

HAND - GESTURES

The classification of Hands (hasta bheda).:- There are two kinds, the single (asamyut(a)) and the combined (Samyut(a)). There are twenty-eight single hands as follows:

Pataka - (flag) the thumb bent to touch the fingers and the fingers extended.

Tripataka - (Three parts of the flag) the third finger of the pataka hand is bent.

Ardha-Patāka - (half-flat) The little finger of the tripataka hand is also bent.

Kartari-Mukha - (arrow shaft face) in the same hand, the forefinger and little finger one - outspread.

Mayura - (Peacock) the third finger of the Kartari-Mukha hand is joined to the thumb, the other fingers extended.

Ardha-Candra - (half moon) the thumb of the Pataka hand is stretched out.

Arala - (bent) the first finger of the Pataka hand is curved.

Suka-tundaka - (Parrot's beak) the third finger of the - Arala hand is also bent.

Musti - (fist) the four fingers are bent into the palm, and the thumb set on them.

Sikhara - (Spire) in the same hand, the thumb is raised.

Kapittha - (Elephant-apple) the forefinger of the Sikhara hand is bent over the top of the thumb.

Kataka Mukha - (opening in a link) the forefinger and middle finger one applied to the thumb.

Suci - (needle) the forefinger of the Kataka-Mukha hand is upraised.

Candra-Katā - (digit of the moon) the thumb of the Suci-hand is released.

Padmakosa - (Lotus bud) the finger separated and a little bent, the palm a little hollowed.

Sarpa-Sirsa - (Snake-head) the middle of the Pataka hand is hollowed.

Mrga - Sirsa - (deer-head) in the above hand, the thumb and little finger are extended.

Simha-Mukha - (lion-face) the tips of the middle and third fingers are applied to the thumb the rest extended.

Tāngula - (tail) the third finger of the Padmakosa hand is bent.

Sola-Padma-(full-blown lotus) = Alapadma): all the fingers separated, turned about the little finger.

Catura - the thumb is bent to touch the base of the third finger, the first and adjoining fingers outstretched to gather, and the little finger extended (separately).

Bhramara - (bee) the second finger the thumb touching, the forefinger bent, the rest extended.

Homsāsyā - (Swan-face) the middle and following fingers are separated and extended, the forefinger and thumb and joined.

HamsePaksa - (Swan-feather) the little finger of the Sarpa-Sirsa hand is extended.

Samdamsa - (grasping) - the fingers of the Padmakosa hand are repeatedly opened and closed.

Mukula - (bud) the thumb and fingers are brought together so as to show their tips.

Tāmra-cūda - (red-crest i.e. Cock) - the forefinger of the Mukula hand is bent.

Trisūla - (trident) the thumb and little finger are bend.

Samyutya Hasta (Combined hands)

Twenty four combined hands are exhibited as follows :

Añjali - (Salutation) two Patāka hands are joined palm-to-palm.

Kapota - (Dove) the hands are joined at the side, base and top.

Karkata - (Crab) - the gingers of the hands are interlock^{ed} and the hands turned inwards or outwards.

Svastika - (Crossed) two Pataka hands held together at the Wrists.

Dola - (Swing) two Patāka hands placed on the thighs.

Puspaputa - (flower-casked) Sarpa-SYrsa hands are pressed-together.

Utsanga - (embrace) Mrga-Sirsa hands held upon opposite-armpits.

Siva-Linga - (do) Ardha-Candra with the left hand, Sikhara with the right.

Kataka-Vardhana - (link of increase) Kataka-Mukha hands with Crossed wrists.

Kartarī-Svastika - (Crossed arrow-shafts) Kartarī-Mukha hands are crossed.

Sakata - (Car) bhramara hands with the thumb and middle finger extended.

Sankha - (couch) the thumbs of Sikhara hands are joined and the forefinger extended.

Cakra - (discus) Ardha-Candra hands askew, the palms in contact.

Sam put a - (Casket) the fingers of the Cakra hand are-bent.

Pāsa - (noose) the forefingers of the Sūci hand are bent and interlocked.

Kilaka - (bond) the little fingers of the Mrga-Sirsa hand are interlocked.

Matsya - (fish) Patāka hands face downwards, the thumbs and little fingers extended.

Kūrma - (tortoise) the ends of the fingers of the cakra hand are bent, except the thumbs and little fingers.

Varāha - (boar) Mrga-Sirsa hands one upon the other (back to back) the thumbs and little fingers linked.

Garuda - Ardha-Candra hands are held with palms askew, and the thumbs interlocked.

Nāga-bandha - (Serpent-tie) Sarpa-Sirsa, hands are crossed.

Khatvā (bed) - the thumbs and forefingers of two catura hands are left free.

Bheruṇḍa (The wrists of Kapitta hands are joined.

Avahittha - (dissimulation) two Alapadma hands are held on the chest.