

**AGNI MAHABHUTA – THE ELEMENT OF FIRE IN AYURVEDA****<sup>1</sup>\*Dr. Prashant Vinayak Gote and <sup>2</sup>Dr. Santosh Dnyanbarao Kawarkhe**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Dept. of Kriya Sharir, MUPS Ayurved College, Degaon, Risod,  
Maharashtra, India.

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Dept. of Kriya Sharir, MUPS Ayurved College, Degaon, Risod,  
Maharashtra, India.

Article Received on  
20 June 2025,

Revised on 10 July 2025,  
Accepted on 30 July 2025

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202515-37871



**\*Corresponding Author**

**Dr. Prashant Vinayak  
Gote**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of  
Kriya Sharir, MUPS  
Ayurved College, Degaon,  
Risod, Maharashtra, India.

**ABSTRACT**

Agni, one of the five Mahabhutas in Ayurveda, represents the fire element and is central to physiological and metabolic activities. It plays a crucial role in transformation, digestion, vision, perception, and development. This review highlights Agni Mahabhuta's specific characteristics, its role in embryogenesis, dhatu formation, complexion, and its application in clinical practice. The understanding of Agni as a fundamental bio-element enriches the interpretation of Ayurvedic physiology and supports clinical reasoning.

**KEYWORDS:** Agni Mahabhuta, Tejas, Ayurveda, Panchamahabhuta, Embryogenesis, Dhatu, Transformation.

**INTRODUCTION**

The word Agni literally means "fire". In Ayurveda, Tejas refers to the glow, brilliance, heat, and vital power seen in the human body. Agni is recognized as one of the Panchamahabhutas (five great elements). It is

essential not just as a material element but also as a physiological function and transformative force in the body.

**1) Agni exists in two forms**

As Mahabhuta (elemental fire)

As part of Pitta dosha

This article focuses exclusively on Agni Mahabhuta and its role in the structure and function of the human body.

## 2. Specific Character (Lakshana)

The defining characteristic of Agni Mahabhuta is Ushnatva (warmth). It possesses a dominance of Sattva and Rajas gunas among the Trigunas, giving it transformative and active qualities.

## 3. Importance

> तेजोऽरूप स्पर्शवत्तेजः। (B.D.D. 2/1/3)

उष्ण स्पर्शवत्तेजः। (Tarkasangraha)

Agni Mahabhuta is one of the six basic constituents (Shaddhatus) of Purusha. It represents heat and is essential for all transformational processes in the human body including metabolism, digestion, and perception.

## 4. Evolution

Agni originates from Vayu Mahabhuta during the evolutionary process. Subtle elements (Tanmatras)—Shabda (sound), Sparsha (touch), and Rupa (form)—unite to form Agni Mahabhuta.

## 5. Role in the Formation of Dhātu

Rakta Dhātu (blood) shows Agni predominance, especially in menstrual blood and artava.

Mamsa Dhātu (muscle) arises from Vayu, Jala, and Agni Mahabhutas.

Asthi Dhātu (bone) is formed from Prithvi, Vayu, and Agni Mahabhutas.

Eyes also reflect Agni's role via the presence of Rakta.

## 6. Functions in Embryogenesis and Human Body

### During embryogenesis

Agni Mahabhuta facilitates: Development of vision, digestion, and warmth

Control of color perception, glow, complexion, bravery, anger, and quick reflexes.

### Agni Mahabhuta

Influences Pitta dominance in an individual's Prakriti

Helps in digestive transformation

Absence of Tejas in embryogenesis can lead to congenital blindness or discoloration

### Postnatal roles include

Burning (Daha), digestion (Paka), radiance (Prabha), luster (Prakasha), and color (Varna)

Shukra formation through unification of Vayu, Agni, Prithvi, and Jala  
Vision and sensory system development due to Tejas predominance in eyes

## 7. Application in Clinical Practice

Understanding Agni Mahabhuta helps explain:

Metabolic disorders (Mandagni, Tikshnagni)

Nutritional status (based on Dhatu formation)

Skin and vision issues (linked to Tejas and Varna)

Mental health traits like courage, anger, and alertness (Sattva–Rajas balance)

## 8. Comparative Modern Understanding

Agni can be compared to the enzymatic and metabolic activities of the gastrointestinal and cellular systems. Digestive enzymes, basal metabolic rate (BMR), and mitochondrial function align closely with Ayurvedic concepts of Jatharagni and Dhatwagni.

## CONCLUSION

Agni Mahabhuta is indispensable in Ayurvedic physiology, from conception to clinical outcomes. Recognizing its roles can provide deeper insights into diagnosis, prognosis, and holistic treatment in Ayurveda. Agni, as the Mahabhuta of fire, holds central importance in maintaining physiological equilibrium. Its balanced state ensures health, while imbalance results in disease. Understanding Agni from both Ayurvedic and modern perspectives enables better integrative approaches to healthcare. This ancient concept continues to provide insights into human biology and disease management.

## REFERENCES

1. Charaka Samhita, Sutrasthana, Chapter 27, Agni Adhyaya.
2. Sushruta Samhita, Sutrasthana, Chapter 21.
3. Ashtanga Hridaya, Sutrasthana, Chapter 12.
4. Kaviraj Atridev Gupta, Ayurveda Deepika commentary on Charaka Samhita.
5. Guyton and Hall. Textbook of Medical Physiology. Elsevier.
6. Sharma RK, Dash B. Agnivesha's Charaka Samhita. Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office.