

# Demystifying the Hindu Calendar

**Om Sang Saraswatyai Namah**

With Pranams

to

**Shree Maa**

&

**Swami Satyananda Saraswati**

Devi Mandir, CA



# 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			Margshirsh 29			Paush 30			Magh 29			Falgun 30			Chaitra 29			Vaishakh 30			Jyeshth 30			Aashadh 29			1st Shraavan 30			2nd SI																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
October 03			November 03			December 03			January 04			February 04			March 04			April 04			May 04			June 04			July 04			Aug																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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	01	27	Th	01	28	Fr	01	29	Sa	01	30	Su	01	31	Mo

# 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		
Sr	Day	Tithi	Sr	Day	Tithi	Sr	Day	Tithi	Sr	Day	Tithi	Sr	Day	Tithi
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			FEB 04			MAR 04		
01	Sa	08	01	Mo	09	01	Th	10	31	Fr	09	27	Fr	08
02	Su	09	02	Tu	10	02	Fr	11	30	Sa	10	28	Sa	09
03	Mo	10	03	We	11	03	Sa	12	31	Su	11	29	Su	10
04	Tu	11	04	Th	12	04	Su	13	01	Mo	12	30	Mo	11
05	We	12	05	Fr	13	05	Mo	14	02	Tu	13	01	Tu	12
06	Th	13	06	Sa	13	06	Tu	15	03	We	14	02	We	13
07	Fr	14	07	Su	14	07	We	16	04	Th	15	03	Th	14
08	Sa	15	08	Mo	15	08	Th	17	05	Fr	16	04	Fr	15
09	Su	16	09	Tu	16	09	Fr	18	06	Sa	17	05	Sa	16
10	Mo	17	10	We	17	10	Sa	19	07	Su	18	06	Su	17
11	Tu	18	11	Th	18	11	Su	20	08	Mo	19	07	Mo	18
12	We	19	12	Fr	19	12	Mo	21	09	Tu	20	08	Tu	19
13	Th	20	13	Sa	20	13	Tu	22	10	We	21	09	We	20
14	Fr	21	14	Su	21	14	We	23	11	Th	22	10	Th	21
15	Sa	22	15	Mo	22	15	Th	24	12	Fr	23	11	Fr	22
16	Su	23	16	Tu	23	16	Fr	25	13	Sa	24	12	Sa	23
17	Mo	24	17	We	24	17	Sa	26	14	Su	25	13	Su	24
18	Tu	25	18	Th	25	18	Su	27	15	Mo	26	14	Mo	25
19	We	26	19	Fr	26	19	Mo	28	16	Tu	27	15	Tu	26
20	Th	27	20	Sa	27	20	Tu	29	17	We	28	16	We	27
21	Fr	28	21	Su	28	21	We	30	18	Th	29	17	Th	28
22	Sa	29	22	Mo	29	22	Th	31	19	Fr	30	18	Fr	29
23	Su	30	23	Tu	30	23	Fr	01	20	Sa	01	19	Sa	30

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

The smiley face indicates the full moon or Poornima

The dark face indicates new moon or Amavasya

Kartik 30	Margshirsh29	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	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	31 We 09	
02 Su 09	02 Tu 10	31 We 09		
03 Mo 10	03 We 11	JAN 04		
04 Tu 11	04 Th 12	01 Th 10	FEB 04	
05 We 12	05 Fr 13	02 Fr 11	01 Su 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 ☺	05 Mo 14	04 We 14	04 Th 13
09 Su 16	09 Tu ☺	06 Tu ☺	05 Th ☺	05 Fr 14
10 Mo 17	10 We ☺	07 We ☺	06 Fr ☺	06 Sa ☺
11 Tu 18	11 Th ☺	08 Th ☺	07 Su ☺	07 Su 01
12 We 19	12 Fr ☺	09 Fr ☺	08 Mo ☺	08 Mo 02
13 Th 20	13 Sa ☺	10 Sa ☺	09 Tu ☺	09 Tu 03
14 Fr 21	14 Su ☺	11 Su ☺	10 We ☺	10 We 04/05
15 Sa 22	15 Mo ☺	12 Mo ☺	11 We ☺	11 Th 06
16 Su 23	16 Tu ☺	13 Tu ☺	12 Th ☺	12 Fr 07
17 Mo 24	17 We ☺	14 We ☺	13 Fr ☺	13 Sa 08
18 Tu 25	18 Th ☺	15 Th ☺	14 Sa ☺	14 Su 09
19 We 26	19 Fr ☺	16 Fr ☺	15 Su ☺	15 Mo 10
20 Th 27	20 Sa ☺	17 Sa ☺	16 Mo ☺	16 Tu 11
21 Fr 28	21 Su ☺	18 Su ☺	17 Tu ☺	17 We 12
22 Sa 29	22 Mo ☺	19 Mo ☺	18 We ☺	18 Th 13
23 Su 30	23 Tu ☺	20 Tu ☺	19 Th ☺	19 Fr 14
		21 We ☺	20 Fr ☺	20 Sa 15

# Exercise

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



# Lunar Equivalent for 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003

Kartik 30			Margsbirsh29			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	Tu	06	24	Tu	05
30	Th	06	29	Sa	07	28	Su	06	27	Th	07	25	We	06
31	Fr	07	30	Su	08	29	Mo	07	28	We	08	26	Th	07
<b>NOV 03</b>			<b>DEC 03</b>			<b>DEC 03</b>			<b>JAN 04</b>			<b>FEB 04</b>		
01	Sa	08	01	Mo	09	30	Tu	08	29	Th	09	27	Fr	08
02	Su	09	02	Tu	10	31	We	09	30	Fr	10	28	Sa	09
03	Mo	10	03	We	11	<b>JAN 04</b>			<b>FEB 04</b>			<b>FEB 04</b>		
04	Tu	11	04	Th	12	01	Th	10	01	Su	11	01	Mo	10
05	We	12	05	Fr	13	02	Fr	11	02	Mo	12	02	Tu	11
06	Th	13	06	Sa	13	03	Sa	12	03	Tu	13	03	We	12
07	Fr	14	07	Su	14	04	Su	13	04	We	14	04	Th	13
08	Sa	15	08	Mo	15	05	Mo	14	05	Th	15	05	Fr	14
09	Su	16	09	Tu	16	06	Tu	15	06	Fr	16	06	Sa	15
10	Mo	17	10	We	17	07	We	16	07	Sa	17	07	Su	16
11	Tu	18	11	Th	18	08	Th	17	08	Su	18	08	Mo	17
12	We	19	12	Fr	19	09	Fr	18	09	Mo	19	09	Tu	18
13	Th	20	13	Sa	20	10	Sa	19	10	Tu	20	10	We	19
14	Fr	21	14	Su	21	11	Mo	20	11	We	21	11	Th	20
15	Sa	22	15	Mo	22	12	Tu	21	12	Th	22	12	Fr	21
16	Su	23	16	Tu	23	13	We	22	13	Fr	23	13	Sa	22
17	Mo	24	17	We	24	14	Th	23	14	Sa	24	14	Su	23
18	Tu	25	18	Th	25	15	Fr	24	15	Su	25	15	Mo	24
19	We	26	19	Fr	26	16	Sa	25	16	Mo	26	16	Tu	25
20	Th	27	20	Sa	27	17	Su	26	17	Tu	27	17	We	26
21	Fr	28	21	Su	28	18	Mo	27	18	We	28	18	Th	27
22	Sa	29	22	Mo	29	19	Tu	28	19	Th	29	19	Fr	28
23	Su	30	23	Tu	30	20	We	29	20	Fr	30	20	Sa	29
24	Mo	01	24	We	01	21	Th	30	21	Sa	01	21	Su	30

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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

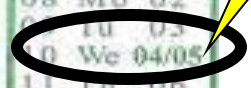
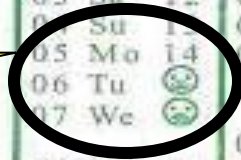


# Some Special Cases

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

Kartik 30	Margshirsh29	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	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	
		JAN 04		FEB 04	
03 Mo 10	03 We 11	01 Th 10	01 Sa 11		01 Mo 10
04 Tu 11	04 Th 12	02 Fr 11	02 Mo 12		02 Tu 11
05 We 12	05 Fr 13	03 Sa 12	03 Tu 13		03 We 12
06 Th 13	06 Sa 13	04 Su 13	04 We 14		04 Th 13
07 Fr 14	07 Su 14	05 Mo 14	05 Th 14		05 Fr 14
08 Sa 15	08 Tu 15	06 Tu 15	06 Fr 01		06 Sa 15
09 Su 16	09 We 16	07 We 16	07 Sa 02		
10 Mo 17	10 Th 17	08 Th 17	08 Su 03		07 Su 01
11 Tu 18	11 Fr 18	09 Fr 18	09 Mo 04		08 Mo 02
12 We 19	12 Sa 19	10 Sa 19	10 Tu 05		09 Tu 03
13 Th 20	13 Su 20	11 Su 20	11 We 06		10 We 04
14 Fr 21	14 Mo 21	12 Mo 21	12 Th 07		11 Th 05
15 Sa 22	15 Tu 22	13 Tu 22	13 Fr 08		12 Fr 07
16 Su 23	16 We 23	14 We 23	14 Sa 09		13 Sa 08
17 Mo 24	17 Th 24	15 Th 24	15 Su 10		14 Su 09
18 Tu 25	18 Fr 25	16 Fr 25	16 Mo 11		15 Mo 10
19 We 26	19 Sa 26	17 Sa 26	17 Tu 12/13		16 Tu 11
20 Th 27	20 Su 27	18 Su 27	18 We 14		17 We 12
21 Fr 28	21 Mo 28	19 Mo 28	19 Th 15		18 Th 13
22 Sa 29	22 Tu 29	20 Tu 29	20 Fr 16		19 Fr 14
23 Su 30	23 We 30	21 We 30	21 Sa 17		20 Sa 15

Sometimes a solar day may comprise of two lunar days. Here the 10<sup>th</sup> 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

[Lathananda@yahoo.com](mailto:Lathananda@yahoo.com)

Thank You .

**JAI MAA !!!**

**Om Sang Saraswatyai Namah**

