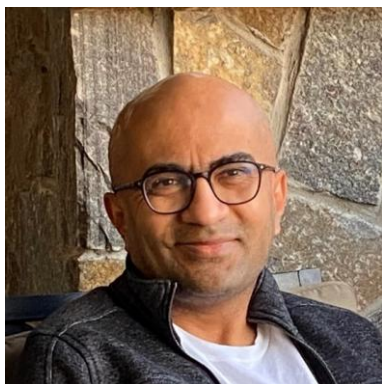


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Practical Pañcāṅga – Tithis in-depth Part 3 (Practicum)

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, goes the adage. So does all theory and no practicum make a dull Jyotiṣi. Towards that end, we will now explore ways in which Tithis can be used in Jātaka (natal) analysis. We'll start with a quick understanding of the math and move on to the juicier bits.

Calculation

A Tithi marks a 12° interval between the Sun and the Moon. Let's start with Shukla Pratipad which is the 1st Tithi after the New Moon. The New Moon is when the Sun and Moon are at the exact same longitudinal degree. For simplicity, let's say the Sun and Moon are at 0° Aries (the last time that happened was on 14th April 2010 at 8.38 am EST). That would mark the beginning of Shukla Pratipad and it would last until the Moon is somewhere beyond the 12° Aries mark at which point Shukla Dwitiya would start. Once the Moon reaches a little beyond 24° Aries, it would be Shukla Tritiya and so on. For every 12° increment of the Moon, the Tithi increments by one until it reaches the 15th Tithi at which point the counter resets back to one.

Modern day Jyotiṣa software makes it a breeze for us to know the Tithi at any point in time. Nonetheless, being able to spot and use the Tithi for natal interpretation without the computational aid can exponentially boost a Jyotiṣi's ability to connect to and decipher the chart. With enough practice, deciphering the Tithi becomes second nature just like spotting a Yoga or recognizing a Nakṣatra.

Here's the quick and easy for calculating the Tithis:

For a Shukla Paksha (waxing) Moon, simply deduct the Sun's longitudinal position from the Moon's, divide it by twelve degrees, and the Tithi is the remainder + 1. For a Kṛṣṇa Paksha (waning) Moon, we would need to do the additional step of adding 180° to the position of the Moon before doing the other two steps.

For example, as of this writing, the Sun is at 12°19' of Scorpio and Moon is at 15°16' of Aquarius.

1. The Moon has progressed: 10 signs, 15 degrees, 16 minutes.
2. The Sun has progressed: 7 signs, 12 degrees, 19 minutes.
3. The difference between the two is: 3 signs, 2 degrees, 57 minutes, i.e., 92 degrees and 57 minutes. (92°57')
4. Dividing that difference by 12°, we get a quotient of 7 and a remainder of 8°57' which for now we can ignore. Adding one to our quotient of 7, we arrive at 8.
5. The Tithi is therefore Shukla Aṣṭami, soon to become Shukla Navamī.

Common attributes and characteristics

In *Intro to Pañcāṅga 1* (Mar '25 newsletter) we discussed how the Pañcamahābhūtas (the Elements) are the source of all life forms as we know them today.

The other fundamental concept that we hear often in the realm of Jyotiṣa are the three Gunas (Rajas, Tamas, Sattva). The easiest way of comprehending the concept is to think of them as three giant buckets that can help us sort everything that we ever conceive, sense or experience. These buckets are mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive. The seemingly simple topic of Gunas is probably one of the most difficult to comprehend, and is probably one of the largest philosophical icebergs out there.

For now, we can simply think of Sattva as another word for the Big Bang and all the other creative sparks since then that have brought us to where we are today. Rajas is the Divine turbine that electrifies our existence and keeps us going and, finally, Tamas as the Universal furnace that melts everything and anything that has served its purpose so that it can be re-casted into something more useful using Sattva. So goes the never-ending Kalachakra (cycle of time).

When combined, these Pañcamahābhūtas and Gunas constitute fifteen unique archetypes that form the seed of individual personalities by way of their Tithis. The Grahas and Bhavas, along with their respective Rāśīs and Nakshatra placements, build on top of this foundation to make us who we are in this lifetime. It is therefore a worthwhile endeavor for any Jyotiṣi to know, contemplate and comprehend these archetypes. Let's get introduced to them for now, and later we'll delve further into them as part of our deep dive into each Tithi.

The table below shows the codification of the 15 archetypes and their mapping onto the 15 Tithis.

Tithi Category	Pañcamahābhūtas	Puruṣārtha	Core archetype	Rājas	Tamas	Sattva
Nanda	Fire	Dharma	Focused action	1	6	11
Bhadra	Earth	Artha	Material stability	2	7	12
Jaya	Air	Kama	Fulfilling desires	3	8	13
Rikta	Water	Moksha	Spiritual dissolution	4	9	14
Purṇa	Ether	-		5	10	15

The table above, once fully digested, is the golden key to knowing which Tithi is favorable for what activity, thereby providing a solid foundation for anyone hoping to master the art and science of Muhurta. That foundation can then be extended to natal interpretations as well.

For example, the 11th Tithi (Ekādaśī) is widely accepted as a good day for fasting (considered to be one of the most Dharmic of activities). It is a combination of Sattva and Agni (fire). The logic being, fasting is the mechanism whereby the body leverages the digestive fire to cleanse our God-given furnace (stomach), thereby purging it of unwanted gunk, and cleansing it (Sattva) so that it can serve us trouble free for much longer than it otherwise would.

Natives born on Ekādaśī tend to have an eternal innate fire that nudges to them towards pursuits of higher truths and righteous action. Given the presence of other corroborating factors in the chart, these natives can become great lawyers, judges, social activists, spiritual guides, religious scholars. Additionally, if they learn how to channel and focus this fiery energy by way of meditation, yoga, Tai Chi and the like, it exponentially boosts their ability to do good. The possibilities for applying this golden key in interpretations are endless and limited only by our ability as Jyotiṣis to intuit its powers. As mentioned earlier, we'll explore them further as part of our deep dive into each Tithi.

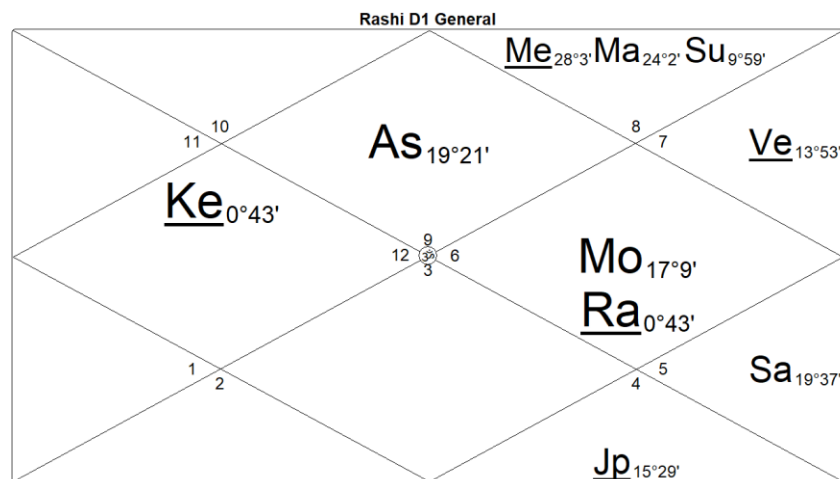
Tithi Rashi

Among the many well-guarded gems of Jyotiṣa, this one is probably one of the bigger and brighter ones. The easiest way to understand the concept of Tithi Rāśi and its importance is to think of it as a native's personal Fountain of Youth, a lifelong source of emotional contentment and well-being, provided it's discovered early in life and harnessed in a meaningful fashion.

The Tithi Rāśi is determined by dividing each Tithi into 12 parts with each part being associated with a Rasi, first Aries, then Taurus and so on until the last one, Pisces. The distance the Moon has traversed in a given Rasi then helps determine the Tithi Rasi. For example, in the chart below, the Tithi Rāśi is Scorpio. Here's how it's derived.

The Sun is at 9°59' of Scorpio. The Moon is at 17°09' of Virgo. The Moon has therefore traversed beyond the Sun a total distance of 307°10' (20°01' in Scorpio, 270° from Sagittarius through Leo, finally 17°09' of Virgo). Dividing that distance (307°10') by 12° we get a quotient of 25 and a remainder of 7°10'. That means 25 Tithis (15 of the Shukla Paksha and 10 of the Krishna Paksha) have elapsed from the last New Moon and the 26th Tithi is in progress. That makes the birth Tithi Krishna Ekadashi.

Now, given the 7°10' within the current Tithi, we can deduce that 7 of the 12 parts within Krishna Ekadashi have been traversed. Therefore, the Moon is in the 8th part of the Tithi, giving us the Tithi Rasi of Scorpio.



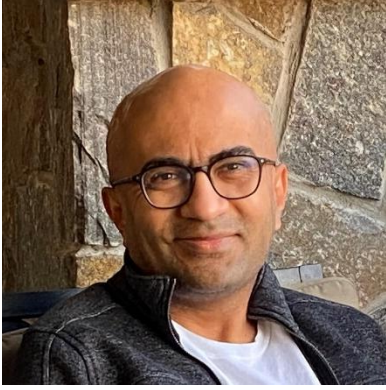
It is very difficult to substantiate the above concept by way of celebrity charts, since there is no way of knowing what their innate source of emotional happiness is unless they have documented it by way of a biography. Hence, although resistantly, the above example is my own birth chart.

In my case, Scorpio, by way of its innate characteristics, its placement in the 12th Bhava, the Grahas placed it in and the ones aspecting it, collectively define and characterize my personal fountain of youth, i.e., spirituality, the eternal source of energy and inspiration that I have on innumerable occasions relied on to make lemonade with the countless lemons that life has thrown at me.

The Tithi Rāśi, therefore, is that hidden gem that we as Jyotiṣis can help our patrons discover and explore to take their personal and professional lives to a whole other level of satisfaction.

This concludes our three-part in-depth examination of the Tithis. Next year we'll start exploring the Tithis individually. In the meantime, coming up next is an exploration of the fascinating and relatively unexplored tools of Navatārā Cakra and Kāla Cakra, so stay tuned, folks. Namaste.

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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.