

interview

chant Mrityunjaya mantra, keeping water in a holy pot and bathe with chanted water. This will increase the longevity.

- Pregnant women should pray to Lord Sun, in the open air. Let the Sun rays bless the fetus; this will give safe delivery and healthy child.
- Perform simple Lakshmi pooja daily.
- Avoid 4, 5, 8 as the numerological total for the date of marriage.

● Divinity begins at home, make home a temple.

● Always smile, smile and smile, as it is the best yoga that keeps you physically and spiritually healthy. It sustains the divine nature in you.

● Worship the family deity for family progress.

Regarding astrology, I feel that it needs to be spiritualized. Mere learning of astrology will not help the astrologer to predict the events imbedded in Karma. One requires

the divine help; so an astrologer has to perform regular Sadhana. Also, there should be more evidence-based approach in predicting events.

My Guru used to tell me to analyze the chart in three aspects:

i) Analyze the chart based on astrological rules.

ii) Listen to the inner voice and compare the findings with the astrological interpretation.

iii) See the event with divine vision to confirm it.

VAIKUNTA EKADASI

THE Dhanur masa Sukla Paksha Ekadasi is Vaikunta Ekadasi falling on 30 December 2006.

The traditional Vaikunta Ekādasi is wonderfully observed in Sri Ranganam in Tiruchi and Tirumala Tirupati in the solar month of Dhanur (*December-January*). During this month, the Sun transits through Dhanur Rasi i.e., the Sign Sagittarius. Vedas and Agamas recommend that the mornings in this month are ideal for worship of the Lord.

In Kerala, they call this as “*Guruvayoor Ekadasi*” It is believed that the gates to the heaven are open on this day. People fast completely on this day.

Shaivaites call this Nanjunda Ekadasi. It was on this day that Lord Shiva consumed ‘*nanju*’, the poison that emanated from the churning of the ocean.

Also known as Mokshada Ekadasi, it is a very special Ekadasi in more than one way.

Anyone who gifts a Bhagavad Gita to a deserving person on this day is bestowed profuse blessings by Lord Krishna.

SITA KALYAN

KING Janaka’s daughter Sita and Lord Rama were united in wedlock aeons ago, after Lord Rama broke the famous bow, which was a pre-condition to marry Sita. This ritual is performed every year, after conducting a Yajna

The yajna will culminate on the designated Tithi, which is the day of Vivah Panchami (*Sukla Paksha*). This is the very day, when Sita and Lord Rama were united in wedlock. It is said that when they were married even “*Time*” stood still, to stand and watch that spell-binding event

Let all of us celebrate the same event Sita Kalyan, enacted everywhere this year also.

This year, it falls on 25 November.

SKY WATCH – DECEMBER 2006

- Mercury will be visible quite brightly, very low in the East before Sunrise.
- Venus can be sighted in the evening sky.
- Mars will reappear in the morning sky after a long time, in the first week of December. It passes 4° N of Antares (Jyeshtha) on 19 December. It is conjunct with Jupiter on 12 December.
- Saturn and Jupiter will be visible in the morning sky. Jupiter will be in conjunction with Mercury on 10 December and with Mars on 12 December.