



Surya Grahan 2009 | Total Solar Eclipse on 22 July

Brakes Help To Drive The Car Faster.

LAST WORD



Dr. Ravi Rao

The Surya Grahan (Solar Eclipse) that occurred on July 22, 2009 provided yet another opportunity to the so called Indian intelligentsia to make a mockery of our age old customs and traditions. This has now become a routine affair. The reason for picking a discussion on this issue arises out of my concern that by blindly opposing sensible guidelines that have stood the test of time,

people are needlessly putting themselves and the future of their dear ones in harm's way.

Our ancient Vedic sciences have pronounced solar eclipses to have sinister repercussions on mankind and as such have advocated precautionary steps to safe guard us against solar eclipses.

What are these precautions?

- ✓ It is recommended to avoid or postpone to perform any important tasks or deal during the eclipse day
- ✓ Fasting is recommended. Many people in India observe fast on the day of eclipse
- ✓ Avoid cooking during the eclipse timing and keep the food and eatables closed during the time of eclipse.
- ✓ Ablutions, preferably in sacred waters are recommended after the eclipse.
- ✓ Viewing the sun during the eclipse has been disallowed.
- ✓ Pregnant women have been advised to remain indoors.



Hindu devotees take a holy dip in the waters of river Ganges at Varanasi after the solar eclipse on July 22, 2009.

Lasting 6 minutes and 39 seconds it was the longest total solar eclipse during the 21st century, not to be surpassed until June 2132.

I will not waste time with offering "scientific" explanations but rather point out that western scientists are bewildered by the myriad "cause & effects" scenarios of the solar eclipses and are desperately looking for answers, which they can't seem to find.

I plead to all and sundry not to seek explanations for the sake of it and not wait for the west to validate and sanctify Indian wisdom before adopting it.

I would say that let us think of the Vedic injunctions as brakes we put to the unbridled pursuit of science and modernization. There is no harm in science and modernization. I am all for it as well but I see wisdom in applying brakes when required. Remember that brakes help us to drive the car faster. ■