PANCHANG

A ONE-PAGE GLOSSARY

The five limbs of Vedic timekeeping. Every panchang table on the site is built from these. Reference against a live day at **nakshara.app/panchang**.

तिथि Tithi

Lunar day. 30 in a lunar month, 15 each in the waxing (shukla) and waning (krishna) fortnights. Duration varies from ~19 to ~26 hours. Ends when the Moon is 12° ahead of the Sun for that number.

नक्षत्र Nakshatra

Lunar mansion. 27 fixed 13°20' segments of the zodiac; the Moon crosses one per ~24 hours. Your natal nakshatra is where the Moon sat at your birth. Rules the first mahadasha in Vimshottari.

योग Yoga

Sun-plus-Moon longitude divided into 27 named windows. Sets a general "tenor" for the day (auspicious, mixed, difficult). Not the same word as the physical asana yoga.

करण Karana

Half of a tithi. 11 karanas rotate through the month. Used for muhurat picking and horary work.

वार Vaar

The seven weekdays, each ruled by a planet: Sun (रवि), Moon (सोम), Mars (मंगल), Mercury (बुध), Jupiter (गुरु), Venus (शुक्र), Saturn (शनि).

मुहूर्त Muhurta

An auspicious window for a specific action. Computed from tithi + nakshatra + yoga + karana + vaar for a given place and time. Common ones: Abhijit, Amrit Kaal, Vijaya, Brahma.

राहु काल Rahu Kaal

A ~90-minute inauspicious window each day, when Rahu is said to influence. Its time slot depends on weekday. Avoid starting new work in it.

अभिजित Abhijit

A short muhurat around solar noon (~48 min). Considered the day's most reliably auspicious window for most actions.

ब्रह्म Brahma Muhurta

The 48 minutes before sunrise, ~4:24-5:12 AM in most Indian cities. Traditional time for meditation and study.

चौघड़िया Choghadiya

Day and night each divided into 8 windows of ~90 min. Each labelled shubh, laabh, amrit (auspicious) or udyog, kaal, rog (inauspicious). Used for quick everyday muhurat picks.

एकादशी Ekadashi

Eleventh tithi of each fortnight. Vishnu-linked fasting day, observed 24 times a year plus adhik mas extras. Parana (breaking) time depends on tithi end.

प्रदोष Pradosh

Thirteenth tithi's twilight window (~2 hours before + after sunset). Shiva-linked vrat, especially strong when it falls on a Monday (Soma Pradosh) or Saturday (Shani Pradosh).

अमावस्या Amavasya

The no-moon day. New lunar cycle begins the next day. Traditional day for shraddha and ancestral offerings.

पूर्णिमा Purnima

The full-moon day. Considered auspicious for many rituals; specific purnimas carry their own names (Guru Purnima, Sharad Purnima, etc.).

संक्रांति Sankranti

The Sun's move into a new zodiac sign. 12 per solar year. Makar Sankranti (into Capricorn) is the most widely observed.

गोचर Gochar

Current planetary transit. What your rashifal is actually reading — where each planet is right now, relative to your natal Moon.

लग्न Lagna

Ascendant sign. The zodiac sign rising on the eastern horizon at a given moment. Shifts every ~2 hours; sensitive to birth-time errors.

दशा Dasha

Planetary periods that structure the entire life. Vimshottari (most common) runs 120 years, split unequally across the 9 grahas starting from the natal Moon's nakshatra lord.