# National Calendar of India – Saka Calendar

March 24, 2021

**In news :** Along with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), the CSIR and its Delhi-based CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) organized an event, "From Many to One: The Saga of the Indian Calendar"

**About Saka Calender**

- **Adoption:** The national calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from 22 March 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar
- It is called Shalivahana Shaka calendar and is used along with the Vikram Samvat calendar
- Dates of the national calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar, 1 **Chaitra** falling on 22 March normally and on 21 March in leap year
- Basis of the calendar is Luni-Solar.
- The national calendar of India is based on the Saka Calendar which has been adopted as the official civil calendar besides the Gregorian calendar.
- The Saka Calendar is based on luni-solar reckoning of time. The calendar consists of 365 days and 12 months
- The origin of the Shaka era is highly controversial  and there is a differing opinion among the historian about who started the Saka era, however most of the historians are of the opinion that the  beginning of the Shaka era is now widely equated to the ascension of king Chashtana in 78 CE

**Usage: It is being used for the following official purposes:**

- Gazette of India.

- News broadcast by All India Radio.
- Calendars issued by the Government of India.
- Government communications addressed to the members of the public.

## The names of the months in Saka Calendar are:

- Chaitra (March 21 – April 20)
- Vaishakha (April 21-May 21)
- Jyeshtha (May 22-June 21)
- Ashadha (June 22- July 22)
- Shravana (July 23-August 22)
- Bhadrapada (August 22-September 22)
- Ashwin (September 23-October 22)
- Kartika (October 23-November 21)
- Agrahayana (November 22-December 21)
- Pausha (December 22-January 20)
- Magha (January 21- February 19) and
- Phalguna (February 20-March 20/21)

## Calendar Reform Committee

- Senior Indian Astrophysicist Meghnad Saha was the head of the committee. under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- Other members of the Committee were: A. C. Banerjee, K. K. Daftari, J. S. Karandikar, Gorakh Prasad, R. V. Vaidya and N. C. Lahiri.
- The task before the Committee was to prepare an accurate calendar based on scientific study, which could be adopted uniformly throughout India.
- Usage started officially at 1 Chaitra 1879, Saka Era, or 22 March 1957.

## Digital Calendar and Diary of Government of India

Recently Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting the Digital Calendar and Diary of Government of India.

About the digital calendar/app

- The app was free and will be available in 11 languages from 15th January, 2021.
- The app will do away with the need for a new calendar every year
- each month will carry a theme and an accompanying message and will feature one famous Indian personality.
- The app will also inform people about the timeline of launch of various government programmes so far
- Because of the diary feature the calendar is more advanced, more feature laden and easier compared to other digital calendar apps
- The app has been designed and developed by Bureau of Outreach and Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC)

**The Government of India Calendar application contains the following features:**

- Latest information on various schemes, events and publications of Government of India
- Official holidays and various important dates.
- Inspirational and motivational messages from great personalities of our nation.
- Provision for taking notes digitally which will be stored with cutting edge security and privacy measures
- Provision for scheduling of meetings and setting reminders for important tasks and events.
- Accessibility features for visually impaired Divyangjans in coming days fulfilling the goal of Prime Minister's "Accessible India"/"Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan".