

Address by Mrs. D. Purandeswari, Hon'ble Minister of State  
for Human Resource Development  
at The All India's Astrological Conference  
at Secunderabad On 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007  
on "Jyotisha – The Mirror Of The Future".

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I am glad to be here this morning in participating in this All India Astrological Conference in Secunderabad where very eminent scholars from all over the country have congregated to deliberate on the various issues pertaining to Astrology. The theme of the conference is "Jyotisha – The Mirror of the future."

Friends, the subject matter of the conference is a fascinating one.

"Janani Janma Soukryanam  
Vardhini Kula Sampandam  
Padi Poorva Punyanam  
Likyathe Janma Patrika"

It means....

"For the welfare of the mother and the child  
For the growth of the family happiness  
To follow the ancient virtuous practices  
The horoscope is written"

The first question that one is confronted in this context is whether astrology is a science. This is the most common question posed about astrology by both sets of people – the non-believers and the rationalists who claim that astrology exploits the fear and insecurity of people. The believers of astrology and the astrologers themselves stoutly defend the stance that astrology is a precise science. The standard definition of science is that it is a branch of knowledge or study dealing a body of facts or truths, systematically arranged, and showing the operation of general laws. Whereas astrology is defined broadly as a study that assumes and attempts to interpret the influence of heavenly bodies on human affairs. So it will be observed that Astrology do not exactly fit in the parameters of science which is defined as a method

of research in which a problems are identified, relevant data is gathered, a hypotheses is formulated from these data and these hypotheses are empirically tested. Astrology, it must be admitted has never strictly followed the stages of scientific methodology, namely data gathering, hypothesis formulation and empirical testing.

However, although Astrology cannot be considered a perfect physical science, it can be safely regarded as a behavioural science like Economics which is also not perfect or precise like physical science. Astrology is the science of understanding the subtle influences that comes from the greater universe. These very subtle influences define our actual traits, potential, life pattern, marital compatibility, progeny, past and future. The insightful knowledge of our ancient spiritual teachers regarding various facets of life is passed on as the blessings of Jyotish. It is up to us to receive and cherish the divine knowledge for betterment and fulfillment of human life.

Jyotish Shastra has covered almost each and every aspect of human life in its continual process to understand and improvise itself. It has manifested those efforts in certain branches and applications. These benefits of astrology are being imbibed by scores of people round the world on a daily basis. Some of the major branches and applications of “Vedic astrology” are given below:

***Natal Astrology*** is a natal chart based on the day, date, time and location of the person’s birth. The chart is then used to study the life patterns, inherent characteristics and timing of events to detail about his past and future. This is the most widely used application in astrology.

***Electional Astrology*** deals in selecting the best time to initiate any given activity or project. Be it getting married, buying a new house, buying a car or launching a project. Muhurtas' or an auspicious time is selected by studying the horoscope of the person who is going to carry on the work.

***Mundane Astrology*** is the application of astrology to world affairs and world events. Weather forecast can also be included in this branch of astrology.

***Horary Astrology*** is a very old branch of astrology in which an astrologer will try to answer a question by drawing up an astrological chart or horoscope for the exact time and place at which that question came to mind or when it was put to them. This is also commonly known as "Prashnakundali".

***Medical Astrology*** is an ancient medical system that associates various parts of the body, diseases and drugs as under the influence of different planets and signs.

***Meteorological Astrology*** is the practice of using the placements of the Sun, Moon and planets in the sky to predict weather. It is also called as Natural astrology.

Horoscope Match Making is one of the most crucial application of astrology in India. Finding out the harmony between the two life partners is one of the main features of astrology. Gunas, yoni, lagna etc., are considered for eventual assessment.

Planets: In astrology, Planets are the celestial bodies, whose movements are tracked by keeping earth as the central point. These heavenly objects cast their influence on earth, nature and its inhabitants to a great degree. Although, technically Sun and Moon are not planets and Rahu and Ketu are just Lunar nodes, still they are essentially referred as planets in Hindu astrology. There also exist a period known as Maha Dasha, that refers to the ruling of a particular planet in the lifespan of an individual. The planets are divided into two groups according to their basic qualities and energies. Malefic planets are capable of producing unfavorable effects on the areas of life represented by the bhavas (houses). Their affect is by their placement or aspects. Sun, Mars, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are Natural Malefic. Benefic planets influence the horoscope in a positive manner. Moon, Jupiter and Venus are Natural Benefics. Mercury is a Neutral planet. Each planet imparts a distinct property to human beings. For example, Moon affects our emotional and thinking patterns. Mercury rules our communication skills and so on. The zodiac in which the planet is placed highly affects the basic qualities it imparts. The energy can be manifested in negative and positive traits owing to the overall assessment of the horoscope, and most importantly, to a person's free will.

### **Indian Astrology- An Ancient Science:**

Indian Astrology is considered to be one of the oldest, most accurate and consistent form of astrology all over the world. It is a natural cosmic science based on real astronomy. In India, where Astrology is taken very seriously, it is one of the most important gifts to the Indian culture. Indian Astrology is generally regarded to be very predictive in nature and hence, it can help you to face the future in a better way, evading any misfortunes or obstacles that might be laid down in your path to success. The ancient Vedas which are said to be the oldest religious literature available has

references to this science. "Jyothisha or Astrology" is one of the limbs of the "Vedas" which date back to 1500 B.C.. Hindus were the original masters who had the thorough knowledge of astronomy and many rituals and religious rites were related to the position of planets and their motions. Long before Kepler, Copernicus, Brahe, Galileo and other galaxy of astronomers were born, the Hindu sages had already gained much knowledge on the stellar or planetary universe.

### **Indian Astrology - Branches**

Indian Astrology has been divided into three main branches of study.

1. Siddanta
2. Samhita
3. Hora

*Siddanta* is that branch which is devoted to the astronomical study of celestial bodies Samhitas deal with mundane astrology, earth quakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, rainfall, weather conditions economic conditions and effects of sunspots. The next and the very important branch is the Phalitha Jyothisha branch which concentrates on the system of predictions. And this branch has six sub-divisions, namely, Jathaka, Gola, Prasna, Nimitta, Muhurta and Ganitha. Apart from these schools of planetary interpretations, we have what we can call as Nadi system which gives pen pictures of life and destiny patterns of people born at 12,24,48 seconds intervals. These have been written on palm leaves. Only very few experts can read and understand these, but the results and predictions are found to be amazingly accurate.

**Indian Astrology - In a nut-shell** The Indian astrology study consists of 27 constellations, in 12 lunar mansions. The movements of two luminaries Sun and Moon, five major planets (Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and Mercury) and the two nodal points

of the Moon i.e., Rahu and Ketu are considered and their positions are marked. The extra Saturnine planets like Pluto, Neptune and Uranus are not recognised by the Indian Astrology Above all, Moon is taken as very important planet for predictions though it is a satellite of earth. The Moon, at the time of birth is found in a particular position or in a particular star and it will be taken as the star of the person born. This star will be used for finding out the major and sub-periods of the person in his life.

**Indian Astrology - Utility** : To predict the future events. To match the birth-charts of the couple at the time of marriage for a successful married life. To provide a Life reading containing issues of a person's personal life. To find out the Muhurath (best time) to start any auspicious ceremony. To determine which stars are affecting one's life. To provide a remedy for your problems. To determine the right Gemstone to be used to become successful in life.

Astrology is being practiced for thousands of years in various parts of the world and is a manifestation of the human mind's first attempts to explain events in the world by association rather than by causal relationships. It would seem obvious that astrology is not just a superstition and that there is ample validity to major parts of astrological conclusions. People use astrology in many different ways, from investing in the stock market, making business decisions, to analyzing political situations and social movements. The applications of astrology are almost endless. There are many theories and approaches to astrology, and very little hard and fast scientifically proven facts, but a new foundation for astrology is being built, and there are people using astrology successfully in very concrete areas, such as investing and finance – that is certainly an area where one can pay dearly for making a mistake: Astrology currently does have the support and endorsement of some universities and research journals, but there are many very tricky and difficult problems that one encounters in attempting to scientifically test

astrological theories; but it can be done, it has been done already to a small degree, and the development of good software tools and the dedication and interest of many talented people in the field of astrology is now giving a rebirth to what may appear to be an ancient superstition which is gasping on its last breath. It is now proving to be one of the great technological wonders of the future. The profession of astrology seems to be the latest male bastion which women have invaded and conquered. With the help of horoscopes and tarot cards, these women answer sundry questions of corporate employees and predict their future. All through the history we find only male astrologers. This new phenomena is because Corporate prefer women astrologers since they are more patient with their clients. For the first time, 18 women have enrolled for the course in Potti Sriramulu Telugu University.

May I point out in this context that my illustrious father late Dr.N.T.Rama Rao had introduced in the Potti Sriramulu University in Hyderabad a formal discipline in the study of Astrology up to post-graduation level and is recognized and universally acclaimed. I understand that a few more universities in the country have similar courses which attract good number of student participation. The future of Astrology is, therefore, not as bleak as it is generally supposed.

With these words, I have pleasure in inaugurating the Conference.

JAI HIND

Dated: 20-06-2007

### **MESSAGE**

I am glad to know that the Secunderabad Chapter of the All India Astrological Conference is conducting a Conference on “Jyotisha – the mirror of the future” on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007, wherein eminent scholars from all over the country will participate and deliberate on various issues. I understand that a souvenir is also being brought out on this occasion.

Astrology is being practiced for thousands of years in various parts of the world and is a manifestation of the human mind’s first attempts to explain events in the world by association rather than by causal relationships. It would seem obvious that astrology is not just a superstition and that there is ample validity to major parts of astrological conclusions. People use astrology in many different ways, from investing in the stock market, making business decisions, to analyzing political situations and social movements. The applications of astrology are almost endless. There are many theories and approaches to astrology, and very little hard and fast scientifically proven facts, but a new foundation for astrology is being built, and there are people using astrology successfully in very concrete areas, such as investing and finance – that is certainly an area where one can pay dearly for making a mistake: Astrology currently does have the support and endorsement of some universities and research journals, but there are many very tricky and difficult problems that one encounters in attempting to scientifically test astrological theories; but it can be done, it has been done already to a small degree, and the development of good software tools and the dedication and interest of many talented people in the field of astrology is now giving a rebirth to what may appear to be an ancient superstition which is gasping on its last breath. It is now proving to be one of the great technological wonders of the future. May I point out in this context that my

illustrious father late Dr.N.T.Rama Rao had introduced in the Potti Sriramulu University in Hyderabad a formal discipline in the study of Astrology up to post-graduation level which is recognized and universally acclaimed. I understand that a few more universities in the country have similar courses which attract good number of student participation. The future of Astrology is, therefore, not as bleak as it is generally supposed.

With these words I wish the conference all success.

(D.PURANDESWARI)

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