainly body poses and breath work. Even the yoga training institutes or yoga centres largely do not go beyond teaching just this, in the name of yoga. Today we have limited this this science of Yoga to **Yogasana**, **Pranayama**, **Mudras**, to some extent diet control and some **Stambhan Kriya** (blocking therapy).

Undoubtedly, all these practices are very useful for the fitness and health of our body. But is it appropriate to call this a **Yoga**? If we look at the true and real meaning of yoga, the word "Yoga" is derived from the Sanskrit word **"Yuj"** which literally means "to yoke" or "to unite". The opposite of yoga is **Viyoga**, that is to separate or to fall apart. **Yoga** in this context also means joining, Even in astrology, terms such as *Vishyoga, Amiyoga, Chandalyoga* are used to refer to the relationship of two planets with each other.

In this context in our ancient science

of Yoga, who meets with whom? or whose union is it? Here the union is of our consciousness with the Supreme Consciousness.



There are many definitions of Yoga given in our Indian scriptures like Vedas, Upanishads, Gita etc. A study of these definitions makes it more clear that yoga is not only a physical activity but is primarily a mental and an intellectual activity.

Let's take a look at some of these definitions:

 Maharishi Patanjali, the father of Yoga, in his book named 'Yogasutra', explains with a definition:

'योगः चित्त वृत्ति निरोधः।'

Yoga regulates the fickleness of the mind.

Yoga, in its true sense, is the ritual of meeting our soul with the supreme soul, connecting with it, thereby interacting with it empowering and enriching the self. Yoga is the real solution for character building and inculcation of the values the virtues. In fact, this very ancient science of yoga is taught by God Himself and is referred to as RajYoga.

Based on spiritual knowledge, this RajYoga is a complete and comprehensive yoga, with mainly four aims:

Self-realization 1, through selfreflection.



2. Establishing а relationship with the supreme soul and experiencing the



Maharishi Vashishta in his book named 'Yoga Vashishtha' has shown the meaning of yoga as follows:

प्रसमनोपायः डति 'मनः योगः अबिधीयते'

Yoga is a ritual to please and calm the mind.

In Kathopanishad the meaning of yoga is shown as:

योग मिति 'ताम मन्यते स्थिरांइन्द्रियां धारणाम'

Yoga is a discipline by which the practitioner stabilizes his senses and subdues them.

Srimad Bhagavad Gita has also given many descriptions about Yoga such as:

'योगः कर्मस् कौशलम्'

Yoga is the skill of doing action (karma) with selflessness

'समत्वम् योगः उच्चते'

To assume composure in every situation is yoga.

'योगः भवती दुःख निवारक'

Yoga is a meditation to relieve pain.

'योगस्तु दर्शनाय न तु प्रदर्शनाय' Yoga is for self-realization, not for performance.

योगो इत्युक्तो 'संयोगो जीवात्म परमात्मानोः'

The union of soul and supreme soul is Yoga.

of mind

and divine life.



divine Virtues & powers of God. 3. Cultivating an understanding of this world drama matter and God and practicing Rajyog meditation leading to world realisation. 4. Understanding the importance of the current time in this world drama in the form of "Kalachakra" and experiencing the sensitivity of time. There are very few institutes in the world today that are training this kind of complete, comprehensive and intuitive RajYoga. Among these institutes, Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya has a significant contribution in this type of yoga training. If you want true happiness and peace in life, to make life joyful and fragrant, to find the right direction in life, to enjoy the fragrance of your relationships, to keep your body and mind healthy, to realize yourself as a soul and realize God, then this university is worth visiting!