



Navagrahas

The Navagrahas are the nine celestial bodies of Hindu astrology. These nine deities represent those planets and positions in the sky that are thought to influence our lives.

They are Suryan (Sun), Chandran (Moon), Chevvai (Mars), Budhan (Mercury), Brahaspathy (Jupiter), Sukran (Venus), Sanishwara (Saturn), Rahu (Serpent head representing the ascending lunar node), and Ketu (Serpent tail representing the descending lunar node).

Suryan - Sun

Suryan is the chief of the Navagrahas, the nine Indian planets, which are important elements of Hindu astrology. He is often depicted riding a chariot harnessed by seven horses, which might represent the seven colours of the rainbow or the seven chakras in the body. He is also the presiding deity of Sunday. Surya is regarded as the Supreme Deity by the Saura sect and Smartas worship him as one of the five primary forms of God.

The best day to pray is Sunday.

The dhanyam (offering) is Wheat.

Use red flowers to pray.

Prayers will bring good health.

Chant the Surya Gayathri Manthra:

*Om Aswadwajaya Vidhmahe,
Pasa Hasthaya Dheemahe,
Thanно Surya Prachodayath.*

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on the God who has the horse on his flag, Oh, God, who holds the rope, give me higher intellect, and let the Sun God illuminate my mind.





Chandran - Moon

He is described as young, beautiful, fair; two-armed and having in his hands a club and a lotus. He rides his chariot (the moon) across the sky every night, pulled by ten white horses or an antelope. He is connected with dew, and as such, is one of the gods of fertility. He is also called Nishadipati (Nisha = night; Adipathi = Lord) and Kshuparaka (one who illuminates the night). He, as Soma, presides over Somavaaram or Monday. He is of Sattva Guna and represents the Mind, the Queen or Mother.

The best day to pray is Monday.

Prayers will bring peace of mind.

The dhanyam is paddy (husked raw rice).

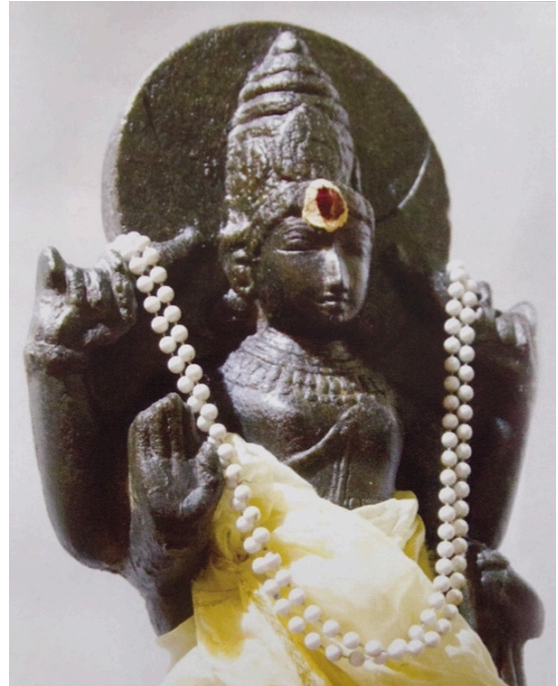
Use white flowers to pray.

Chant the Chandra Gayathri Manthra:

*Om Padmadwajaya Vidhmahe
Hema roopaya Dheemahe
Thanno Chandra Prachodayath*

Meaning:

Om, Let me meditate on God who has the lotus on his flag, Oh, God of golden colour, give me higher intellect, And let the moon God illuminate my mind.





Chevvai - Mars

Mangala is the name for Mars (Chevvai), the red planet. Mars is also called Angaraka (one who is red in colour) also called Rakta varna (whose colour is like blood) or Bhauma ('son of Bhumi') in Sanskrit. He is the god of war.

He is considered the son of Prithvi or Bhumi, the Earth Goddess. He is the owner of the Aries and Scorpio signs, and a teacher of the occult sciences (Ruchaka Mahapurusha Yoga).

The best day to pray is Tuesday.

Prayers will help with wedding delays, land purchase and will help to remove Chevvai Dosha

The dhanyam is toor dhal.

Use red flowers to pray

Chant the Chevvai Gayathri Manthra:

*Om veeradhwajaaya vidmahe,
vighna hastaaya dheemahi,
tanno bhouma prachodayaat.*

Meaning:

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the hero on his flag, Oh, He who has power to solve problems, give me higher intellect. And let the son of the earth God illuminate my mind





Budhan - Mercury

Budhan is the god of the planet Mercury and the son of Chandra (the moon) with Tara (Taraka). He is also the god of merchandise and protector of merchants. He is of Rajas Guna and represents Communication.

He is represented as being mild, eloquent and of greenish colour. He is represented holding a scimitar, a club and a shield, riding a winged lion in Ramghur temple. In other illustrations, he holds a sceptre and lotus and rides a carpet or an eagle or a chariot drawn by lions. Budhan presides over 'Budha-vaaram' or Wednesday.

The best day to pray is Wednesday.

The dhanyam is moong dhal.

Use green flowers to pray.

Prayers will enhance buddhi (knowledge) and education

Chant the Budhan Gayathri Manthra:

*Om gajadhwajaaya vidmahe,
sukha hastaaya dheemahi tanno budha
prachodayaat*

Meaning:

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the elephant on his flag, Oh, He who has the power to grant pleasure, give me higher intellect, And let Budhan illuminate my mind.





Brahaspathy - Jupiter

He is also known as Guru, the god of wisdom and eloquence, to whom various works are ascribed, such as the "atheistic" Brihaspatya sutras. According to Hindu scriptures, he is the guru of the Devas and the nemesis of Shukracharya, the guru of the Danavasa. Guru is usually depicted with an elephant or chariot drawn by eight horses as his vehicle. He is also depicted in a lotus flower.

His Tattva or element is Akasha or Ether, and his direction is north-east. He is described as yellow or golden in colour and holding a stick, a lotus and his beads. He presides over 'Guru-vaaram', Brihaspativaara or Thursday

The best day to pray is Thursday.

Prayers will bring good health, job prospects and success in business

The dhanyam is chickpeas.

Use yellow flowers to pray.

Chant the Guru Gayathri Manthra:

*Om vrishabadhwaajaaya vidmahae ,
kruni hastaaya dheemahi,
tanno guru prachodayaat*

Meaning:

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the bull on his flag, Oh, He who has power to get things done, give me higher intellect, And let Guru illuminate my mind.





Sukran - Venus

He presides over 'Shukra-vaara' or Friday. He is Rajas in nature and represents wealth, pleasure and reproduction. He is of white complexion, middle-aged and of agreeable countenance.

In Astrology, there is a dasha or planetary period known as Shukra Dasha which remains active in a person's horoscope for 20 years.

This dasha is believed to give more wealth, fortune and luxury to one's living if a person has Shukra positioned well in his horoscope as well as Shukra being an important beneficial planet in his/her horoscope.

The best day to pray is Friday.

Prayers will help with arranging marriages and also marital problems.

The dhanyam is hyacinth bean.

Use white flowers to pray

Chant the Sukran Gayathri Manthra.

Sukran Gayatri Mantra:

*Om aswadhwaajaaya vidmahae,
dhanur hastaaya dheemahi,
tanno shukra prachodayaat.*



Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the horse on his flag, Oh, He who has a bow in his hand, give me higher intellect. And let Sukra illuminate my mind.



Sanishwara - Saturn

Sani is a deva and son of Surya and Chhaya, hence also known as Chayyaputra.

He is the elder brother of Yama (the Hindu god of death) who in some scriptures corresponds to the deliverance of justice. Surya's two sons Sani and Yama, judge.

Sani gives us the results of one's deeds through one's life, through appropriate punishments and rewards.

The best day to pray is Saturday.

Prayers will help to remove Sani Dosha and will prolong life

The dhanyam is sesame seed.

Use blue flowers to pray

Chant the Sani Gayathri Manthra.

*Om kaakadhwajaaya vidmahe,
khaḍga hastaaya dheemahi,
tanno mandah prachodayaat*

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the crow on his flag, Oh, He who has a sword in his hand, give me higher intellect And let Sanishwara illuminate my mind.





Rahu – God of Ascending Lunar Node

In Hindu tradition, Rahu is the severed head of an asura, that swallows the moon or sun, causing eclipses. Astronomically, Rahu and Ketu denote the points of intersection of the paths of the Sun and the Moon as they move in the celestial sphere. Rahu is God of the ascending/north lunar node.

The best day to pray is Saturday.

Prayers will remove Sarpa Dosha (which causes difficulties in marriage and conceiving).

The dhanyam is Urud dhal. Use Durva grass – Lord Ganesha's favourite!

Chant the Rahu Gayathri Manthra.

*Om naakadhwajaaya vidmahe,
padma hastaaya dheemahi,
tanno rahu prachodayaat.*

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the snake on his flag, Oh, He who has a lotus in his hand, give me higher intellect, And let Rahu illuminate my mind.





Ketu - God of the descending lunar node

Astronomically, Ketu and Rahu denote the points of intersection of the paths of the Sun and the Moon as they move on the celestial sphere. Ketu is God of the descending / south lunar node. He is believed to have a tremendous impact on human lives and the whole of creation.

The best day to pray is Saturday. Prayers will remove Sarpa Dosha (which causes difficulties in marriage and conceiving) and confer true gnanam (spiritual knowledge) and moksha (eternal bliss).

The dhanyam is horse gram kollu.

Use multi-coloured flowers to pray

Chant the Kethu Gayathri Manthra:

*Om aswadhwaajaaya vidmahae,
soola hastaaya dheemahi,
tanno ketu prachodayaat.*

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on him who has the horse on his flag. Oh, He who has a trident in his hand, give me higher intellect, And let Ketu illuminate my mind.

