

Grahas (Planets) in Indian Astrology

"The condition of a man corresponds to the changes in the position of the nine grahas. A human being does not enjoy happiness all the time nor does he always suffer hardships - that is, he experiences a mixture of happiness and sorrow. While he may be pushed up to a high position today, he may be thrust down to the depths tomorrow. It is not man alone that is subject to changes of fortune. Establishments too have their ups and down, so also nations."

"The sages saw a relationship between the position and movements of the planets and the destiny of man, the sorrow and happiness experienced by him. There is a branch of astrology called 'hora-skandha'. If we know the planetary position at the time of commencing a job or enterprise, with its help, we should be able to find out how it would take shape, how we would fare in it. If our horoscope is cast on the basis of the configuration of the planets at the time of our birth, our fortunes over the entire period of our life can be predicted."

"Different reasons are given for the ups and downs in a man's life, for his joys and sorrows. It is similar to finding out the different causes of the ailment he suffers from. [The physicians, *mantravadins*, *pandits*, and psychologists will give different reasons.] ... All these different causes may be valid. All of them go to create an experience. ... **Many outward signs manifest themselves as the fruits of our past karma. They are all related to one another. The course of planets governing our life is in accordance with our karma.** We come to know the consequences of our actions in previous births in various ways. Astrological calculations help us to find out such consequences as indicated by the heavenly bodies."

(These quotes are excerpts from the lectures of Pujyasri Chandrasekharendra Sarasvati Svamigal, who was installed as the 68th Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha from 1907 to 1995. From *Hindu Dharma : The Universal Way of Life*, 1995, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, p.337. The series of lectures given over a period of several years were originally published in Tamil in six volumes by Sri Ra. Ganapati.)

Terms used in Indian Astrology

Indian Astrology uses the Sidereal system or fixed zodiac while Western astrology uses the Tropical system or moving zodiac. The difference between both zodiac (Ayanamsa) is now roughly 23 degrees which is almost a whole sign. For example, if the western zodiacal Sun sign is Taurus, it is most likely that the Indian astrological sign will be an Aries, a sign one step back. Western astrology deals with one's psychological patterns and personality while Indian astrology deals with practical matters and one's karmic patterns.

Gochara: Planetary transits over natal chart.

Karma: Destiny as determined by one's actions.

Janma: Current life in the reincarnation theory.

Atma Bhala: Strength of soul.

Lagna Lord: The planet governing the ascendant.

Natal Chart: Chart indicating position of planets and ascendant at the time of birth; also called horoscope in astrology, a chart of the heavens, showing the relative positions of the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the ascendant and mid heaven signs of the zodiac at a specific moment in time. A **horoscope** is used to provide information about the present and to predict events to come. An individual **horoscope** usually plots the moment of birth and is used by astrologers to analyze character, as well as--in conjunction with other astrological data--to predict the future. This is in accordance with the belief that each celestial body has its own mythological character, modified according to its geometric relationship with the other celestial bodies at a given moment. Everything in the universe being interrelated, these bodies exert an influence, particularly on the newborn. In casting a **horoscope**, the heavens are commonly represented by a circle divided into 12 intersections, called 'house'. Each of these houses is assigned several departments of human life, such as wealth or marriage. The planet that falls within a particular house is said to influence matters pertaining to that house.

Rahu and Ketu are the ascending and descending nodes of the moon.

Sample horoscope

Name: **xxx**

Place of Birth: **London,
UK**

Date of Birth: **Aug 18,
1994** *Date of Birth (IST):* **Aug 18, 1994
(Thursday)**

Time of Birth: **6:06 GMT** *Time of Birth (IST):* **11:36 IST**

Lagna (Ascendent):
Thulam

Star: **Poorvashada 4th
Part**

Rasi: **Dhanus**

Balance Dasa at time of Birth: **Venus 0 Years 7 Months 6 Days**

	Kethu		Mars			Sun	Thulam Rahu	Mercury Venus
Saturn	RASI				Jupiter Saturn	AMSAM		
			Sun Mercury					
Moon		LAGNA Jupiter Rahu	Venus		Mars	Moon Kethu		

Legend:

(R) indicates retrograde motion

Comments on Position of Planets in the Chart:

- Saturn in own house and aspects Kethu, Sun and Mercury
- Saturn in Vargothamam (in the same house in both RASI and AMSAM)
- Jupiter aspects Saturn, Kethu and Mars
- Mars aspects Venus and Moon
- Moon aspects Mars
- Sun and Mercury together in Sun's own house and aspects Saturn - Budha Adithya Yoga