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Indian man survives without food and water, baffles doctors



ALTHEA MANASAN | May 10, 2010 3:09 PM ET | Last Updated: May 10, 2010 3:18 PM ET

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In this undated handout image, Indian patient Prahlad Jani (Mataji), who claims he has survived without food and water for more than seven decades, is pictured at Sterling Hospitals in Ahmedabad on April 26, 2010. He was examined for two weeks, during which time he did not eat or drink. Sterling Hospitals/AFP/Getty Images

An Indian man has mystified a team of military doctors after he abstained from food and water for two weeks.

Prahlad Jani, an 82-year-old yogi who claimed he hadn't eaten or drunk anything for 70 years, was observed by 30 medics in a hospital in the Indian state of Gujarat. He spent two weeks under constant surveillance in an area equipped with cameras and closed circuit television. During the 15-day period, which ended Thursday, Jani didn't eat, drink or go to the toilet.

From [AFP](#):

"We still do not know how he survives," neurologist Sudhir Shah told reporters after the end of the experiment. "It is still a mystery what kind of phenomenon this is."

"If Jani does not derive energy from food and water, he must be doing that from energy sources around him, sunlight being one," said Shah. "As medical practitioners we cannot shut our eyes to possibilities, to a source of energy other than calories."

The study was done by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the state defense and military research

institute. They hope to unlock the key to Jani’s mysterious ability so that others can benefit, such as soldiers in the field, astronauts in space, and victims trapped in natural disasters.

Doctors performed several tests on Jani’s heart, lungs and memory capacity and took scans of his organs, brain and blood vessels. Lab work will also be completed on his hormones, enzymes, energy metabolism and genes. The findings will be revealed in greater detail over the next several months.

Jani claimed that he has not had anything to eat or drink since 1940, and [called himself a breatharian](#), sustaining himself on air and meditation. According to AFP, Jani said he was given his special powers after being blessed by a goddess when he was young. After the observation and tests were completed, he returned to his village in northern Gujarat where he will continue his routine of yoga and meditation.

According to [LiveScience.com](#), Jani was placed under observation once before in 2003, but lost weight over the week he was held.



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