Jyotish

What is Jyotish?

Jyotish means the science of light. Not the external, material light, but that light which enlightens the inner self; which minimizes uncertainty; which allows us to plan our future, to put all the chances on our side and to reduce the risk of failure.

When practiced correctly, jyotish is an excellent tool within Sanatan Dharm to help us avoid pitfalls and take remedial action to achieve a smoother, balanced life, as we strive for material and spiritual progress.

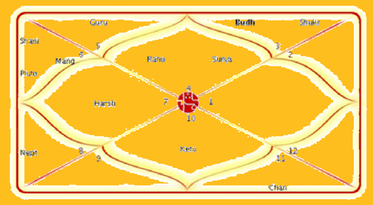
Jyotish, the ongoing practice of ancient Vedic astrology, is unique in many ways. Spirituality is the basis of jyotish and it is designed to reveal the inner person. Changing the inner person can also change his/her outer life.

By looking at the planets and their relationships, we can determine their influences on our well being, and consequently chart a path towards prosperity, health, happiness and the ultimate goal of moksh.

What is unique about jyotish is that it offers simple solutions to compensate for the influences of celestial bodies. Therapies include mantrs, meditation, rituals, herbs, aromas, gems, lifestyle and spiritual suggestions. Therefore, like vastu and ayurved, jyotish offers solutions so people can take control of their lives.

Sanatan Dharm promotes harmony, encourages us to seek resonance with our surroundings, and teaches us that alignment between the individual and the forces of the universe is desirable. Through tools such as vastu, ayurved and jyotish, we align our vibrations with those of the universe for a happy, productive and ideal life; to seek perfection.

The observations that have led to the science of jyotish were compiled over thousands of years. During this time, rishis observed the stars and the solar system, identifying patterns and trends. They painstakingly mapped relationships between the forces at play in the universe and our everyday lives. No one can deny the effects of the moon on tides, or that of the seasons on agriculture. The early jyotishis understood how our uniqueness is, in part, a function of our date, time and place of birth, and they learned how we carry that uniqueness throughout our current life, reacting differently to universal forces.



The Rashis
(12 signs of Vedic astrology)

Mesh
Vrishab
Mithun
Karkata
Simh
Kanya
Thul
Vrishchik
Dhanus
Makara
Kumbh
Meena

The Nakshatrs
(27 fixed stars of Vedic Astrology)

Ashvini
Bharani
Kritika
Rohini
Mrigashir
Ardra
Punarvasu
Pushya
Ashlesh
Magh
Purv Phalguni
Uttar Phalguni
Hasta
Chitra
Swati
Vishakha
Anuradha
Jyeshth
Mula
Purva Ashadh
Uttara Ashadh
Shravan
Dhanisth
Satabish
Purva Bhadrapad
Uttara Bhadrapad
Revati

Jyotish is based on astronomy in that jyotishis need to know the correct positions of the planets at any given time, as well as the correct positions of the zodiacal fixed star signs in relation to any place on earth at any given time. Once the correct positions of the signs and planets are known, jyotishis then construct charts representing these positions, and using jyotish, study the charts and can make quite a wide range of conclusions about the moment the chart was cast for. Charts are cast based on an exact moment at an exact place on Earth. Therefore, the moment we were born and the place we were born has a chart, or can have a chart, and that is our "birth chart". Jyotish can be used for other things such as the chart of a question asked (called "Prashn") or for planning when to do certain actions (called "Muhurth"). Primarily, jyotish can be used to understand ourselves, or our karm for this life.

Jyotish also has a great number of techniques for studying the charts, which gives it a predictive edge compared to Western astrology. For example, the "dashas" or "planetary ruling periods" system give jyotishis a tool for predicting the trends, changes and events in people's lives with good accuracy regarding dating when things will take place. Therefore, jyotishis are less limited to talking about a person's general self and can get more deeply into what is likely to happen in that person's life.

The sciences of jyotish, ayurved and vastu are among those ancient scientific disciplines that have been developed, challenged, tested, and perfected over thousands of years in Bharat, not mere decades. If jyotish was based on superstition, if its predictions were inaccurate, then it would have disappeared a long time ago because people would have stopped relying on it. As a result, even in kaliyug, people still rely on *jyotish* for indications on how to chart a safer, more successful path in life.