

LETTERS

Harinama can get rain

Culver City, CA: I read with interest your article, "Yagnas do not produce rain," in the June 11 edition. The article explains that the Department of Science and Technology conducted a study to see if the ashes from a yagna would produce rain. When it failed, they declared that it does not work.

I'm just a Westerner, brought up in an atheistic culture, but even I could see the ill logic of their experiments. A yagna does not aim at some chemical combination. Rather, it is intended to please the demigods,

who in turn bestow the necessities of life to humankind. You can't force the demigods to react to the insignificant attempts of atheistic scientists. The gods cannot be held accountable by the scientists.

There is one sure way to please the Supreme Lord and all the demigods in one stroke. All we need to do is perform Harinama. This is the true yagna for this age of Kali. Let the Indian government organize massive Harinama then see if you get rain.

Nandinidevi Dasi

Yagnas do not produce rain

New Delhi (PTI): Scientists, who conducted the first ever investigation into a religious chanting of ancient scriptures (yagna) intended to invoke rain, said June 2 there was neither rain nor any cloud formation during the week-long exercise.

Meteorologists used ground-based weather instruments and analysed satellite pictures to study the atmospheric conditions above northern Indian city of Mathura, about 75 kms. from Delhi, where the exercise began on May 24 to determine if the fumes from the holy fire could induce changes in the atmosphere.

Har Prasad Sharma who conducted the exercise had said that clouds would form within three days of the start of the yagna and well-spread rain would fall three days after cloud formation.

But until 12 noon on June 1 there had been no rain in the area around the site of the yagna nor over neighbouring zones monitored by the scientists.

The study was based on the assumption that fumes and ash, which the yagna fire releases into the atmosphere, can react with clouds and induce rain, according to a release by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which supported the study.

Scientists have not yet released their studies on the ash contents and their possible effects on clouds or the atmosphere. The analysis will be done at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune and released later.

Before the experiment started, Sharma had defined the area marked by a 15 kilo-

metre radius around the site of Yagna as the target area for cloud formation and rainfall.

According to meteorologists who were recording the atmospheric conditions at intervals of one hour during the Yagna, conducted six hours a day for a week, there was no significant increase in humidity.

Sharma, a former principal of a college, says that he has conducted 12 other rain-inducing Yagnas out of which 9 have been successful.

During the experiment the scientists monitored such parameters like the temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction at one hour intervals daily.

Special observations, like of the suspended particles in the air around the site, were also taken during and after the Yagna, and air samples were collected for analysis.