

Demystifying the Hindu Calendar

Om Sang Saraswatyai Namah

With Pranams

to

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&

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Some Terms Explained

- Panchang** – Hindu Lunar Calendar
- Maase** – Lunar Month
- Paksha** – Lunar Fortnight. (Shukla – waxing fortnight
Krishna – waning fortnight)
- Tithi** – Lunar Day.

Please note that according to the rules of Sanskrit Grammar, Paksha and Tithi transform to Pakshe and Tithau respectively in the recitation of a sankalpa.



Tithis and Tithaus

The following are the tithis of a lunar fortnight and the change to their case endings when used in a Sankalpa

Number	Tithi	Tithau
1	Pratipad	Pratipad
2	Dvitiya	Dvitiyam
3	Tritiya	Tritiyam
4	Chaturti	Chaturtam
5	Panchami	Panchamam
6	Sashti	Sashtam
7	Saptami	Saptamam
8	Ashtami	Ashtamam
9	Navami	Navamam
10	Dasami	Dasamam
11	Ekadasi	Ekadasam
12	Dwadasi	Dwadasam
13	Trayodasi	Trayodasam
14	Chaturdasi	Chaturdasam
15	Poornima	Poornimam (Full Moon)
15	Amavasya	Amavasyam (New Moon)



A Sample Panchang – Hindu Calendar

Kartik 30			Margshirsh29			Paush 30			Magh 29			Falgun 30			Chaitra 29			Vaishakh 30			Jyeshth 30			Aashadh 29			1stShravan30			2ndSI											
October 03			November 03			December 03			January 04			February 04			March 04			April 04			May 04			June 04			July 04			Aug											
Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi
25	Sa	01	24	Mo	01	23	Tu	01	22	Th	01	20	Fr	01	21	Su	01	19	Mo	01	19	We	01	18	Fr	01	17	Sa	01	16	N										
26	Su	02	25	Tu	02/03	24	We	02	23	Fr	02/03	21	Sa	02	22	Mo	02	20	Tu	01	20	Th	02	19	Sa	02	18	Su	01	17	T										
27	Mo	03	26	We	04	25	Th	03	24	Sa	04	22	Su	03	23	Tu	03	21	We	02	21	Fr	03	20	Su	03	19	Mo	02	18	N										
28	Tu	04	27	Th	05	26	Fr	04	25	Su	05	23	Mo	04	24	We	04	22	Th	03	22	Sa	04	21	Mo	04	20	Tu	03	19	T										
29	We	05	28	Fr	06	27	Sa	05	26	Mo	06	24	Tu	05	25	Th	05	23	Fr	04	23	Su	04	22	Tu	05	21	We	04	20	F										
30	Th	06	29	Sa	07	28	Su	06	27	Tu	07	25	We	06	26	Fr	06	24	Sa	05	24	Mo	05	23	We	06	22	Th	05	21	S										
31	Fr	07	30	Su	08	29	Mo	07	28	We	07	26	Th	07	27	Sa	07	25	Su	06	25	Tu	06	24	Th	07	23	Fr	06	22	S										
NOV 03			DEC 03			30 Tu 08			29 Th 08			27 Fr 08			28 Su 08			26 Mo 07			27 Tu 08			27 Th 08			26 Sa 09			25 Su 08/09			24 T								
01 Sa 08			01 Mo 09			31 We 09			30 Fr 09			28 Sa 08			29 Su 09			30 Tu 09			28 We 09			28 Fr 09			27 Su 10			26 Mo 10			25 V								
02 Su 09			02 Tu 10			JAN 04			31 Sa 10			29 Su 09			31 We 10			29 Th 10			29 Sa 11			29 Sa 11			28 Mo 11			27 Tu 11			26 T								
03 Mo 10			03 We 11			01 Th 10			FEB 04			01 Mo 10			MAR 04			APR 04			30 Fr 11			MAY 04			31 Mo 12/13			30 We 13			29 Th 13			28 S					
04 Tu 11			04 Th 12			02 Fr 11			01 Su 11			02 Tu 11			01 Th 11			01 Th 11			01 Sa 12			JUNE 04			JULY 04			30 Fr 14			29 S								
05 We 12			05 Fr 13			03 Sa 12			02 Mo 12			03 Tu 13			03 We 12			02 Fr 12			02 Su 13			01 Tu 14			01 Th 14			31 Sa			30 N								
06 Th 13			06 Sa 13			04 Su 13			03 Tu 13			04 We 14			04 Th 13			03 Sa 13/14			03 Sa 13/14			03 Mo 14			02 We			02 Fr 01			01 Su 01/02			SEI					
07 Fr 14			07 Su 14			05 Mo 14			04 We 14			05 Th			05 Fr 14			04 Su			04 Tu			04 Tu			03 Th 01			03 Sa 02			02 Mo 03			01 V					
08 Sa			08 Mo			06 Tu			05 Th			06 Sa			06 Sa			05 Mo 01			05 Mo 01			05 We 01			04 Fr 02			04 Sa 03			03 Tu 04			02 T					
09 Su 01			09 Tu 01			07 We			06 Fr 01			07 Sa 02			07 Su 01			06 Tu 02			06 Tu 02			06 Th 02/03			05 Sa 03			05 Mo 04			04 We 05			03 F					
10 Mo 02			10 We 02			08 Th 01			07 Sa 02			08 Su 03			08 Mo 02			07 We 03			07 We 03			07 Fr 04			06 Su 04/05			06 Tu 05			05 Th 06			04 S					
11 Tu 03			11 Th 03			09 Fr 02			08 Su 03			09 Mo 04			09 Tu 03			08 Th 04			08 Th 04			08 Sa 05			07 Mo 06			07 We 06			06 Fr 07			05 S					
12 We 04			12 Fr 04			10 Sa 03			09 Mo 04			10 Tu 05			10 We 04/05			09 Fr 05			09 Fr 05			09 Su 06			08 Tu 07			08 Th 07			07 Sa 08			05 S					
13 Th 05			13 Sa 05			11 Su 04			10 Tu 05			11 We 06			11 Th 06			10 Sa 06			10 Sa 06			10 Mo 07			09 We 08			09 Fr 08			08 Su 09			06 N					
14 Fr 06			14 Su 06			12 Mo 05			11 We 06			12 Th 07			12 Fr 07			11 Su 07			11 Su 07			11 Tu 08			10 Th 09			10 Sa 09			09 Mo 10			07 T					
15 Sa 06			15 Mo 07			13 Tu 06			12 Th 07			13 Fr 08			13 Sa 08			12 Mo 08/09			12 Mo 08/09			12 We 09			11 Fr 10			11 Su 10			10 Tu 10			08 V					
16 Su 07			16 Tu 08			14 We 07			13 Fr 08			14 Sa 09			14 Su 09			13 Tu 10			13 Tu 10			13 Th 10			12 Sa 11			12 Mo 11			11 We 11			09 T					
17 Mo 08			17 We 09			15 Th 08/09			14 Sa 09			15 Su 10			15 Mo 10			14 We 11			14 We 11			14 Fr 11			13 Su 12			13 Tu 12			12 Th 12			10 F					
18 Tu 09/10			18 Th 10			16 Fr 10			15 Su 10			16 Mo 11			16 Tu 11			15 Th 12			15 Th 12			15 Sa 12			14 Mo 12			14 We 13			13 Fr 13			11 S					
19 We 11			19 Fr 11			17 Sa 11			16 Mo 11			17 Tu 12/13			17 We 12			16 Fr 13			16 Fr 13			16 Su 13			15 Tu 13			15 Th 14			14 Sa 14			12 S					
20 Th 12			20 Sa 12			18 Su 12			17 Tu 12/13			18 We 14			18 Th 13			17 Sa 14			17 Sa 14			17 Mo 14			16 We 14			16 Fr			15 Su			13 N					
21 Fr 13			21 Su 13/14			19 Mo 13			18 We 14			19 Th			19 Fr 14			18 Su			18 Su			18 Tu			17 Th			17 Th			16 Fr			14 T					
22 Sa 14			22 Mo			20 Tu 14			19 Th			20 We			20 Sa			19 Fr 14			18 Tu			18 Tu			17 Th			17 Th			16 Fr			14 T					
23 Su						21 We			20 We			21 Sa			20 Sa			19 Fr 14			18 Tu			18 Tu			17 Th			17 Th			16 Fr			14 T					

Understanding the Panchang – Step 1

The second line gives the solar month in which the lunar month starts. The lunar and solar months cross each other – so one lunar month could span the latter half of a solar month and the earlier half of the next month. So here the lunar month of Kartik that has 30 days in it, spans from the latter half of Oct 2003 to the middle of November 2003

The third line has three columns – the first is the Solar Date, second the Solar Day and third the Lunar Day or Tithi

Kartik 30	Margshirsh 29	Paush 30	Magh 29	Falgun 30
October 03	November 03	December 03	January 04	February 04
Solar Date	Solar Date	Solar Date	Solar Date	Solar Date
25 Sa 01	24 Mo 01	23 Th 01	22 Th 01	20 Fr 01
26 Su 02	25 Tu 02/03	24 We 02	23 Fr 02/03	21 Sa 02
27 Mo 03	26 We 04	25 Th 03	24 Sa 04	22 Su 03
28 Tu 04	27 Th 05	26 Fr 04	25 Su 05	23 Mo 04
29 We 05	28 Fr 06	27 Sa 05	26 Mo 06	24 Tu 05
30 Th 06	29 Sa 07	28 Su 06	27 Tu 07	25 We 06
31 Fr 07	30 Su 08	29 Mo 07	28 We 07	26 Th 07
NOV 03		DEC 03		JAN 04
01 Sa 08	01 Mo 09	30 Tu 08	31 Sa 10	29 Su 09
02 Su 09	02 Tu 10	31 We 09	01 Sa 11	30 Mo 10
03 Mo 10	03 We 11	JAN 04		FEB 04
04 Tu 11	04 Th 12	01 Th 10	MAR 04	
05 We 12	05 Fr 13	02 Fr 11	01 Sa 11	01 Mo 10
06 Th 13	06 Sa 13	03 Sa 12	02 Mo 12	02 Tu 11
07 Fr 14	07 Su 14	04 Su 13	03 Tu 13	03 We 12
08 Sa 15	08 Mo 15	05 Mo 14	04 We 14	04 Th 13
09 Su 16	09 Tu 16	06 Tu 15	05 Th 15	05 Fr 14
10 Mo 17	10 We 17	07 We 16	06 Fr 16	06 Sa 15
11 Tu 18	11 Th 18	08 Th 17	07 Sa 17	07 Su 16
12 We 19	12 Fr 19	09 Fr 18	08 Su 18	08 Mo 17
13 Th 20	13 Sa 20	10 Sa 19	09 Mo 19	09 Tu 18
14 Fr 21	14 Su 21	11 Su 20	10 Tu 20	10 We 19
15 Sa 22	15 Mo 22	12 Mo 21	11 We 21	11 Th 20
16 Su 23	16 Tu 23	13 Tu 22	12 Th 22	12 Fr 21
17 Mo 24	17 We 24	14 We 23	13 Fr 23	13 Sa 22
18 Tu 25	18 Th 25	15 Th 24	14 Sa 24	14 Su 23
19 We 26	19 Fr 26	16 Fr 25	15 Su 25	15 Mo 24
20 Th 27	20 Sa 27	17 Sa 26	16 Mo 26	16 Tu 25
21 Fr 28	21 Su 28	18 Su 27	17 Tu 27	17 We 26
22 Sa 29	22 Mo 29	19 Mo 28	18 We 28	18 Th 27
23 Su 30	23 Tu 30	20 Tu 29	19 Th 29	19 Fr 28
		21 We 30	20 Fr 30	20 Sa 29

The top line gives the beginning of the lunar month and the number of days in this month for this year – here it is lunar month of Falgun and has 30 days in it.

The lines in this column following the green horizontal band 'MAR 04' indicate the start of the solar month of March

Understanding the Panchang – Step 2

All the days of the month leading up to the full moon – ie the WAXING FORTNIGHT – aka – SHUKLA PAKSHA

All the days of the month leading up to the new moon – ie the WANING FORTNIGHT – aka – KRISHNA PAKSHA

Kartik 30	Margshirsh 29	Paush 30	Magh 29	Paigun 30
October 03	November 03	December 03	January 04	February 04
Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi
25 Sa 01	24 Mo 01	23 Tu 01	22 Th 01	20 Fr 01
26 Su 02	25 Tu 02/03	24 We 02	23 Fr 02/03	21 Sa 02
27 Mo 03	26 We 04	25 Th 03	24 Sa 04	22 Su 03
28 Tu 04	27 Th 05	26 Fr 04	25 Su 05	23 Mo 04
29 We 05	28 Fr 06	27 Sa 05	26 Mo 06	24 Tu 05
30 Th 06	29 Sa 07	28 Su 06	27 Tu 07	25 We 06
31 Fr 07	30 Su 08	29 Mo 07	28 We 07	26 Th 07
NOV 03		DEC 03		
01 Sa 08	01 Mo 09	30 Tu 08	29 Th 08	27 Fr 08
02 Su 09	02 Tu 10	31 We 09	30 Fr 09	28 Sa 09
DEC 03		JAN 04		
03 Mo 10	03 We 11	01 Th 10	FEB 04	
04 Tu 11	04 Th 12	02 Fr 11	01 Sa 11	01 Mo 10
05 We 12	05 Fr 13	03 Sa 12	02 Mo 12	02 Tu 11
06 Th 13	06 Sa 13	04 Su 13	03 Tu 13	03 We 12
07 Fr 14	07 Su 14	05 Mo 14	04 We 14	04 Th 13
08 Sa 15	08 Mo 15	06 Tu 15	05 Th 15	05 Fr 14
09 Su 16	09 Tu 16	07 We 16	06 Fr 16	06 Sa 15
10 Mo 17	10 We 17	08 Th 17	07 Sa 17	07 Su 16
11 Tu 18	11 Th 18	09 Fr 18	08 Su 18	08 Mo 17
12 We 19	12 Fr 19	10 Sa 19	09 Mo 19	09 Tu 18
13 Th 20	13 Sa 20	11 Su 20	10 Tu 20	10 We 19
14 Fr 21	14 Su 21	12 Mo 21	11 We 21	11 Th 20
15 Sa 22	15 Mo 22	13 Tu 22	12 Th 22	12 Fr 21
16 Su 23	16 Tu 23	14 We 23	13 Fr 23	13 Sa 22
17 Mo 24	17 We 24	15 Th 24	14 Sa 24	14 Su 23
18 Tu 25	18 Th 25	16 Fr 25	15 Su 25	15 Mo 24
19 We 26	19 Fr 26	17 Sa 26	16 Mo 26	16 Tu 25
20 Th 27	20 Sa 27	18 Su 27	17 Tu 27	17 We 26
21 Fr 28	21 Su 28	19 Mo 28	18 We 28	18 Th 27
22 Sa 29	22 Mo 29	20 Tu 29	19 Th 29	19 Fr 28
23 Su 30	23 Tu 30	21 We 30	20 Fr 30	20 Sa 29

The smiley face indicates the full moon or Poornima

The dark face indicates new moon or Amavasya

Exercise

An example to illustrate
what we have learnt from the previous two slides



Lunar Equivalent for 27th Dec 2003

Kartik 30			Margshirsh 29			Paush 30			Magh 29			Falgun 30		
October 03			November 03			December 03			January 04			February 04		
Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi	Dt	Dy	Tithi
25	Sa	01	24	Mo	01	23	Tu	01	22	Th	01	21	Sa	01
26	Su	02	25	Tu	02/03	24	We	02	23	Fr	02/03	21	Sa	02
27	Mo	03	26	We	04	25	Th	03	24	Sa	04	22	Su	03
28	Tu	04	27	Th	05	26	Fr	04	25	Su	05	23	Mo	04
29	We	05	28	Fr	06	27	Sa	05	26	Mo	06	24	Tu	05
30	Th	06	29	Sa	07	28	Su	06	27	Tu	07	25	We	06
31	Fr	07	30	Su	08	29	Mo	07	28	We	07	26	Th	07
NOV 03			DEC 03			JAN 04			FEB 04			MAR 04		
01	Sa	08	01	Mo	09	01	Tu	10	01	Sa	10	01	Su	10
02	Su	09	02	Tu	10	02	Fr	11	02	Mo	11	02	Mo	11
03	Mo	10	03	We	11	03	Sa	12	03	Tu	12	03	We	12
04	Tu	11	04	Th	12	04	Su	13	04	We	13	04	Th	13
05	We	12	05	Fr	13	05	Mo	14	05	Th	14	05	Fr	14
06	Th	13	06	Sa	14	06	Tu	15	06	Fr	15	06	Sa	15
07	Fr	14	07	Su	15	07	We	16	07	Sa	16	07	Su	16
08	Sa	15	08	Mo	16	08	Th	17	08	Su	17	08	Mo	17
09	Su	16	09	Tu	17	09	Fr	18	09	Mo	18	09	Tu	18
10	Mo	17	10	We	18	10	Sa	19	10	Tu	19	10	We	19
11	Tu	18	11	Th	19	11	Su	20	11	We	20	11	Th	20
12	We	19	12	Fr	20	12	Mo	21	12	Th	21	12	Fr	21
13	Th	20	13	Sa	21	13	Tu	22	13	Fr	22	13	Sa	22
14	Fr	21	14	Su	22	14	We	23	14	Sa	23	14	Su	23
15	Sa	22	15	Mo	23	15	Th	24	15	Su	24	15	Mo	24
16	Su	23	16	Tu	24	16	Fr	25	16	Mo	25	16	Tu	25
17	Mo	24	17	We	25	17	Sa	26	17	Tu	26	17	We	26
18	Tu	25	18	Th	26	18	Su	27	18	We	27	18	Th	27
19	We	26	19	Fr	27	19	Mo	28	19	Th	28	19	Fr	28
20	Th	27	20	Sa	28	20	Tu	29	20	Fr	29	20	Sa	29
21	Fr	28	21	Su	29	21	We	30	21	Sa	30	21	Su	30
22	Sa	29	22	Mo	30	22	Th	01	22	Su	01	22	Mo	01
23	Su	30	23	Tu	01	23	Fr	02	23	Mo	02	23	Tu	02

Second Step – Lunar Fortnight
– Here it is a date progressing towards the smiley face, so it is the waxing fortnight or **SHUKLA PAKSHA**. So put **SHUKLA** before the ‘Pakshe’ in the sankalpa.

First step – Lunar Month –
Here it is **PAUSH**. So put ‘Paush’ before the ‘Maase’ in the sankalpa

Third Step – Lunar date or tithi. The value in the third column is ‘05’ corresponding to Saturday the 27th Dec. ‘05’ translates to ‘**PANCHAMI**’. So put ‘**PANCHAMAM**’ before the ‘tithau’ in the sankalpa

Putting it Together for the Example

Om Adya Jambudvipe (referring to the Earth)

(The name of your country) Dese

(The name of your state) Pradese

(The name of your city) Nagare

(The name of your temple) Mandire

Paush Maase ,

Shukla Pakse,

Panchamam Tithau ,

Shri Satyananda Gotre or your gotra, Shri Your name krtaitat, For the purpose of pleasing which God, Puja Karmaham, whatever puja you are doing, Karishye

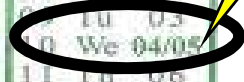
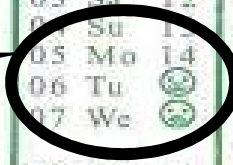


Some Special Cases

Kartik 30	Margshirsh29	Paush 30	Magh 29	Paigun 30
October 03	November 03	December 03	January 04	February 04
Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi	Dt Dy Tithi
25 Sa 01	24 Mo 01	23 Tu 01	22 Th 01	20 Fr 01
26 Su 02	25 Tu 02/03	24 We 02	23 Fr 02/03	21 Sa 02
27 Mo 03	26 We 04	25 Th 03	24 Sa 04	22 Su 03
28 Tu 04	27 Th 05	26 Fr 04	25 Su 05	23 Mo 04
29 We 05	28 Fr 06	27 Sa 05	26 Mo 06	24 Tu 05
30 Th 06	29 Sa 07	28 Su 06	27 Tu 07	25 We 06
31 Fr 07	30 Su 08	29 Mo 07	28 We 07	26 Th 07
NOV 03		DEC 03		
01 Sa 08	01 Mo 09	30 Tu 08	29 Th 08	27 Fr 08
02 Su 09	02 Tu 10	31 We 09	30 Fr 09	28 Sa 08
03 Mo 10	03 We 11	JAN 04		29 Su 09
04 Tu 11	04 Th 12	01 Th 10	FEB 04	
05 We 12	05 Fr 13	02 Fr 11	01 Sa 11	01 Mo 10
06 Th 13	06 Sa 13	03 Sa 12	02 Mo 12	02 Tu 11
07 Fr 14	07 Su 14	04 Su 13	03 Tu 13	03 We 12
08 Sa 15	08 Mo 15	05 Mo 14	04 We 14	04 Th 13
09 Su 01	09 Tu 01	06 Tu 15	05 Th 15	05 Fr 14
10 Mo 02	10 We 02	07 We 16	06 Fr 01	06 Sa 15
11 Tu 03	11 Th 03	08 Th 01	07 Sa 02	07 Su 01
12 We 04	12 Fr 04	09 Fr 02	08 Su 03	08 Mo 02
13 Th 05	13 Sa 05	10 Sa 03	09 Mo 04	09 Tu 03
14 Fr 06	14 Su 06	11 Su 04	10 Tu 05	10 We 04/05
15 Sa 06	15 Mo 07	12 Mo 05	11 We 06	11 Th 06
16 Su 07	16 Tu 08	13 Tu 06	12 Th 07	12 Fr 07
17 Mo 08	17 We 09	14 We 07	13 Fr 08	13 Sa 08
18 Tu 09/10	18 Th 10	15 Th 08/09	14 Sa 09	14 Su 09
19 We 11	19 Fr 11	16 Fr 10	15 Su 10	15 Mo 10
20 Th 12	20 Sa 12	17 Sa 11	16 Mo 11	16 Tu 11
21 Fr 13	21 Su 13/14	18 Su 12	17 Tu 12/13	17 We 12
22 Sa 14	22 Mo 14	19 Mo 13	18 We 14	18 Th 13
23 Su 15	23 Tu 15	20 Tu 14	19 Th 15	19 Fr 14
		21 We 15		20 Sa 15

Sometimes the same lunar day may span multiple solar days. In this case the full moon – POORNIMA tithi repeats on 6th and 7th Jan 2004

Sometimes a solar day may comprise of two lunar days. Here the 10th of March has two tithis – fourth and fifth. Depending on when you are doing your puja – use the earlier tithi before sunrise and the latter if after sunrise



Feedback

If you have any additional questions or
would like to provide feedback,
please email to

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Thank You .

JAI MAA !!!

Om Sang Saraswatyai Namah

