

Nakshatra / Raasi Mandalam Project First such Sannidhi in the World !

Sponsor Your Star (Raasi) !! and be Blessed !

HINDU TEMPLE ASSOCIATION INC.

Sri. Maha Lakshmi Devasthanam

760 Yorklyn Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707

302-235-7020 WWW.HINDUTEMPLEDE.COM

The importance of Nakshatra and Raasi in our life - FAQ

What are Nakshatras?

Nakshtram is a Sanskrit word that can be split into Naksha (map) + tara (star) which means "Star Map"

How are Nakshtras related to the Universe?

Geocentric phenomena explanation: When observations are made with our Earth as center they are called "geocentric phenomena". The Universe will appear as a sphere for us on earth and the plane of this sphere is 360 degrees. The system of constellations is very ancient, dating back more than 5,000 years as they were referred to in the oldest Veda (Hindu scripture). For centuries, people all over the world observed that 27 groups of Stars (Star Constellations) were visible in cycles of roughly one every day. Imagine a great circle in space and the 27 nakshatras laid out equally on this circle. Since a circle covers 360 degrees, these 27 nakshatrams cover 360 degrees in space. So the "space" occupied by one nakshatram is 360 divided by 27 and geometrically each of these groups of "Stars" spans $360/27 = 13.33$ degrees.

What are Rasis?

Rasi is a Sanskrit word that means a "heap" or "group". Rasis are another way of grouping these 27 Nakshatras. This was by done by combining them into 12 Rasis in the same circle. So 12 Rasis = 27 Nakshatras. 1 Rasi = 2 and $\frac{1}{4}$ Nakshatras. In other words, the 27 nakshatras are grouped under 12 rasis at two and a quarter nakshtras per raasi. Each Rasi spans 30 degrees ($360/12=30$) and hence each Rasi spans at least 3 stars.

What are Nakshtra padams?

In Indian Astrology the 27 "Stars" are further divided into 4 parts, called padams (parts). Each such nakshatra quarter is referred to as a **Nakshatra Padham** or **Nakshatra Pada**. Thus we have $27 \times 4 = 108$ padams. The Universe is represented by 12 Rasis that in turn represent 27 stars with 108 padams . Each Rasi then represents 9 padams ($108/12 = 9$). See chart.



What is my “Janma Nakshtram” or “Janma Rasi”?

Everyone knows their “birthday” by the conventional “Julian calendar”. When one is born in the Universe, each one is born under one of 27 *nakshatras* and also under the 12 rasis. The same “birthday” when translated according to the astronomical observations mentioned above is called Janma nakshtram or Janma rasi. You can easily find this out at various websites OR call Temple and talk with a Priest. Provide them your Date of birth, Time of Birth and Place of Birth (as accurately as possible). They will be able to determine the Janma Nakshtram, padam, and Rasi.

What is the significance of Janma nakshatra and Janma rasi in Vedic astrology?

Hindus believe that the “Star” or Rasi under which you were born has a very significant influence in your life and in shaping your destiny. The Star or Rasi in which you are born is akin to a life force and the ruling deity influences one’s life through very specific attributes that decide your life and future. Hindus

also believe that these powerful “Stars” and Rasis have “God like” roopams and are worshipped as “Gods”.

What is the correlation between Navagrahas and Janma Nakshatras?

The term Navagraha denotes the nine celestial bodies which are central to astrological calculations and beliefs in Hinduism. The seven planets corresponding to the days of the week (Soma, Mangala, etc.) and the two shadow planets (Amavasya and Poornima) together are called “Navagrahas”. Every graham/planet has its own importance and plays a vital role in deciding the course of our lives. Each Graham carries a specific energy quality and the life of every individual is affected by the planets. Their positions at the time of birth dictate the future of an individual’s life. Navagrahas are also worshipped in “God like” roopams and have presiding deities that govern them. Navagraha Sannidhis (temples) are ubiquitous. Practically every temple that serves a large community has a “Navagraha” Sannidhi. Devotees routinely perform Navagraha abhishekam, homam, archana and puja, especially to Saneeswara. When certain planets “transition” people attend the religious rituals in masses. Navagraha Puja is performed to reduce the negative effects and improve the positive energies related to a person. Navagraha puja is done by many devotees. It is believed that one is alleviated of almost all sins in poorva Jannma and this Jannma once prayers are offered to Navagrahas. To serve that need we built and dedicated a “Navagraha Sannidhi” in our temple in 2007.

Why should we pray for our “Janma Nakshatram”?

Our Priest Chakradhara Padhi ji quotes from Jyothish Shastra:

“Nakshtranam Pooja nena ayu arogyam vardhete”

(Praying and seeking Blessings of Nakshtra Devathas increases longevity and good health)

“Graha shanti, Raasi shanti Sowbhagyam parivardhate”

(Praying and seeking Blessings of Grahas increases your wealth)

As it is clearly noted in the Hindu scriptures, praying to “Janma Nakshatram” increases life span, bestows good health. What more does one need!

How can I pray for my “Janma Nakshatram” : ?

Two years ago, world renowned, Sthapati Paramasivam recommended that we build an “All Star Sannidhi” aka “Nakshatra Mandalam”. He designed the gorgeous sannidhi and sculpted the 27 Nakshatra Devathas and Surya and Chandra as per agama Shastra. He recommended that we install these next to the “Navagraha” sannidhi so that Devotees can pray for both Navagrahas and their “Janma Nakshatram” at the same time! What a fantastic concept! No other temple in the world has such a “Combination Sannidhi”. Ours will be the very first unique temple to offer this wonderful opportunity to pray to both at the same time!

What is the Design of our NEW “Nakshatra Sannidhi” ?

Our Nakshatra Sannidhi is built like a “Wedding Cake”. It consists of two concentric circled “Peethams”. These two peethams hold the 27 “Stars”. The third Peetham, called the “Rasi Peetham” that “encompasses” all the 27 stars depicts the signs of the 12 Rasis. The “Lords” of these 27 Stars and the 12 Raasis are “Surya” and “Chandra”. The two “Leaders” will be installed on top of the Raasi Peetham.



Why are we installing two leaders- Lord Chandra and Lord Surya?

We chose to install both Lord Surya and Lord Chandra as “adhipatis” for this mandalam. Per our puranams Lord Chandra has 27 wives (Tara Pati, Husband of Stars). HE lives in each “House” for one day. Hence it has been said that Lord Chandra is the “leader” for the Stars.

The holy Suktam, Aditya Hrudayam says that Lord Surya is the “Adhipati” for Nakshatrams. In fact the Dhyana slokam for our Nakshatra, Shakti Yagnam starts with the shloka “Nakshatra Graha Taranam adhipah” Is from Aditya Hrudayam.

Based on the above, our Sthapati suggested that we make both Sun and Moon as “leaders” for our “Unique Nakshatra Mandalam”.

What is Sthapana?

Sthapana is a short Sanskrit word that encompasses several religious steps involved in dedicating a temple to a “deity”. It is a process to establish a permanent place and consecrate the deity in the temple. There are various steps as per the Hindu tradition as noted here below:

1) Procure the deity and decide on an appropriate place.

- 2) Infuse “power” into small gold plates called “Yantram” by performing a prescribed regimen of tarpanam, homam and abhishekam.
- 3) Install this yantram and the Deity – called “Prana Prathistha”
- 4) Perform “Kumbhaabhishekam”

These “Sanctification” ceremonies and rituals are elaborate and celebrated with piety and gaiety hand in hand with great fervor and zeal. Many people believe that simply witnessing such historic events as Murti Sthapana and Prana Prathistha during one's life is a great Blessing from God and a once in a lifetime divine event!.

Many temples seek the help of a “Guru” or an “Acharya” to perform these rituals to make them “authentic”. In our temple we involve the “Community” members at appropriate stages. Our Koti Kum Kum archanas are designed to conclude with the “Stapana”.

How can I sponsor the Sthapana of my Janma Nakshtram?

As mentioned earlier, performing Pooja to “Janma Nakshatram” is very auspicious in Hindu traditions. Performing “Sthapana” of your “Janma Nakshatra Devatha” is literally “Once-in-a-life-time” event and a very unique opportunity. We will place the Gold Yantram in your hands, do the Sankalpam on your family's name. You will then place the “Yantram” in its place and will then be requested to place your “Nakshatra Devatha” the “Deity” in the assigned place. Our Shilpi Gowrishankar then will complete the physical act of fixing the “deity” in the peetham. All this takes place while priests chant appropriate Suktams from vedam.

When are prayers offered to the Nakshatrams so far ?

Everyday our priests we invoke “Nakshtram” in our daily worship. For example, every day during the afternoon arti we offer Mantra Pushpam with “Nakshtranivaapa mayatanam ayatanavan bhavati ...

On all major festivals we perform “Nakshatra Harati” with 27 wicks by reciting Sri Suktam which says “Nakshtrani Roopam....”

Future Nakshatra Sannidhi in our temple:

We will be welcoming the First Nakshatra Mandala Sannidhi with Sahasra Kalasa Kumbabhishekam on Sunday, May 26. After that you can pray to your “Janma Nakshtram” by offering “Archana” or by performing “Nakshatra Pooja” which includes Nakshatra Homam and Archana. More sevas will be offered as we develop the Sannidhi.

We urge everyone to please understand the concept and reasoning behind the Creation of the First Nakshatra Mandala Sannidhi in the world and certainly not miss this unique opportunity to Sponsor your very own Janma Nakshtram!

Sponsor Your Star NOW !!!