Many have asked us to compile an article on the Hindu calendar for example what are the **Festivals dates** and **Rahu kalam**

*** Do note the information given below for the **festival dates** is from the S.A.H.M.S. We don't take any responsibility for the information supplied by them. We ONLY have done this for Hindu uniformity within South Africa. Should you have any issues with their dates below please do contact them on 031 3091951 or email sahms@worldonline.co.za ***.

{Another point of note is when you see a * before a prayer date it means this is not in the general Hindu calendar that Hindus have in their homes. I have added these dates because these are equally important prayer dates that sadly seems to be ignored every year.}

DO NOTE:- All times indicated below, associated with the start or end of a religious day are in 24-hour format.

Firstly the **Festival dates** are the dates that a Hindu observes. This is quite self explanatory. For example for Shree Ganesh Chaturthi, we have a full explanation of this very important festival date on our website. Many ask what is this festival all about and how does one go about celebrating it. Hence this website is meant to make people from all cultures more aware of these important Hindu festival dates. We have included a few more festival dates below that are not generally on the typical Hindu calendar. For more info on the festival dates for 2016 kindly visit our website www.dipika.org.za.

**Makar Sankranti** 14th January
**Thai Pongal** 15th January
**Thai Poosam Kavady Flag Raising** 15th January
* **Shakambhari Devi Jayanti** 23rd January (The Devi who provides us with nourishments)
**Thai Poosam Kavady** 24th January
**Vasant Panchami** 12th February
* **Varahadeva Jayanti** 19th February (The appearance day of Lord Varaha)
* Nityananda Jayanti 20th Feb (The appearance day of Nityananda Prabhu)

Maha Shivaratri 07th March

* Gaura Purnima 23rd March (The appearance day of Caitanya Mahaprabhu)

Holika Dahan 23rd March

Hindi New Year 8th April

Telugu New Year 8th April

Ramayana Week (First Navaratri) Starts 8th April - Ends 15th April.

* Vasant Navaratri 8th April - 15th April.

Tamil New Year 14th April

Raam-Navami (Ramnaumi) 15th April

Hanuman Jayanti 21st April

* Kathiri period Kathiri Veyyil - Agni Nakshatram (3rd – 28th May)

* Sita Jayanti 15th May (The appearance day of Ma Sita - Lord Raam’s wife)

* Nrsimhadeva App day 20th May (The appearance day of Lord Nrsimhadeva)

* Ganga Puja 14th June (The appearance day of River Ganga)

Pandava Nirjala Ekadashi 16th June

* Ambubachi Mela 22nd – 26th June (When Devi menstruates in Guwahati, India for the rejuvenation of Planet Earth)

* Aadi Madham (Porridge prayers) 16th July – 15th August

Guru Purnima 19th July

Naag Panchami 7th August

Vara Lakshmi Vratam 12th August

Raksha Bandhan 18th August

* Balarama App Day 18th August (The appearance day of Lord Balarama)

Gita Week Starts 19th August ends 25th August

Krishna Ashtami 25th August

Ganesh Chaturthi 5th September

* Radhastami 9th September (The appearance day of Shree Radhe)

* Vamana Jayanti 13th September (The appearance day of Lord Vamana)

Pitar Paksh Period 17th – 30th September

Pitar Paksh Starts 16th September @ 21h04.

Offer 1st water oblations (Tarpana) on the morning of the 17th after sunrise.

Last water oblations to be offered after sunrise on the 30th September

Pitr Paksha officially ends on 1st October @ 02h09

Mahalaya Paksham 17th – 30th September. (Pitar Paksh followed in South India)

* Purattasi 18th September – 17th October.

MAHA Navaratri 1st – 10th October.

Shree Saraswati Pooja 8th October

Shree Durga Astami 9th October

Shree Durga Navami 10th October

Vijay Dashami 11th October

* Sharad Purnima 16th October
* Damodara (Karti) Maas – Starts 16th October and Ends on 14th November.
Kartik Month starts @ 06h22 on the 16th October & ends @ 15h50 on 14th November

* Karwa Chauth 19th October (Vrat a wife observes for her husband’s long life).
* Dhan Trayodashi 28th October
* Naraka Chaturdasi 29th October

Deepavali / Lakshmi Puja 30th October (Please read below)

*** Amavasya (New Moon) starts on 29th October @ 17h09 and ends on 30th October @ 19h36. Hence the darkest nights of Kartik (Amavasya - New/No Moon) falls on both the 29th and 30th although new Moon proper falls on the 30th.

Govardhan Pooja 31st October
Gujarati New Year 31st October

Skanda Sashti 5th November (Skanda Shasti Vrat begins on Oct 31)
Prabhdhini Ekadashi 11th November
Kartik Purnima 14th November

Gita Jayanti 10th December
Karthigai Deepam 12th December
* Dattatreya Jayanti 13th December
* Katayyaani Vrata 15th November to 13th December (Vrat for a good partner)

Additional important dates for 2016:

* Shani (Saturn) Amavasya (New Moon) 9th January, 4th June.
* Somvaar Amavasya (New/No Moon) Monday 8th February, 4th July
* Purnima (Full Moon) Monday 22nd February, 20th June, 14th Nov.
* Shani Pradosham (Trayodashi Saturday) 6th Feb, 20th Feb, 2nd July, 12th Nov.
* Soma Pradosham (Trayodashi Monday) 7th March, 21st March, 12th Dec, 26th Dec

Rahu Kalam. Timing in the Hindu or any advance culture is of the utmost importance. Whether it’s in the telling of a joke or striking a business deal, there’s nothing more important than timing. What you do is important but when you do it is just as important. We all know the importance of timing in the material world. Even little kids understand the importance of timing. When they want their next cool toy, they catch their dads in a good mood and butter them up! Thus we have known the importance of timing right from our childhood. Our sages say that what we need to learn now is that timing is just as important in the world of spirituality. Just as timing is important in the material world, it’s important in the world of spirituality too. The efficacy of one’s spiritual practices can be increased greatly by timing it according to Vedic injunctions.

According to Vedic astrology, Rahu Kalam is that 1.1/2 hrs of a day, that are inauspicious periods and one should not undertake any auspicious work during these periods - especially any new undertaking, prayers, weddings and so forth. I will be releasing a day by day Rahu kalam in detail shortly…

Sunday 12h00 – 13h30
Monday 07h30 – 09h00
Tuesday 13h30 – 15h00
Wednesday 09H00 – 10H30
Thursday 15H00 – 16H30
Friday 10H30 – 12H00
Saturday 06h00 – 07h30 and 16h30 – 18h00

DISCLAIMER: Do note that Dipika is not affiliated to any Hindu group or organization. We at Dipika choose to remain an independent repository of spiritual advice. We appreciate that there are variances between organisations and humbly request that if our views differ from yours that you respect our decision not to conform to the prescripts of your particular organisation. We remain committed to spiritual advice which is based on scripture.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification of certain topics. Jai Hind... Jai Shree Radha Krsna.

Please do visit our Website to receive more free information about our beautiful culture

www.dipika.org.za

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#Team-Dipika