

The Observatory: April 13 – May 14, 2025



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THE OBSERVATORY

Sun in Aries Edition – April 13 – May 14, 2025

Dear Readers,

We have just ended a rather exceptional planetary month. The last time that Mercury and Venus were both retrograde in Pisces at the same time was between March 25 - April 17, 1985! That was the month when Mikhail Gorbachev became the ruler of the USSR (Russia) and began to pull back in Afghanistan. The first internet domain name was registered. USA for Africa released the hit song *We Are the World* to raise money for famine relief. Pope John Paul II announced the first ever World Youth Day. There were several events involving Islamist terrorist bombings in Europe and the Middle East, right-wing domestic extremists in the United States.

Mercury retrogrades three times a year, but this current one was in Pisces, Mercury's sign of debilitation, which seemed to make the usual communication problems and electrical glitches worse. Venus retrogrades five times in eight years, and being exalted in Pisces, its strength is greatly enhanced. US President Donald Trump has initiated a shakeup of world trade agreements which has triggered sudden repercussions in the world economic ecosystem. That's the sort of economic challenge that retrograde Venus might bring. Hopefully the strong and positive traits of Venus will prevail.

Venus began direct motion on April 12. Mercury and Venus will continue together in Pisces until May 6, when Mercury moves into Aries. Venus graces us with its exalted position in Pisces until the end of May. Venus and Jupiter in Taurus continue to make that lovely Parivartana Yoga in which they occupy each other's signs. These combinations make for many auspicious muhurtas this month.

Mars spends the entire month in Cancer, where it's debilitated and creating relatively less aggression than in Gemini. There is a predominance of water signs between Mars in Cancer and the group of planets in Pisces – emotion, intuition, and compassion are enhanced over logic. Watch for water-related weather events.

Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Rahu make a very tight grouping in the early degrees of Pisces. Venus, Saturn and Rahu all make exact conjunctions by degree between April 21-24, while they all occupy the Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra. Some deep and intense emotions and actions can be aroused by this Nakshatra but also astounding insights and leaps of faith.

A period of Kala Sarpa Yogas begins on April 24, as the Moon passes Rahu in Pisces. For the next three months, a Kala Sarpa Yoga will be in effect any time the Moon is between Rahu and Ketu (Pisces to Leo), that is, half of each month. I like to call the Kala Sarpa Yoga the “spin cycle out of balance yoga.” My clients tend to complain of things being out of balance, with unsettling events that particularly bother those who don’t thrive on abrupt change.

Take advantage of the auspicious combination of Sun in Aries and Moon in its exalted sign Taurus on April 29-30 – *Akshaya Tritiya*. (Times and dates vary depending on your location). This seasonal festival in India is considered one of the most auspicious for weddings. However, I have found that all sorts of events go forward better if planned for these dates.

While there’s never a bad time for the sincere student to begin Jyotisha studies, this month (in which deeper waters are stirred to mix with currents of compassion) is better than most.

The Sun is exalted in Aries this month, enhancing the energy, enthusiasm and rapid expansion of this sign. In the Northern Hemisphere, spring is at its peak period of increase. Look for the Sun entering Taurus on the same day that Jupiter enters Gemini on May 14. These changes will be discussed in the next issue of the Observatory.

The Almanac – April/May 2025

Dates and times are for Eastern Standard/Daylight Time (-4:00h)

April 12, Full Moon at 28deg57 Virgo (*Revati*)

April 12, Mercury enters *Uttara Bhadrapada*

April 13, Venus ends retrograde and begins direct motion at 00deg25 Pisces (*Purva Bhadrapada*)

April 13 Sun enters Aries

April 21 Saturn conjoins Rahu at 02deg38 Pisces

April 24, Venus conjoins Rahu at 02deg45 Pisces

April 24, Venus conjoins Saturn at 03deg01Pisces

April 24, Moon conjoins Rahu, Venus and Saturn within a 10-minute period around 10:50 to 11:00 pm EDT. Best viewing time in the USA will be about 45 minutes before sunrise on the 25th.

April 24, as Moon passes Rahu, Kala Sarpa Yoga in effect for half of each month through July 22.

April 25, Venus enters *Uttara Bhadrapada*

April 27, Sun enters *Bharani*

April 27, Mercury enters *Revati*

April 27, New Moon at 13deg15 Aries (*Bharani*)

April 28, Saturn enters *Uttara Bhadrapada*

April 29-30, *Akshaya Tritiya*: Sun in Aries, Moon in Taurus

May 6, Mercury enters Aries/*Ashwini*

May 7, Moon conjoins Ketu, Kala Sarpa Yoga ends

May 11, Sun enters *Krittika*

May 12, Full Moon at 27deg32 Libra (*Vishaka*)

May 12, Mars enters *Ashlesha*

May 14, Jupiter enters Taurus about 2:30pm EDT

May 14, Sun enters Gemini about 3:00 pm EDT

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