



Types of Dashas in Vedic Astrology

By Arpita Nath · Timing & Prediction · 2026-07-28

In Vedic Astrology (Jyotish), a Dasha is a time-bound planetary period that activates specific houses, themes and karmic results in a birth chart (Kundli).

While the Vimshottari Dasha is the most widely used timing system, classical texts like the Brihat Parasara Hora Shastra outline dozens of different Dasha systems. These systems are categorized based on whether they are ruled by Planets (Nakshatra-based) or Zodiac Signs (Rashi-based).

Primary Timing Systems

- **Vimshottari Dasha:** Universal 120-year planetary cycle (Most essential).
- **Yogini Dasha:** 36-year short cycle for fast-moving events.
- **Chara Dasha:** Premier sign-based system for macro life moves.
- **Kalachakra Dasha:** Advanced system for sudden karmic turning points.
- **Ashtottari Dasha:** Conditional 108-year system used in specific chart setups.

The Two Main Families of Dashas

- 1. Graha Dashas (Planetary-Based):** Calculated from the position of the Moon in a specific lunar mansion (Nakshatra). In these systems, planets rule major periods of time.
- 2. Rashi Dashas (Sign-Based):** Popularized in Jaimini Astrology. Instead of planets, whole zodiac signs (Rashis) take turns ruling specific life chapters.

1. Most Common Graha (Planetary) Dashas

1. Vimshottari Dasha (120-Year Cycle)

- **Type:** Planetary (Nakshatra-based)
- **Application:** The universal gold standard for modern Vedic astrology. Applies to almost all birth charts.
- **Structure:** A 120-year total lifespan divided among the 9 planets (Navagrahas), starting from the Moon's birth Nakshatra.

2. Yogini Dasha (36-Year Cycle)

- **Type:** Planetary / Tantric
- **Application:** Extremely popular in Eastern and Northern India (like Bengal and Punjab) for quick, highly accurate short-term predictions.
- **Structure:** A 36-year cycle divided among 8 divine energies (Yoginis) - Mangala, Pingala, Dhanya, Bhramari, Bhadraka, Ulka, Siddha and Sankata.

3. Ashtottari Dasha (108-Year Cycle)

- **Type:** Planetary (Conditional)
- **Application:** Used specifically when Rahu is placed in a Kendra or Trikona house from the Lagna lord or for births during daytime in dark lunar fortnights.
- **Structure:** A 108-year cycle involving only 8 planets (Ketu is excluded).

2. Major Rashi (Sign-Based) Dashas

1. Chara Dasha (Jaimini System)

- **Type:** Sign-Based (Rashi)
- **Application:** The premier sign-based timing system from Jaimini astrology. Excellent for assessing career leaps, relocations and major life changes.
- **Structure:** Moves sequentially or in reverse through the 12 zodiac signs based on direct or indirect sign progression.

2. Kalachakra Dasha (Wheel of Time)

- **Type:** Hybrid (Nakshatra-based Rashi Dasha)
- **Application:** Known as one of the most powerful and complex systems described by Sage Parasara. Used to predict sudden shifts, life pivots and health turning points.
- **Structure:** Uses the quarter (Pada) of the Moon's Nakshatra to navigate a sequence of zodiac signs.

3. Narayana Dasha

- **Type:** Sign-Based (Rashi)
- **Application:** Considered the ultimate sign-based Dasha for predicting overall life direction, prosperity and status.
- **Structure:** Cycles through the 12 signs based on the strength of the 1st and 7th house rulers.

3. The 5 Nested Sub-Levels of a Dasha

No matter which Dasha system an astrologer uses, time is broken down into 5 nested layers of

sub-periods to pinpoint exact dates for events :

- **Mahadasha** - Major Periods (Years)
- **Antardasha** - Sub-period (Months)
- **Pratyantardasha** - Sub-sub period (weeks)
- **Sookshma Dasha** - Micro Period (Days)
- **Prana Dasha** - Precise Moments (Hours)

Summary

Think of Vimshottari Dasha as the main clock on your wall. Other systems like Yogini or Chara Dasha act as specialized timers - when multiple Dasha systems highlight the exact same event at the exact same time, that outcome becomes practically guaranteed!

<https://astroarpitanath.com/types-of-dashas/>

Astrology is offered for guidance only. For important life decisions, please consult a qualified professional.