

## TIMINGS OF THE FIVE GAHS IN INDIA

Gah is an important factor in Manthra Prayers. It is absolutely essential that we must know the hours of each of the five Gahs to determine what prayers are to be chanted. Each Gah is directly related to the movement of the sun as appearing to us on our part of the earth. It is therefore necessary first to know the difference between the standard time and the local Time of our place.

Standard time in India is actually the local time of Allahbad. If you draw a vertical line passing through Allahbad on the map of India, the time on the left side of the line is behind the Standard time. Thus the local time in Bombay is about 40 minutes behind the std. time; so also at all places on the vertical line passing through Bombay. The Parsi pockets in Gujarat right upto Ahmedabad can safely be taken to be falling on the Bombay line; so also Udaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Lahore, Amritsar, Islamabad. To arrive at the right local time at all these places, we have to minus the std. time by 40 minutes. Thus 7 a.m. in the morning std. time is 6-20 a.m. Bombay time. 12 noon in Bombay is 12.40 p.m. std. time.

As we go right (i.e. east) of Bombay line, the time starts going ahead, till it is 40 minutes faster at Allahbad. You can have a rough idea about your local time according to the distance between your line (i.e. longitude) and Bombay line. Thus Akola, Bhopal, Gwalior, Agra, Delhi, Meerut, Chandigarh, Simla are almost midway between Bombay line and Allahbad line. The difference is therefore about 20 minutes behind Std. (Allahbad) time. Nagpur, Jabalpur, Kanpur, Dehradun are more towards Allahbad line say 10 minutes behind Std. time.

On the right of Allahbad line, Calcutta is half an hour ahead. 12 noon in Allahbad is 12.30 in Calcutta. Ranchi, Gaya, Patna are about 15 minutes ahead of Std. time.

The times of each of the 5 Gahs is as under:

### **Havan Gah : 36 minutes before sunrise to 12 noon local time.**

Note: local newspapers give the sunrise time of your place. Deduct 36 minutes and that is the start of Havan Gah. For example, if sunrise is at 6.30 a.m., Havan starts at 5.54 a.m. For determining the Havan's starting minute, you need not convert Std. time into local time; just deduct 36 minutes and start your Havan prayers at St - minus 36.

But determining the end of Havan and therefore beginning of Rapitvan requires conversion of Std. time into local time. 12 noon local time is the end of Havan. That means at Bombay and all places on Bombay line, Havan ends at 12-40 Std. time; on Delhi-line-places, at 12.20 Std. time; on Nagpur line, at 12.10 Std. time. And in Calcutta, 11.30 Std. time because Std. time is 30 minutes behind Calcutta. (12 noon in Calcutta is 11.30 in Allahbad). Remember your watch runs on Std. Allahbad time.

### **Rapithvan Gah : 12 noon Local time to 3 p.m. Local time.**

Note: 12 in Bombay is 12.40 Std.

12 in Delhi is 12.20 Std.

12 in Nagpur is 12.10 Std.

12 in Calcutta it is 11.30 Std.

Local 3 p.m. (afternoon) in Bombay is 3.40 Std. In Delhi is 3.20 Std. In Nagpur is 3.10 Std. In Calcutta is 2.30 Std.

Begin your Rapithvan prayers 10 minutes after the Gah's start.

### **Ujiran Gah : Local 3 p.m. to sunset.**

Start of Ujiran is the end of Rapithvan (given above).

For sunset see the local paper. It gives sunset according to Allahbad Std. time. So no need for any conversion. Follow your usual clock.

Begin Ujiran Prayers ten minutes after the Gah's start.

**Aivisruthrem Gah: Sunset to 12 midnight local time.**

Read Sunset time in the local paper. (No need for conversion). Aivisruthrem prayers should not be begun until 36 minutes pass after sunset.

12 midnight will differ at different places. Compute as in Rapithvan, but for midnight.

**Ushahin Gah : 12 midnight local time to 36 minutes before sunrise.**

For common people Manthra Prayers are forbidden between 12 midnight to 2 a.m. local time. (i.e. Std. time 2.40 in Bombay, 2.20 in Delhi, 2.10 in Nagpur, 1.30 in Calcutta).

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