

As I sit in the warm confines of my study, protected from the biting cold outside, two planets have changed their signs in the last few hours. Today, Mars has got out of the clutches of Rahu and has entered Capricorn (Makar), its Jyotish sign of exaltation (Uccha Rashi). And, Mercury has left the watery sign of Scorpio (Vrishchik) to enter the fiery Sagittarius (Dhanu) and has now come again in the shadow of Rahu. Let us take a look at the changes and happenings which these two transits will bring forth...

Makar is the Uccha rashi for Mangal and this usually aggressive planet acquires tact, speculative abilities and an increased willpower when it enters this sign ruled by Saturn. The present stay of Mars in this sign will end on 15th February 2011. The previous transit of Mars in Capricorn was from 29th January 2009 to 7th March 2009. The next transit of Mangal in Makar rashi will be from 18th December 2012 to 25th January 2013. During this transit, from 14th January 2011 to 15th February 2011, Mars and Sun will be in a yuti in Makar rashi and they will be joined by Mercury on 31st January 2011.

Mercury (Budh) was already in transit in Dhanu rashi which it had entered on 26th November 2010, but this fast moving grah had retrograded back to Scorpio (Vrishchik) on 23rd December 2010. Today, Budh has re-entered Dhanu and will stay in this sign for next 23 days, entering Makar rashi on 31st January 2011. The next transit of Mercury in Sagittarius will be from January 4th 2012 to January 24th 2012. Mercury has joined Rahu and Sun which are already in transit in Dhanu rashi.

More frauds and scams in the banking and finance sector will come to light. At the same time, strong and long term measures will be taken by the regulatory bodies to prevent any more financial scams in future. In India, the government will be able to control the rise in prices of essential commodities but it will still take more than a year when the prices stabilise to realistic levels. Convictions and punishments will take place quite frequently. Some real implementation of justice will be there.

For US and European nations, the economic recovery begins with the transit of Mars in Capricorn and quite good results will be seen in next six months. But, the stock markets are bound to take a fall in next one month as the funds start getting withdrawn from the overseas markets to the domestic ones. Markets in Asia, mainly in India, are going to suffer big setbacks in 2011 beginning with the slide in stocks as Mars enters Capricorn and Mercury in Sagittarius.

For the twelve moon signs and ascendants, these transits will have the following effects:

1. Aries - Mesh: Good improvement in performance at work, promotion, increase in income, improvement in health, appreciation from superiors for rising to the occasion and solving some difficult problems at work.
2. Taurus - Vrishabh: Health problems related to respiration and heart, business growth and

new strong partnerships, formation of plans for long distance journeys, an existing love relation can break in the first week of February 2011.

3. Gemini - Mithun: Unexpected gain of money, injury and health problems, damage to vehicle through accident, a friendship goes bad, uncontrollable expenses.

4. Cancer - Karka: More stability in work and business, new growth in own enterprise, acquisition of a commercial real estate, formation of strong business alliances, long distance beneficial journeys, improvement of relations with parents and siblings.

5. Leo - Simha: Good progress in work, better job offers, health problems like digestive ailments and hypertension to self, change of residence, a property deal may get into difficulty.

6. Virgo - Kanya: Serious health problems requiring bed-rest or hospitalization, increasing difficulties in real estate matters, straining of relations with children and other dependents, good progress in studies, increased chances of injuries and accidents.

7. Libra - Tula: Acquisition or sale of a lucrative real estate, vehicular accident, long distance travel, improvement in relations with family members, time to decide about marriage and existing love affairs.

8. Scorpio - Vrishchik: better job offer, good gains in business due to risky but highly beneficial investments, increase in expenditure, health problems like fevers, respiratory problems and digestive ailments.

9. Sagittarius - Dhanu: Increase in the burden of work at workplace, improvement in work performance by decreased satisfaction with the outcome, conflicts with superiors and colleagues, straining of relations with close relatives, health problems related to eyes, mouth, throat and digestion.

10. Capricorn - Makar: Improvement in health, increase in income, travels abroad, unexpected expenditures raising monetary concerns, profits from sale of a real estate.

11. Aquarius - Kumbh: Business expansion to foreign nations, increase in expenses, a legal issue related to taxation and accounting raises its head, secret love affairs may come to light causing loss of public image.

12. Pisces - Meen: Change in job for a better position, increase in income, business gains, sudden monetary gains, health problems to a close friend, beginning of a new venture in partnership with a good friend. improvement in health of self and of parents.