



Mahurat – Part One

The Panchang

The Oxford dictionary defines Mahurat as
"an auspicious time for an enterprise to begin or for a ceremony to take place."

In Vedic Astrology, the basic tenet of astrology was integrated with celestial events and thus was born various branches of Vedic Astrology and the Panchānga. In simple terms, "Panchānga" means the Day, Nakshatra (Star), Thithi, Yoga and Karana every day. It is a mirror of the sky. The document used as Panchāngam has evolved over the last 5000 years.

The theories propounded in the two scriptures, Surya Siddhanta and Grahalaghava formed the basis for the plethora of calendars or Panchāngas in the past in different regions of the country - a culturally complex system.

All the components of Panchangam are relevant in Predictive Astrology, PrasnaShastra (electional astrology), etc. All followers and practitioners of Vedic astrology must necessarily know how to read a Panchāngam and in this context it is necessary to know the Terminology used in the Panchāngam for different time slots of the Day.



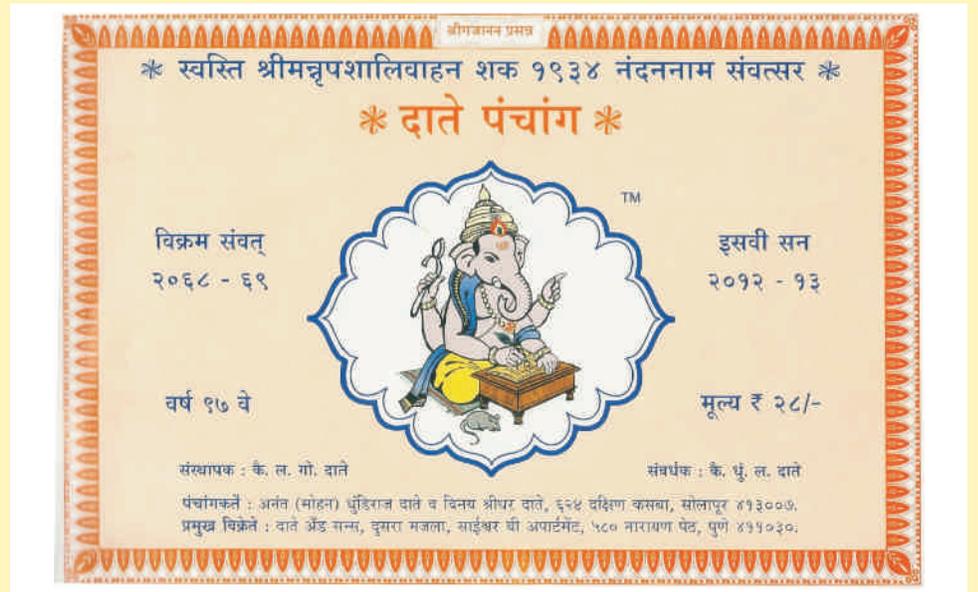
This three part series "Mahurat" is intended to understand the Vedic and astrological significance of Mahurat. To appreciate the science and history that goes into it we will first have to understand what is a Panchang.

Introduction

Panchang is a part of ancient Vedic astrology that helps synchronize best days and times - ahead of the actual time. It is a Hindu calendar and almanac, which follows traditional units of Indian timekeeping, and presents important dates and their calculations in a tabulated form.

The basic purpose of Hindu Panchangam is to check various Hindu festivals and auspicious time (election- Muhurta). In the Hindu system of election, various element of Panchangam constitute auspicious and inauspicious moments (Yogas)

For selecting an auspicious moment Panchangam Shuddhi (purified-time) is fundamental. In addition favorable transits, purified ascendant, absence of malefic yogas, favorable Dasha (Hindu



progression), name of doer, propitiations, chanting of Mantras, place of activity, social customs, omens, mode of breathing are also examined.

Panchangams are published in India by many learned authors, societies, academies, and universities. Different publications differ only minutely, at least for a casual or un-trained reader. They forecast celestial phenomena such as solar eclipses, forecast weather (rain, dryspells) as well as more mundane occurrences.

The study of Panchangams involves

understanding Rasiphala (also pronounced 'Rashiphala'), the impact of the signs of the zodiac on the individual. Astrologers consult the Panchangam to set auspicious dates for weddings, corporate mergers, and other worldly activities as per religion.

The actual casting of a Panchangam involves elaborate mathematical work involving high level of spherical geometry and sound understanding of astronomical phenomena, such as sidereal movements of heavenly bodies.

However, in practice the tabulation is done



Panchang												
DATE/SUNRISE	KARTIKADI	CHAITRADI	RASI	TITHI	NAKSHATRA			YOGA		KARAN		
31/03/2013 Sunday S.R.:06:35:44	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Vrschik	00:00 - 24:00	Krishna-4 Krishna-5	00:00 - 06:10 06:10 - 24:00	Visakha Anuradha	00:00 - 04:21 04:21 - 24:00	Vajra Siddi	00:00 - 04:51 04:51 - 24:00	Baalav Kaolav Taitil	00:00 - 06:10 06:10 - 16:57 16:57 - 24:00
01/04/2013 Monday S.R.:06:34:54	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Vrschik	00:00 - 24:00	Krishna-5 Krishna-6	00:00 - 03:44 03:44 - 24:00	Anuradha Jyesta	00:00 - 02:40 02:40 - 24:00	Siddi Vyatipata Variyan	00:00 - 01:44 01:44 - 22:41 22:41 - 24:00	Taitil Gar Vanij	00:00 - 03:44 03:44 - 14:33 14:33 - 24:00
02/04/2013 Tuesday S.R.:06:34:04	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Vrschik Dhan	00:00 - 01:04 01:04 - 24:00	Krishna-6 Krishna-7 Krishna-8	00:00 - 01:24 01:24 - 23:10 23:10 - 24:00	Jyesta Mula P.ashad	00:00 - 01:04 01:04 - 23:35 23:35 - 24:00	Variyan Parigha	00:00 - 19:43 19:43 - 24:00	Vanij Vishti Bav Baalav	00:00 - 01:24 01:24 - 12:16 12:16 - 23:10 23:10 - 24:00
03/04/2013 Wednesday S.R.:06:33:14	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Dhan	00:00 - 24:00	Krishna-8 Krishna-9	00:00 - 21:07 21:07 - 24:00	P.ashad U.ashad	00:00 - 22:16 22:16 - 24:00	Parigha Shiva	00:00 - 16:53 16:53 - 24:00	Baalav Kaolav Taitil	00:00 - 10:07 10:07 - 21:07 21:07 - 24:00
04/04/2013 Thursday S.R.:06:32:24	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Dhan Makar	00:00 - 03:58 03:58 - 24:00	Krishna-9 Krishna-10	00:00 - 19:17 19:17 - 24:00	U.ashad Sraavan	00:00 - 21:10 21:10 - 24:00	Shiva Siddha	00:00 - 14:14 14:14 - 24:00	Taitil Gar Vanij	00:00 - 08:10 08:10 - 19:17 19:17 - 24:00
05/04/2013 Friday S.R.:06:31:35	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Makar	00:00 - 24:00	Krishna-10 Krishna-11	00:00 - 17:41 17:41 - 24:00	Sraavan Danishta	00:00 - 20:20 20:20 - 24:00	Siddha Saadhya	00:00 - 11:46 11:46 - 24:00	Vanij Vishti Bav	00:00 - 06:27 06:27 - 17:41 17:41 - 24:00
06/04/2013 Saturday S.R.:06:30:46	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Makar Kumbh	00:00 - 08:01 08:01 - 24:00	Krishna-11 Krishna-12	00:00 - 16:23 16:23 - 24:00	Danishta Shatatara	00:00 - 19:46 19:46 - 24:00	Saadhya Shubh	00:00 - 09:32 09:32 - 24:00	Bav Baalav Kaolav	00:00 - 05:00 05:00 - 16:23 16:23 - 24:00
07/04/2013 Sunday S.R.:06:29:58	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Kumbh	00:00 - 24:00	Krishna-12 Krishna-13	00:00 - 15:26 15:26 - 24:00	Shatatara P.bhadra	00:00 - 19:34 19:34 - 24:00	Shubh Shukal	00:00 - 07:33 07:33 - 24:00	Kaolav Taitil Gar	00:00 - 03:52 03:52 - 15:26 15:26 - 24:00
08/04/2013 Monday S.R.:06:29:10	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Kumbh Meen	00:00 - 13:39 13:39 - 24:00	Krishna-13 Krishna-14	00:00 - 14:51 14:51 - 24:00	P.bhadra U.bhadra	00:00 - 19:45 19:45 - 24:00	Shukal Brahma	00:00 - 05:52 05:52 - 24:00	Gar Vanij Vishti	00:00 - 03:05 03:05 - 14:51 14:51 - 24:00
09/04/2013 Tuesday S.R.:06:28:22	Phalgun - 2069	Chaitra - 2069	Meen	00:00 - 24:00	Krishna-14 Krishna-15	00:00 - 14:44 14:44 - 24:00	U.bhadra Revati	00:00 - 20:22 20:22 - 24:00	Brahma Indra	00:00 - 04:31 04:31 - 24:00	Vishti Shakooni Chatushp.	00:00 - 02:44 02:44 - 14:44 14:44 - 24:00

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on the basis of short-cut formulations as propounded by ancient Vedic sages and scholars.

A typical Panchangam may state tabulations of positions of Sun, Moon, and other planets for every day of the year on a fixed place (longitude, latitude) and time of day (in 24-hour format IST). The users calculate the remaining data using the relative difference from this fixed place and time.

The theories propounded in the two scriptures, Surya Siddhanta and Grahalaghava formed the basis for the myriad calendars or Panchangas in the past in different regions of the country - a culturally complex system.

The Grahalaghava was compiled some 600 years ago and Surya Siddhanta was available ages before that. But these had become outdated and did not tally with actual astronomical events and did not tally with each other also.

As a solution a committee was appointed by the Government of India with experts in the field drawn from various parts of the country who were involved with preparation of Panchangam in local languages to draw up a reliable Panchangam in which the mathematical calculations provides the positions of grahas (the planets) and Nakshatras (constellations) in the sky as they are observed.

Thus, the Government of India has prepared the National Panchanga or the Indian national calendar in 1957 (was proposed by Saha and Lahiri in 1952), which is used in predictive astrology.

The Lahiris Ephemer is published annually

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Jyotishha

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आपणी पंचांग

11 पौष से 11 माघ शक 1932
25 मोहरम से 26 सफर हि. सन 1432

1

पौष कृष्ण 12 से माघ कृष्ण 13 तक
(वि.सं. 2067 क्रि.श. - बंगल. वस्तु. सोमन. माघ. सुपौ. उत्तराश्व. यवतस.)

रविवार	सोमवार	मंगलवार	बुधवार	गुरुवार	शुक्रवार	शनिवार
महात्म्य गार्गी वि. दि. २० १२ 30 माघ कृष्ण द्वादशी	मूल 9/26 २१ १३ 31 माघ कृष्ण त्रयोदशी	विवाह मुहूर्त 16, 23, 25 देव प्रतिष्ठा मुहूर्त 16, 20, 24 ध्यापार प्रा. मुहूर्त 16, 17, 20, 24, 28	सुद्धि 5 पुष्य वैश्वदेव ज. 14 मकर मकरि (र.) 23 से सुपुष्यदेव ज. (र.) 26 सप्तमि तिथि 30 महात्मा गौरी जयंती दि. शुभ. कृष्ण वैश्वदेव अशुभक शुभ. के शनि शुभ.	गृहारभ नौक मुहूर्त 20 मूल अभिजित 24 मीन ल. मीन 28 शुक्र अभिजित प्रसूति स्नान 11, 16, 25	गृह प्रवेश 20 मूल अभिजित 24 मीन मीन ल. 26 पुष्य मीन ल. 28 शुक्र अभिजित	नावार्ध दिवाय २० १२ 1 पौष कृष्ण द्वादशी
धाम शिवरात्रि २१ १३ 2 पौष कृष्ण त्रयोदशी	मूल 26/46 २२ १४ 3 पौष कृष्ण चतुर्दशी	श्रावण राम सुपंचाहण २४ ३० 4 अमावस्या	उमरगण्डा २५ १ 5 पौष शुक्ल एकम्	अवलन दिन रत. १ २ 6 पौष शुक्ल द्वितीय	श्रौचतीन्द्र सुपंचा पु. दि. २ ३ 7 पौष शुक्ल तृतीया	विनायक चतुर्थी ३ ४ 8 पौष शुक्ल चतुर्थी
शनिभया 12/34 ३ ५ 9 पौष शुक्ल पंचमी	पूर्वभाद्रपद 15/32 ४ ६ 10 पौष शुक्ल षष्ठी	नुक नौविन्दसिंह जयन्ती ५ ७ 11 पौष शुक्ल सप्तमी	स्वामी विवेकानन्द ज. रा. पुष्य दिवाय ६ ८ 12 पौष शुक्ल अष्टमी	लोहरी उत्सव ७ ९ 13 पौष शुक्ल नवमी	मकर संक्रान्ति ८ ९ 14 पौष शुक्ल दशमी	धाम सेना दिवाय ९ १० 15 पौष शुक्ल एकादशी
पुनजा धकादशी जय ११ ११ 16 पौष शुक्ल एकदशी	असुल सिद्धि धौम १२ १२-१३ 17 पौष शुक्ल 12-13	क्रेत महात्म्य प्रा. १३ १४ 18 पौष शुक्ल चतुर्दशी	माघ पूर्णिमा जय १४ १५ 19 पूर्णिमा	पुष्य 21/20 १५ १० 20 माघ कृष्ण एकम्	अमलेया 19/00 १६ २ 21 माघ कृष्ण द्वितीय	तिलकुटा पौष जय १६ ३ 22 माघ कृष्ण तृतीया
मे. सुभाष जयन्ती ११ ४ 23 माघ कृष्ण चतुर्थी	उमरगण्डानुज 12/07 १७ ५ 24 माघ कृष्ण पंचमी	धारसीय पर्यटन दिवाय १८ ६ 25 माघ कृष्ण षष्ठी	रामसेव दिवाय १९ ७-८ 26 माघ कृष्ण 7-8	स्वानि 8/03 २० ९ 27 माघ कृष्ण नवमी	नन्दन स्वामिदास ज. २१ १० 28 माघ कृष्ण दशमी	अमरगण्डा 7/47 २२ ११ 29 माघ कृष्ण एकादशी

is the most widely used English almanac in Vedic astrology apart from the many Panchangas published in local languages, which are mostly based on the National Panchanga.

There are three popular meanings of Panchangam:

1. In Vedic astrology, meaning "five attributes" of the day. They are: Tithi, Waar, Nakshatra, Yoga and Karana . These are the vital among the several parameters of time measuring.

Tithi - Ending Moment (EM) of elongation of the Moon, the lunar day, the angular relationship between Sun and Moon (Apparent Moon minus Apparent Sun). One

Tithi equals 12 degree difference between Moon and Sun.

Nakshatra - EM of asterism of the day, that is, the stellar mansion in which Moon is located for an observer at the center of the Earth. One Nakshatra equals 13 degrees:20 minutes. There are 27 Nakshatra in 360 degrees.

2. An almanac that contains the astronomical / astrological daily details also came to be called a Panchangam because of the importance of five attributes.

3. Panchanga-pujan, which is a part of Ganesh-Ambika-pujan. ■

Next Month: Mahurat- Nakshatra