

Dhanu (month)

Dhanu, **Dhanus** or **Dhanurmas** (धनुर्मसि) is a month in the Hindu calendar, Malayalam calendar and others.^{[1][2]} It corresponds to the zodiacal sign of Sagittarius, and overlaps with approximately the second half of December and about the first half of January in the Gregorian calendar.^[1]

Contents

Other names

Astrological sign

Etymology and significance

References

Other names

In Vedic texts, the Dhanus month is called **Sahas** (IAST: Sahas), but in these ancient texts it has no zodiacal associations.^[3] The solar month of Dhanu overlaps with its lunar month Pausha, in Hindu lunisolar calendars.^{[4][5]} The Dhanu marks the winter season for the Indian subcontinent. It is preceded by the solar month of Vṛścika, and followed by the solar month of Makara.^[2]

The Dhanus month is called *Margali* in the Tamil Hindu calendar.^[1] The ancient and medieval era Sanskrit texts of India vary in their calculations about the duration of Dhanus, just like they do with other months. For example, the *Surya Siddhanta* calculates the duration of Vrschika to be 29 days, 7 hours, 37 minutes and 36 seconds.^[5] In contrast, the *Arya Siddhanta* calculates the duration of the Vrschika month to be 29 days, 8 hours, 24 minutes and 48 seconds.^[5]

Dhanurmas or Dhanur Masa is also known by the names Chapa Mas, Kodanda Mas, Karmuka Mas etc. Chapa, Kodanda, Karmuka etc., in Sanskrit are synonyms of Dhanus; meaning a bow. It is the month of margashira and so also called Margazhi masam in Tamil. Sri Krishna in bagavatam says 'Maasanam Margashirshoham' ... meaning 'I am the margashira in the months'. Dhanurmasa is also called as Shoonya Masa because it is generally advised not to conduct any good things other than godly and holy functions.

Astrological sign

Dhanu is also an astrological sign in Indian horoscope systems, corresponding to Sagittarius (astrology).^[6]

Etymology and significance

This period of month is considered as highly auspicious for Vishnu devotees. Old Hindu scriptures have set apart this month to be completely focused on devotional activities. Other non-devotional activities (such as weddings, purchase of property etc.) are prohibited during this month so that attention can be given exclusively to the worship of God without any diversions. In South India, especially the Vaikunta Ekadasi, which falls during Dhanur Mas, attracts thousands of devotees. Temples conduct special pujas during this period.

Sri Krishna in *Bhagavad Gita*, says **मासानां मार्गशीर्षोहम्** 10.35. I manifest more in *Margashirsha* Maas among the different months in a year.

According to tradition, the Gods wake up early in the morning during the month of Dhanurmas. They perform special prayers to Sri Maha Vishnu during the auspicious period of "Brahm Muhurta", which is one and half hours before sunrise. During this month, devotees offer prayers to the Lord very early in the morning. The month of Dhanurmas is considered a very special month for performing Puja of Vishnu.

Dhanurmas Phal Shruti: Worshiping Vishnu on a single day during this auspicious period is equal to worshiping Vishnu with devotion for 1000 years. Every single step taken towards the nearby lake, river etc. for morning dip during this month brings forth merit equal to performing an Ashvamedha Yaga.

During this period the sun is in the *Sagittarius* or "धनु राशि",^[7] the period when the sun passes from Sagittarius to *Capricorn* or "मकर राशि" is considered as a period of scarcity to the plenty in India.^[8] Feeding or giving alms to the deserving poor and *Brahmins* during this period is believed to confer great merit i.e. *Punya*.^[9]

References

1. James G. Lochtefeld (2002). *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Hinduism: A-M, N-Z (Vol 1 & 2)*. The Rosen Publishing Group. p. 425. ISBN 978-0-8239-3179-8.
2. Robert Sewell; Śaṅkara Bālakṛṣṇa Dīkshita (1896). *The Indian Calendar* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=Q8MiAQAAAJ>). S. Sonnenschein & Company. pp. 5–11, 23–29.
3. Nachum Dershowitz; Edward M. Reingold (2008). *Calendrical Calculations* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=DPbx0-qgXu0C>). Cambridge University Press. pp. 123–128. ISBN 978-0-521-88540-9.
4. Christopher John Fuller (2004). *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=To6XSeBUW3oC>). Princeton University Press. pp. 291–293. ISBN 978-0-69112-04-85.
5. Robert Sewell; Śaṅkara Bālakṛṣṇa Dīkshita (1896). *The Indian Calendar* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=Q8MiAQAAAJ>). S. Sonnenschein & Company. pp. 10–11.
6. Bangalore V. Raman (2003). *Studies in Jaimini Astrology* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=gW2DIFHrxfG>). Motilal Banarsidass. pp. 10–19. ISBN 978-81-208-1397-7.
7. Jackson, A. M. T (2007). *Folk Lore Notes*. pp. ix.
8. *Andhra Pradesh*. 13. Andhra Pradesh (India) Department of Information and Public Relations. 1969. p. 45.
9. Chalapati Rao, Gudlavalleti Venkata (1983). *Sri Venkatachala, its glory*. Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam. p. 83.

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dhanu_\(month\)&oldid=875977956](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dhanu_(month)&oldid=875977956)"

This page was last edited on 30 December 2018, at 09:29 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.