

ACVA Newsletter 2026-01 – Technical Article



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Navatārā cakra – Part 1

Navatārā cakra quite simply and literally means “wheel of nine stars”. If you haven’t heard about it before today, it’s probably because it’s not as mainstream in the world of Jyotiṣa as Yogas or Nakṣatras. Nonetheless, as we shall see over the course of the next few months, this relatively obscure and modest sounding tool packs as much punch as its more sought after Jyotiṣa cousins. The Navatārā cakra doesn’t involve any complex calculations or arduous memorization, making it an easy-to-use tool for every Jyotiṣi to add a few extra layers of personalization to natal readings.

Definition

The word *Tārā*, in common parlance, refers to a star. In the context of the Navatārā Cakra though, the word *Tārā* refers to Nakṣatras. The 27 asterisms, divided into three groups of nine each (Navatārā), arranged in a circle (Cakra), form the Navatārā Cakra. The three groups are called Janma (birth), Karma (action) and Ādhāna (consecration) or more precisely Janmaṛkṣa, Karmaṛkṣa and Ādhānaṛkṣa respectively. The word Ṛkṣa means lunar mansion. Traditionally the counting for these groups starts with the Moon’s Nakṣatra placement but can as easily be extended to the Ascendant. Within each group, each of the nine asterisms is labeled as follows.

Sr. No.	Names	Sanskrit
1.	Janma	जन्म
2.	Sampad	सम्पद्
3.	Vipad	विपद्
4.	Kṣema	क्षेम

5.	Pratyak	प्रत्यक्
6.	Sadhana	सधन
7.	Naidhana	नैधन
8.	Mitra	मित्र
9.	Atimitra	अतीमित्र

The names repeat within each of the groups and are prefixed by the group name e.g. Karma Sampad, Karma Vipad and so on. The only exceptions are the first Tārā in each group. i.e. the first Tārā in Karmaṛkṣa is called Karma Tārā and the first Tārā in the Ādhānaṛkṣa is called Ādhāna Tārā. We will get into the details (meaning, significations and interpretations) of each of these in a bit but before that, a quick refresher of the Vimsottarī Dasha system might be in order, especially around the determination of the first Mahadaśā and the sequence of the other Daśās, since the Navatārā Cakra is built on top of those foundational elements.

1. The Vimsottarī Dasha system is by far the most popular Daśā in the Parāśari Jyotiṣa system.
2. It postulates that a native's lifespan is approximately 120 years and divides the time span amongst the nine Grahas in the following order:
 - a. Ketu – 7 years
 - b. Venus – 20 years
 - c. Sun – 6 years
 - d. Moon – 10 years
 - e. Mars – 7 years
 - f. Rahu – 18 years
 - g. Jupiter – 16 years
 - h. Saturn – 19 years
 - i. Mercury – 17 years
3. It also states that each of the Grahas owns a set of three Nakṣatras as outlined below:

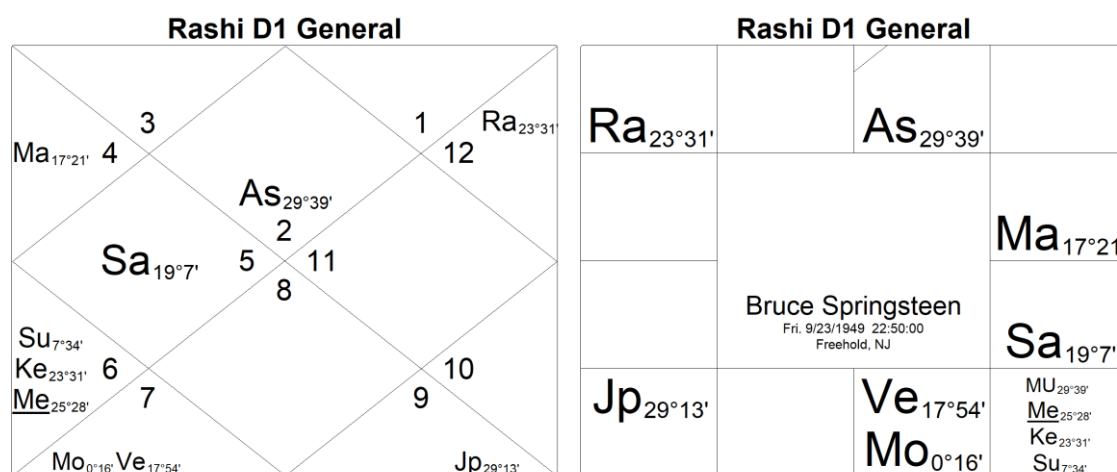
Graha	Nakṣatras owned		
Ketu	aśvini	māgha	mūla
Venus	bharāṇi	purva phālguni	purva aṣāḍha
Sun	kṛttikā	uttara phālguni	uttara aṣāḍha
Moon	rohiṇi	hasta	śravaṇa
Mars	mṛigasira	citra	dhaniṣṭha

Rahu	ārdra	svāti	śātabhiṣa
Jupiter	puṇarvāsu	viśākhā	pūrva bhādrapada
Saturn	puśya	anurādhā	uttara bhādrapada
Mercury	aśleṣā	jyeṣṭha	revatī

Please bear in mind that the Graha ownership of the Nakṣatras listed above *only* applies to the Vimsōttarī Daśā system and the ownership in no way implies that the Nakṣatras take on the qualities of the Graha rulers. This is a misunderstanding about which even many experienced Jyotiṣis are mistaken.

- The first Daśā is determined by the Nakṣatra that the Moon is placed in at the time of birth.

Consider the chart of legendary rock star Bruce Springsteen. Springsteen was born with his Moon in Citra Nakṣatra, Mars was therefore his first Mahadaśā lord, followed by Rahu, then Jupiter and so on.



Coming back to our topic at hand, The Navatārā Cakra postulates that a Mahadaśā lord delivers the results of each of its Nakṣatras starting with the first Nakṣatra from the Moon, then moving onto its second and third Nakṣatras respectively. It does so, by dividing its period into three equal parts.

Continuing with Springsteen's chart, Rahu ruled his second Mahadaśā (Feb 1953 to Feb 1971). As mentioned previously, Rahu's Mahadaśā period is 18 years and can therefore be evenly divided into three equal parts of six years each. The first Rahu Nakṣatra after Citra is Svāti, the second being Śātabhiṣa and third being Ārdra. Thus, according to the Navatārā Cakra principles, Rahu would have (in theory) delivered the results as follows in Springsteen's case:

- In the first six years (Feb 1953 to Feb 1959), it would have delivered the results of its (Rahu's) first Nakṣatra following the natal Moon's placement i.e. Svāti Nakṣatra. Let's elaborate on that a bit. In this case, Rahu would deliver results based on the innate

characteristics of Svāti Nakṣatra, any Grahas occupying Svāti Nakṣatra (Venus in this instance) and the Bhāva in which the Nakṣatra falls i.e. 6th house.

2. In the following six years (Feb 1959 to Feb 1965), Rahu would have delivered the results of Śātabhiṣa Nakṣatra and the 10th Bhāva.
3. In the last six years (Feb 1965 to Feb 1971), Rahu would have delivered the results of Ārdra Nakṣatra and the 2nd Bhāva.

Additionally, in this case, Svāti would be considered part of the Janmaṛkṣa group, Śātabhiṣa would be considered part of the Karmaṛkṣa, and Ārdra would be considered part of the Ādhānaṛkṣa. Thereby, the results delivered by each of the Nakṣatras would be further nuanced by the Ṛkṣa they belong to. So, in Springsteen's case Rahu's first third would have influenced Springsteen's persona and personality, Śātabhiṣa would have brought about events and changes that in turn influenced his career and Ārdra would have brought about life events that eventually contributed to his spirituality quotient.

Based on publicly available information about his life, following are some of Springsteen's life events that corroborate the principles stated above.

1. During 1956-57, an impressionable Bruce saw Elvis Presley perform on The Ed Sullivan Show, kindling his desire to learn music and eventually follow the footsteps of The King himself. We can confidently say that his Lagneśa Venus, placed in its own sign, being the Kāraka for arts and music, was responsible for "turning him on" to the world of music and showmanship. In Viśottarī, Springsteen ran Rahu-Jupiter during this timeframe. Rahu is placed in the 11th house and Jupiter is in the 8th. Neither is connected to Venus in any way. Hence, without applying the Navatārā principle, Venus's notable influence on Springsteen's life during the said Daśā-Bhukti couldn't have been determined.
2. 1964 is when he performed in public for the first time, and 1965 is when he joined the band The Castles as the lead guitarist. He went on to become the lead singer for the same band later in life. Rahu very clearly gave the results of Śātabhiṣa situated in his 10th house of career.
3. During the last six years of Rahu, Springsteen suffered a concussion from a motorcycle accident (1966), graduated high school but skipped his graduation (1967), his parents moved to California with one of his sisters while he and his other sister stayed back in New Jersey (1969), all of which we can appropriate to the transformative energy that Ārdra is well-known for with the last two events being about the 2nd house of education and family which is where Ārdra happens to fall in his case.

If we were to look closely, none of the above events could have been anticipated just by looking at Rahu as the Mahadaśā lord or the respective Bhukti lords for the stated events and periods. That just goes to showcase the power that the Navatārā brings to bear. And we're just getting started, so stay tuned.

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Pratik Mehta 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* until he became immersed in 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 vyotishforgood2020@gmail.com.