

Practical Pañcāṅga – Introduction Part 3 (Yoga)



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Welcome back! Hopefully, by this point in our sojourn, you are convinced that the Pañcāṅga is a perfect blend of intrigue and utility when it comes to being part of the Jyotiṣi apparatus. Today, we will explore Yogas in the realm of Pañcāṅga.

First things first, the Yogas referenced in the context of Pañcāṅga are different from the Graha Yogas that we have all come to know and love. In that, Pañcāṅga Yogas, also called Nitya Yogas, aren't formed by any Saṁbandha between two or more planets. Please always bear that in mind whenever Yogas are referenced in the context of Pañcāṅga. With that out of the way, let's see what Yogas in Pañcāṅga are all about.



Definition and Meaning

The word Nitya means constant or eternal. The romantic in me likes to think of Nitya Yoga as this never-ending ballroom dance between the luminaries against the backdrop of the ever-glittering and glimmering ecliptic. This dance between the primordial masculine and feminine energies birthed this existence as we know it, and will still be around when we're all long gone. The dance analogy will make much more sense once you understand the way in which the Pañcāṅga Yogas are derived.

The determination of Yoga is driven by the concept of Yogi Point. The Yogi Point, just like the Lagna, is a constantly changing locus, albeit slightly slower moving than the Lagna. It's calculated as follows:

$$\text{Yogi point} = \text{Sun's longitude} + \text{Moon's longitude} + 93^{\circ}20'$$

Some of you might be curious to know why the oddball $93^{\circ}20'$ is part of the math. Be patient, and that mystery will be unveiled in due course.

Starting from the point calculated above, each progression of the Yogi point by $13^{\circ}20'$ is considered to be a new Yoga. Note, the definition says progression of the Yogi point and not the Moon.

Most books and material out there will tell you that, just like Tithi, the Yoga changes when the Moon covers a distance of $13^{\circ}20'$ from the Sun. That is NOT correct. The Yoga is determined by the Yogi point's movement and not the Moon's distance from the Sun. Please take a minute to digest that before moving on.

The $13^{\circ}20'$ arc that distinguishes Yogas gives rise to 27 of such Yogas (listed below). Yes, you guessed right. That's how the Nakṣatras roll as well, since a $13^{\circ}20'$ arc is one Nakṣatra and there are 27 of them. The corollary being, there is a one-to-one mapping between the two. But here's where it gets interesting. The first Yoga is mapped to Pushya and not to Ashwini. The explanation for that lies in the mystery that we encountered earlier.

Let's go back to the Yogi point calculation for a moment. The oddball $93^{\circ}20'$ is part of the formula because it marks the beginning of Pushya Nakṣatra ($3^{\circ}20'$ of Cancer). The Vedic Seers deemed Pushya as the most auspicious of Nakṣatras (except for weddings). We could speculate that the great benefic Jupiter being exalted in the first pada of Pushya (at 5° Cancer) had something to do with that.

Also, it can't be a mere coincidence that Pushya is the only Nakṣatra ruled by a deity (the ever-benevolent Brihaspati) who is the anthropomorphized form of the planet (Jupiter) it exalts. It therefore wouldn't have been too far-fetched to conclude that the beginning of Pushya was chosen to be the first Yogi point.

In other words, for someone born with Sun and Moon at 0° degrees Aries, the Yogi point coincides with the starting point of Pushya. Furthermore, since this is where the Yogi point begins its journey through the Zodiac, this point also becomes the starting point of the Nitya Yogas. That's the reason why the first Nitya Yoga maps to Pushya Nakṣatras, not to Ashvini.

Believe me, this is one of those Jyotiṣa Easter eggs that is a rare find. So, keep it in mind to share with your Jyotiṣa buddies the next time you're gathered around the campfire at a Jyotiṣa conference.

#	Name	Sanskrit Name	Meaning
1	viṣkambha	विष्कम्भ	obstacle in the form of a pillar
2	prīti	प्रीति	love and affection
3	āyusmāna	आयुष्मान	long lived
4	saubhāgya	सौभाग्य	good luck
5	śobhana	शोभन	virtuous
6	atigandha	अतिगन्ध	overpowering smell
7	sukarma	सुकर्म	good deeds
8	dhṛti	धृति	courage and steadfastness
9	śūla	शूल	spear
10	gandha	गन्ध	smell
11	vridhhi	त्रिद्धि	increase
12	dhruva	ध्रुव	immovable
13	vyāghāta	व्याघात	obstacle
14	harṣaṇa	हर्षण	thrill
15	vajra	वज्र	thunderbolt
16	siddha	सिद्ध	accomplished
17	vyatipāta	व्यतिपात	calamity
18	variṃyāna	वरीयान	sought after
19	parigha	परिघ	iron mace
20	śiva	शिव	Vedic God Śhiva
21	siddhi	सिद्धि	accomplishment
22	sādhya	साध्य	to be formed
23	śubha	शुभ	auspicious
24	śukla	शुक्ल	white
25	brahma	ब्रह्म	Vedic God Brahma
26	indra	इन्द्र	Vedic God Indra
27	vaidhṛti	वैधृति	painful

Importance

Yoga as a Pañcāṅga element takes on the qualities of its planetary ruler Jupiter. As such, a favorable Yoga bestows divine grace and therefore has the potential to offset some of the less favorable influences (if any) introduced by the other four Pañcāṅga elements.

Please do bear in mind, the word favorable is a very relative term in the realm of Jyotiṣa. One could therefore argue that all Yogas and all other Pañcāṅga elements are favorable, even the unsavory sounding ones, so long as we the observers are standing facing our own true Norths. After all, some of us like sunrises more than sunsets, and vice-versa.

Putting aside that minor philosophical digression, another reason Yogas seemingly wield that kind of power probably has to do with the fact that they germinate from the power-packed Yogi point. After all, it's that *sphuta* that captures the most elated point in the luminaries' dance with respect to our time of birth.

It not only defines the Yoga that has its effect throughout our lives, but also defines the Yogi and Sahayogi Grahas (definitions below) that, irrespective of their innate nature (benefic or malefic), function as well-wishers for any given Kuṇḍali.

The Nakṣatra in which the Yogi point falls is called the Yogi Nakṣatra. The ruler of that Nakṣatra is deemed the Yogi planet and the Rasi ruler of the Yogi point is called the Sahayogi (translates to "with" or "along with" Yogi).

Then there is the Avayogi point (add 186°40' to the Yogi point) and its Avayogi (Nakṣatra ruler of the Avayogi point) as well. As you might have guessed, the Avayogi is simply the counter force to the Yogi. After all, it's always Yin-Yang, especially when talking about the dance of the luminaries. The Avayogi point and Avayogi are classified as "unfavorable" especially from a material success and prosperity point of view.

The detailed usage and interpretation of these are a topic for another day. Nonetheless, the Yogi and Avayogi points and Grahas are such power vortexes in any natal chart that it would be prudent for all Jyotiṣis to pay attention to the following during chart interpretation:

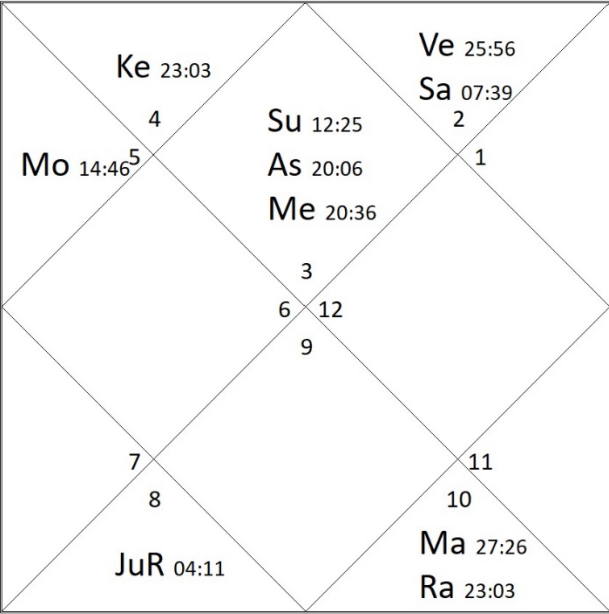
1. Periods of the Yogi and Avayogi grahas.
2. Periods of any Grahas in the same Nakṣatra Pada as the Yogi or Avayogi point.
3. Periods of any Grahas in Saṁbandha with the Yogi or Avayogi.
4. The transits of the Yogi, Avayogi, JU, SA or Rahu-Ketu over the Yogi or Avayogi points.

In the interest of brevity, I haven't even mentioned the Sahayogi-related permutations, but those should be kept in mind as well.

Interpretation

Last month we analyzed Elon Musk's chart using the Karana filter. In this go-around, we'll look at Musk's Yogi point and the corresponding Yoga under which he was born.

		Sa 07:39 Ve 25:56	Su 12:25 As 20:06 Me 20:36
	Elon Musk 28 June 1971 @ 07h30 Pretoria, South Africa		Ke 23:03
Ma 27:26 Ra 23:03			Mo 14:46
	JuR 04:11		



The Yogi Point Chart is a diamond-shaped diagram with 12 points. The points are labeled as follows: 1 (Ve 25:56), 2 (Sa 07:39), 3 (Su 12:25), 4 (Ke 23:03), 5 (Mo 14:46), 6 (As 20:06), 7 (JuR 04:11), 8 (Ma 27:26), 9 (Ra 23:03), 10 (Ma 27:26), 11 (Ra 23:03), and 12 (Su 12:25). The points are connected by lines to form a diamond shape.

Musk's Yogi point is 0°31' of Aquarius, thereby falling in Dhanishta Nakṣatra. Dhanishta is ruled by Mars which makes Mars the Yogi in Musk's chart. Saturn, the ruler of Aquarius, takes on the role of the Sahayogi.

Musk's Yogi point calculation is shown in the table below. For calculation purposes, all positions are to be considered relative to 0° Aries. E.g. Sun in this case is at 12°25' of Gemini which is two full signs and an additional 12°25 away from 0° Aries.

		Signs	Degrees	Min
Sun		2	12	25
Moon	+	4	14	46
Constant	+	3	3	20
	=	9	29	91
Yogi point	=	10	00	31

It's a fairly straightforward summation, the only thing to be kept in mind is that each $\geq 60'$ interval is an additional degree and each $\geq 30^\circ$ interval is an additional sign. That's why in the above example the 91' gets converted to 1° and 31' and the additional degree that is carried forward makes the total 30° (29° + 1° carried over) and is in turn converted to an additional sign thereby changing the sign count from 9 to 10. The Yogi point therefore is at 31' after 10 whole signs have elapsed i.e. 0° 31' Aquarius.

As illustrated in the previous article, Mars Dasha (May 2005 to April 2012) was very favorable for Musk:

1. Musk became Tesla CEO in 2008.
2. In the same year, SpaceX also achieved its first major milestone with the successful launch of Falcon 1.
3. The Tesla IPO came out in 2010, raising \$226 million, and the share price jumped 41%.

Now, adding $186^{\circ}40'$ to the Yogi point would bring us $7^{\circ}11'$ of Leo, making that the Avayogi point for Musk. It falls in Magha Nakṣatra, thereby making Ketu the Avayogi.

Saturn transited Musk's Avayogi point in September of 2007. According to the most popular encyclopedia of our times (read ChatGPT), the second half of 2007 was a particularly challenging period for Musk. During that period:

- The first model of the Tesla Roadster was way over budget and behind schedule. That led to tensions between Musk and then-CEO and Tesla co-founder Martin Eberhard. Musk had to inject millions of his own money into the company and began pushing for greater control of Tesla that resulted in Eberhard being ousted. This series of events led to lasting bad blood between the two. Eberhard would later sue Musk for defamation.
- On the personal front, Musk filed for a divorce with his first wife in Spring of 2008. We could therefore speculate that the Saturn transit was either a strong catalyst or the proverbial nail in the coffin.

With that, dear friends, time for you to go look up your own Yogi and Avayogi points and Grahas to see how they've played out in your life so far. Like everything else in Jyotiṣa, that past should help you inform your glimpse into the future.

Until next time, stay safe and happy Jyotiṣing.

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Pratik is an IT professional by day but a Jyotiṣi at heart. Drawn to Jyotiṣa since his teenage years, he has always relied on it for Divine guidance and grace. He never considered studying Jyotiṣa till he got immersed into learning it by sheer happenstance at age 41, when he had his Lagneśa (Jupiter) and Saturn transiting his ascendant, which he believes brought about this destined transformation. Since then, he has been ardently pursuing the magical science with the sole intent of using it to better his life, the lives of his loved ones and anyone else that the Universe sends his way. To him, Jyotiṣa is a sadhana that brings him mental peace and emotional bliss. He can be reached at [jyotishforgood2020@gmail.com](mailto:jyotishforgood2020@gmail.com).