Indian astrology is popularly referred to as Vedic astrology. This is not because it is there in the Vedas. There is no mention of astrology in the Vedas. However, it is one of the Vedangas, limb or branch of Vedas, and dates back to the Vedic period. Several of the Poojas and remedial measures prescribed in the Indian astrology are as per the Vedic system. Hence, it is called Vedic astrology.

Indian astrology is based on the theory of fate. The good and the bad actions of the past life determine your fate or Karma of your present life, and the actions of your present life determine your future Karma.
Jyotish (Vedic Astrology) for inner and spiritual growth

WHAT IS VEDIC ASTROLOGY:

Astrology is the study of the relationship between the stars and planets and our lives on earth. Vedic Astrology involves the interpretation of the horoscope or birth chart and it is essentially based on the idea of cycles and patterns in life which correspond on the cycles of the planets. Through the analysis of these cycles in the past and present it is possible to interpret the possible future.

ASTROLOGY AS AN OCCULT SCIENCE

Astrology is a noble science which is as old as the ages of the Vedas. It depends on the position of the planets ascertained astronomically. It explain the celestial phenomenon and the corresponding terrestrial events. The true meaning of astrology is the “Message of Stars”. By using salient principles of Astrology depending on the position of the planets ascertained astronomically one can forecast events for the benefit of all and as such it is a useful science for interpreting nature as it explains the cause and effects of events.

ASTROLOGY AND KARMA

Karma is the sum total of one’s physical, mental and spiritual efforts and in fact they manufacture destiny. Astrology is based on the relationship of cause and effects. If there is an effect, there must be a cause preceding it. If an event good or bad happens today then there must be a cause for it. Certain karmas produce immediate results wherein others fructify after a long time period and this concept of law of cause and effect takes one to the belief in birth and re-birth. Karmas done in one birth must manifest some time in a later birth.

An Astrologer can point out which of the karmas from the past can be overcome and those, which can not be overcome and therefore have to be suffered.

HOW ASTROLOGY WORKS

The astrologer’s main tool is the birth chart. This is the map of heavens drawn up for the time, place and date of birth of the individual to whom it will refer. It shows the positions of all the planets in the signs of zodiac at the time of birth.

The skill of the astrologer is to interpret the birth chart, which is said to set the pattern for the growth of the person throughout their life. In other words, what will happen is described by the positions of the planets and the signs of the zodiac at birth. Astrology is based on a system of ‘correspondences’ which means that each planet will correspond with different ways of behaving resulting in different personality patterns.
THE HOROSCOPE OR THE BIRTH CHART:-

Birth chart is a map of heavens showing the signs of zodiac and the planets as seen from one's place of birth and this is the reason why astrologers needs your time, date and place of birth to draw up an accurate chart. The main constituent of the birth chart are-

the ascendant,

the signs of zodiac,

the houses,

the planets,

the aspects.

The ascendant is the rising sign at the time of birth at the eastern horizon and it is also called the lagna.

The signs of the zodiac represent twelve personality types, influencing the planets that are placed in them.

The astrological houses, of which there are also twelve, represent twelve different areas of life.

The planets, the sun and the moon, represent different parts of an individual's personality.

The aspects show the relationships between planetary energies and how these planets will affect you.

SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

There are twelve signs of the zodiac and each zodiac represents a personality type which have been described in detail in the chapter 'your personality'. However the twelve signs of zodiac are as follows: -

Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces.

PLANETS

In Vedic Astrology there are nine planet with each planets signify different human attributes-

SUN : Soul, King, Bones, Temple, Father etc.

MOON : Mind, King, Blood, Water/ place, Mother.

MARS : Essence, Commander-in-Chief, Siblings, Marrow, Fire.
MERCURY: Speech, Heir, Skin, Playground, Education, Maternal Uncle

JUPITER: Wisdom and comforts, Minister, Fat, Treasure House, Son, Dharma.

VENUS: Seminal Fluid, Minister, Bedroom, Wife

SATURN: Miseries, Servant, Nerves, Dirty places, Longevity, Obstruction, Sorrow.

RAHU: Sudden happenings, Foreign Travels, Old age, Snakes, Gambling, Maternal Grand Father.

KETU: Detachment, renunciation, Physician, Paternal Grand Father, Stone, Trouble from enemies.

ASTROLOGICAL HOUSES

The birth chart is divided into twelve areas called the houses and each of these areas represents an area of life-

First house:

TanuBhava or House of the Body

Keywords: The Physical self.

Position: Favorable:

Relates to: The sign of Aries and the planet Mars.

Signifies: Appearance, basic disposition, behavior, general well-being, health, head.

Second House

DhanaBhava, or House of Accumulated Wealth

Keyword: Finances

Position: A minimum of favorable and unfavorable, since its ruler is not regarded as favorable (a maraka or "killer" planet)

Relates to: The sign of Taurus and the Planet Venus
Signifies: General family happiness, food and drink, speech, liquid assets, accumulation of wealth, right eye, face, tongue and mouth, teeth and gums, scriptural knowledge, study, precious metals and gems, concentration, truthfulness.

Third House

SahajaBhava, or House of Brothers
Keyword: Determination
Position: A mix between favorable and unfavorable; many astrologers regard it as unfavorable sense it represents and is the 8th house from the 8th house, the house of death.
Relates to: The sign of Gemini and the planet Mercury.
Signifies: Siblings, friends, neighbors, courage, physical strength, hearing, ear diseases, salesmanship, art, dance, music, voice, singing, memory, communication, writing, short travel, arms, hands, nervous system, ear, adventure, fun.

Fourth House

MatruBhava, or House of the Mother.
Keyword: Feelings
Position: Favorable
Relates to the sign of Cancer and the Moon
Signifies: Mother, knowledge, education (academic), the home, emotions,
happiness in general, father’s longevity, foundational things, fixed
assets, hobbies, leisure time, comforts, houses, boats, vehicles, buried
treasures, things form below the earth, chest region (astrologers say the
heart).

Fifth House

Putra Bhava or House of Children

Keyword: Intelligence

Position: Favorable

Relates to the sign of Leo and the Sun.

Signifies: Romance, love form the spouse or sweetheart, love of God,
speculation, spiritual techniques, past - life credits (purvapunya),
intelligence, discrimination, education (spiritual) authorship, maternal
grandfather, pregnancy, mantras, yantras, games, amusements and sports,
business, government displeasure (especially with taxes and the IRS),

Sixth House

PipuBhava, or House of Enemies

Keywords: Service and Defense Position: unfavorable , although in can bet
better over time (upachaya or ""growing"" house).

Relates to: The sign of Virgo and the planet Mercury.

Signifies: Health or short term diseases, competitors, rivals, opposition,
litigation, enemies, intimidation, and calamities from the opposite sex,
struggles, physical weakness, mental troubles, wounds, injuries and
accidents, pets, servants or helpers, employees, cousins, thefts, sexual
diseases, poisons, abdomen, maternal uncles, stepmother, healers, digestion,
bowels.

Seventh House

KalatraBhava, or House of the Wife (Partner)

Keyword: partnership

Position: Favorable, though its ruler is not regarded as favorable by some,
being a maraka or ""killer"" planet

Relates to: The sign of Libra and the planet Venus

Signifies: Marriage, love affairs, (some extramarital), cohabitation,
mARRIAGE like relationships, length of mate's life, business partnerships,
trade, foreign residence or travel for trade, kidneys, lower back.

Eighth House

AyuBhava, or House of Life.

Keywords: The Unknown and the Chronic

Position: Unfavorable; perhaps the worst.

Relates to: The sign of Scorpio and the planet Mars.

Signifies: Longevity, chronic ailments, hidden things, scandalous behavior,
embarrassment, shyness, accusations, desire for knowledge of the unknown or
mystical matters, extravagance, unearned wealth (lotteries, legacies, etc.),
worry, sexual energy, vertigo or fall from high places, cheating, homicide,
useless ventures, money loss, danger from poisons, house purchased from the
sale of ancestral home, manner of death, being overlooked, obstacles,
unsuccessful attempts, dreams, Kundalini (a kind of energy), wealth of the
partner, reproduction and elimination.

Ninth House

Bhagyabhava or House of Fortune

Keywords: Luck and Knowledge

Position: Very favorable; one of the best

Relates to: The sign of Sagittarius and the planet Jupiter.

Signifies: God, guru, philosophy, religion, the father, relationship with
father, bosses, ethics, law, dharma (right action), long-distance travel,
divine grace, educational institutions, Gnana (spiritual knowledge),
initiation, yogic practices, good fortune, renovation of holy places,
connection with Divine powers or energies (Devas), grandchildren, hip area

Tenth House

Dharma Bhava, or House of right action

Keyword: Career

Position: Favorable

Relates to: The sign of Capricorn and the planet Saturn
Signifies: Life purpose or career, fame, father's reputation or position in the world, righteous action, compassion, cloths that promote one's image, character, commerce, trade, business, trouble with childbearing, knees.

Eleventh House

LabyaBhava, or House of gain

Keywords: Opportunities and Cash Flow

Position: All planets are considered good here, but the ruler of this house is not well regarded by many astrologers, so this house is considered a mix of favorable and unfavorable

Relates to: the sign of Aquarius and the planet Saturn

Signifies: Cash flow, profits, opportunities, hopes, friends, dreams, wishes, influential friends, elder sibling, paternal uncle, mother's longevity, influence of government or leaders of large institutions or corporations, wife’s impact on children, left ear.

Twelfth House

Moksha Bhava, or House of Enlightenment

Keywords: Liberation

Position: not favorable for material life, but good for the spiritual

Relates to: The sign of Pisces and the planet Jupiter

Signifies: Liberation, enlightenment, sexual pleasures, detention, confinement (hospitals, prisons, long - term meditation, etc.) Work in
places of confinement, loss, poverty, generosity, quality of sleep and beds,
self-sacrifice, spiritual journeys, pilgrimages, or journeys to foreign
lands, wandering, trade involving long travel, life after death, the nature
of one's previous incarnation, martyrs, betrayal, tapas, or religious
austerities, clumsiness, feet

PLANETS AS GODS

As per sage Parashara the various planets are representatives of various Gods, which are as follows: -

Sun : Lord Rama
Moon : Lord Krishna
Mars : Lord Narsimha, Lord Muruga
Mercury : Lord Buddha
Jupiter : Lord Vamana.
Venus : Lord Bhargawa.
Saturn : Lord Kurma (Tortoise incarnation)
Rahu : Lord Sookar (Boar Incarnation)
Ketu : Lord Meena (Fish incarnation)

http://www.amastroacademy.com/default.htm

There are many differences between Western Astrology and Vedic Astrology. Here are a few:
1. The Zodiac - Vedic astrology uses what is called the Sidereal Zodiac. Western astrology uses what's called the tropical zodiac. It is called the tropical zodiac because the first degree of the zodiac starts with the first day of spring. For the first day of Aries is the first day of spring. This does not correspond to the stars in the sky. The first day of spring actually corresponds to the stars of Pisces due to what's called the "Equinoctial precession". Due to a slight variation in the Earth's for a rotation a slight tilt changes our vantage point a relative to the distant stars a buy one degree approximately every 70 years. Since Western astrologers started using this system of astrology, that point has drifted to a full 23°. So the Western zodiac does not correspond with the stars in the sky. This is not matter because Western astrology does not use the stars in reading a Chart.

2. Vedic astrology uses the distant stars in the chart. These magnificent bodies of light a refer to our transcendent, cosmic nature rather than our earthbound one. This also refers to a the major difference between a Vedic and Western astrology, the concept of reincarnation or the souls journey through infinite lifetimes, every evolving toward perfection and God realization. This deeper evolving consciousness is more reflected in the stars as they also a refer to the ancient Vedic gods whose energy resides in their portion of Sky. Stars are these relatives of our Sun, our mighty and miraculous Star that is responsible for all life on this Earth and in the solar system.

Along with a the major visible planets in our solar system, Vedic astrology uses 27 distinct stellar archetypes - called Nakshatras, these are the stars that refer to our transcendent Self.

3. Vedic astrology uses dasa periods. The dasa periods show specifically which karma's will be unfolding at which time and life. They are incredibly accurate in predicting not only what will happen in the persons life but how they will be feeling while it's happening. Major cycles of up to 20 years are also broken down into sub periods as short as one day. Advising clients do a becomes easy, especially when you are able to see when major planetary shifts are going to occur.

4. Vedic Astrology does not use outer Planets of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto or asteroids. The dynamics of Vedic thinking are based on planetary archetypes and their energies. Given that the outer planets are not visible as bodies of light their influences are more psychological and internal. There are many a vedic astrologers who use them in chart interpretations as well, but just as many classical Western astrologers are leery of making concrete results based on outer planets, so are a Vedic astrologers. It is the planets of visible light that give our karma's through the mental impressions (samsaras) created, as planetary transits intersect with our inner environment as shown through the birth chart. The agency of this dynamic are the chakras. The external planets and their energies are what energizes our inner
environment through the Chakras, giving rise to the mental impressions that compel us to act through form and thus experience our karma.

5. Vedic Astrology uses the fully developed qualities of the Nodes. The nodes are the eclipse points as such they are not bodies of light as the other planets, rather they are the subconscious forces of worldly desire and other worldly desire - attachment and detachment - the inner child and the disapproving parent within. Rahu (the North node) shows our strong worldly attachments and the things we are developing in this lifetime.

In order to develop those things we may become obsessed over them, hypnotized by experience and worldly desire, eventually to learn detachment through exhausting the worldly forms of what he associates with. Ketu exists at the opposite and of the spectrum, disinterested in worldly experience, wanting to hide, unsatisfied and critical - disappointed in all he sees. As Ketu is divine discontent. No matter how much sex, drugs and rock-and-roll we have, there's always more and part of us can sense the futility in even trying to satisfy our worldly desires. This is Ketu. As Rahu obsesses a Ketu doubts, the push and pull of Rahu and Ketu is how we evolve and develop.

6. Vedic Astrology uses many harmonic charts as part of the reading. These harmonic charts focus on specific areas of life. When looking into relationship karma, the 9th divisional chart is used, career karma the 10th chart. These harmonic charts give an incredible level of accuracy to the reading. Also a rectifying the birth Time becomes quite easy once you learn how to read these harmonic charts.

7. The origin of the two systems is Indian, not Western. It would make no sense that the thousands of techniques of Vedic astrology would have somehow appear to after the Aryan invasion as a used to be the belief. In fact, we can clearly see when Westerners started using Indian astrology based on the precession, at this point it was roughly a couple thousand years ago. The theory used to be that when Alexander the Great conquered India and Persia, knowledge from the West flowed into that area. This is called the Aryan invasion theory. However there is no record of astrology in Greece before Ptolemy for instance, there were no elaborate occult systems in place before these invasions. All of the details of planets, signs, houses as well as a infinite and myriad techniques of Vedic astrology existed long before India was plundered. Even just a cursory examination of Indian astrology reveals this fact. After the
invasion as Westerners began using astrology there was more sharing. However much was also excluded in the West. Most of the subtlety and complexity was left out.

8. Vedic Astrology is part of a larger holistic healing system. Vedic Astrology uses the same healing remedies as Ayurveda (the medical system of India), yoga, and is connected from the same energetic factors to each of these important holistic systems. Mantras, gems, herbs, yoga postures are all prescribed by the Vedic astrologer based on your karma. The same archetypes underpin these sciences and provide a coherent path to wellness. Astrology also shares a common reference to the spirituality of India and Hinduism - so those who are uplifted by yogic principles, meditation and deities such as lords Shiva or Krishna will find a home in Vedic interpretations. It is for this reason that Vedic astrology is very revered in India, as medical doctors are also astrologers or consult with them regularly. Priests, doctors, commoners all know that astrology is very useful and helpful, posting your mundane, everyday life and long-term spiritual life. Of course this is not the case in the West. If you're medical doctor or priest or psychologists knew you were consulting an astrologer for life decisions, they would probably be unimpressed. Thus in the West there is no healing paradigm integral to the practice. This is not to say Western astrologers cannot offer healing to their clients. But holistic healing comes from the outside through forms such as Reiki, or Yoga or other outside, non native means. Many Western astrologers offer no remedies, something unthinkable in Vedic astrology. Or they offer mantras visualizations meditation, same as the Vedic astrologer, but without the rounding in understanding that comes from having studied its holistic implications as a Vedic science.