

Gola – Summer 2023

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Gola is the observational astronomy limb of Jyotish. Throughout summer we can observe Guru in the morning sky. Shani will be visible in the morning until its opposition with Surya at the end of August. At which point Shani will be visible from dusk until dawn as the graha shifts from morning to evening visibility. Mangala will be visible in the evening until early September. Both Shukra and Budha retrograde this summer which means they make an inferior conjunction with Surya and shift from evening to morning visibility. Shukra appears in the evening sky until late July and then re-appears in the morning sky in late August. Budha will have evening visibility from late-July through early-August and morning visibility from mid-September through early-October.

Each month, Chandra's 27.5-day cycle through the zodiac provides opportunities to witness conjunctions with each visible graha and helps you to locate them. Go out and observe the grahas in the night sky as they travel through rashis and pass the primary stars of nakshatras. Commune with them in the heavens and experience a level of Seeing, beyond a computer screen, that deepens your understanding and practice of Jyotish.

*Summer kicks off **Mangala, Shukra** and Chandra together in the **evening** sky. They can be located in Kataka rashi above the western horizon for about two-hours after sunset. The stars creating the Ring of Hydra below them indicates they are travelling through Ashlesha nakshatra. Observers in the USA will find Mangala slightly west of Shukra and Chandra above them in the evening sky on June 21st. Observers in India will find Chandra east of Shukra and Mangala that evening. The following evening Chandra will be above Mangala.*

Fig. 1: USA west coast, dusk, June 21, 2023

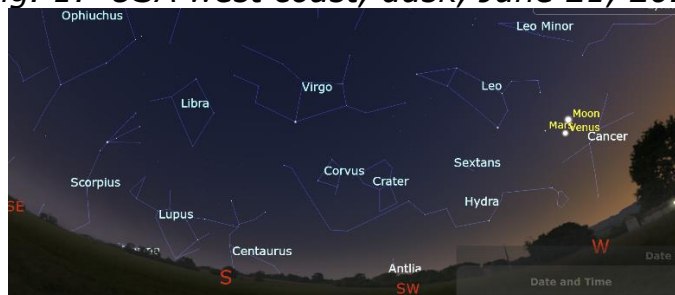
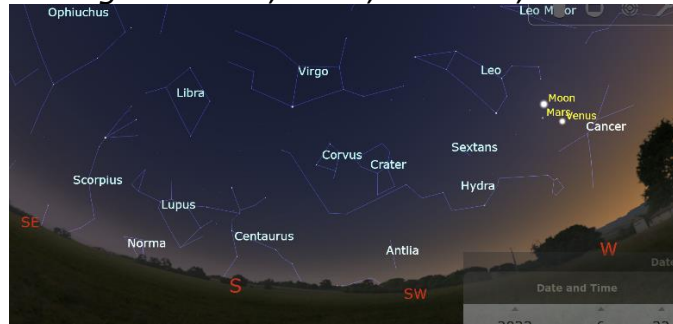


Fig. 2: India, dusk, June 22, 2023



*In early July, Chandra joins the **morning** grahas: **Shani and Guru**. Shani can be located in the south at dawn in Kumbha rashi. The star Sadalmelik above Shani and Formalhaut below indicates Shatabisha nakshatra where Shani will remain throughout the summer. Guru can be located in the southeast at dawn in Mesha rashi. Guru is a bit east of Hamal indicating the graha has left Ashwini nakshatra. Guru will be travelling through Bharani nakshatra this summer marked by Almach (in Andromeda above) and Menkar (in Cetus below). Observers in India will find Shani slightly above and west of Chandra on the morning July 7th. They will find Guru slightly below and east of Chandra on July 12th. Observers in the USA will find Shani above and west of Chandra on the morning of July 6th and above and west of Chandra on July 7th. They will find Guru slightly east of Chandra on the morning of July 11th and west of Chandra on July 12th.*

Fig.3: India, dawn, July 7, 2023



Fig. 4: USA, west coast, dawn, July 11, 2023



Meanwhile, in the **evening** sky, Mangala passes by Regulus of Simha rashi marking Magha nakshatra. Observers in the USA will find Mangala directly above Regulus at dusk on July 10th. Observers in India will find Mangala above and slightly west of Regulus on July 10th and above and slightly east of Regulus on July 11th. Begin looking for Budha to appear low to the west-northwest horizon around July 18th.

Fig. 5: USA, west coast, dusk, July 10, 2023



Fig. 6: India, dusk, July 10, 2023



Shukra is joined by Chandra as it passes under Regulus of Simha rashi and Magha nakshatra. Observers in the USA will find Chandra to east of Budha and the west of Shukra on the evening of July 19th. They will find Chandra above and between Shukra and Mangala on July 20th. Observers in India will find Chandra above Budha on July 19th, above Shukra on July 20th and slightly above and east of Mangala on July 21st.

Fig. 7: USA, west coast, dusk, July 19, 2023



Fig. 8: India, dusk, July 19, 2023



On the evening of July 28th Budha passes below Regulus of Simha rashi and Magha nakshatra. Shukra will be directly below and very close to the horizon as its evening visibility comes to an end. Mangala will be above and east below Zosma of Simha rashi and Purva Phalguni nakshatra. For observers in the USA, Budha will appear to touch Regulus on July 28th. Observers in India will find Budha slightly below and west of Regulus on July 28th and slightly below and east on July 29th.

Fig. 9: USA, west coast, dusk, July 28, 2023

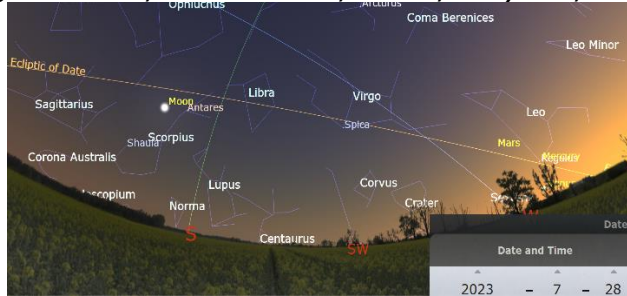
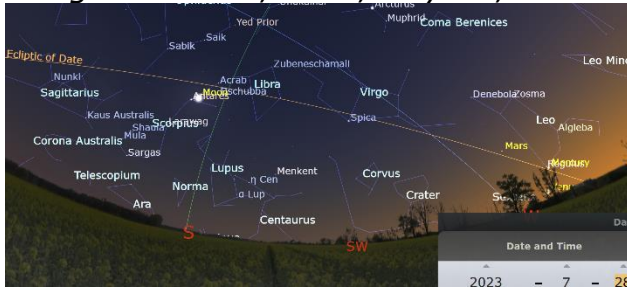


Fig. 10: India, dusk, July 28, 2023



*In early August Chandra joins Shani and Guru in the **morning** sky. At dawn Guru can be located in the south-southeast and Shani will be in the southwest. Observers in the USA will find Shani above Chandra on August 3rd and Guru below Chandra on August 8th. Observers in India will find Shani above and east of Chandra on the morning of August 3rd and west of*

Chandra on August 4th. They will find Guru slightly east of Chandra on August 8th and below and west of Chandra on August 9th.

Fig. 11: USA, west coast, dawn, August 3, 2023



Fig. 12: India, dawn, August 8, 2023



Returning to the **evening** sky in mid-August, Budha will pass below Zosma of Simha rashi and Purva Phalguni nakshatra on August 8th. On August 15th Mangala will pass below Denobla of Simha rashi and Uttara Phalguni Nakshatra. A few days later, Chandra joins them and this will be about the last night to observe Budha in the evening sky. On August 17th observers in the USA will find Chandra east of Mangala with Budha below. On August 18th observers in India will find Chandra east of Mangala with Budha below.

Fig. 13: USA east coast, dusk, August 17, 2023



Fig. 14: India, dusk, August 18, 2023



Around August 20th, Shukra makes its first appearance in the **morning** sky and will appear just above the eastern horizon under the light of dawn. The first day of visibility can vary by location. This first appearance of a planet is called its helical rise. The ancient Greeks called it phasis and regarded it as "the appearance that speaks."

On August 30th observers in the USA can locate Shani directly above Chandra. Look low to the west-southwest horizon around 5:00 a.m. both planets will set before dawn. Observers in India can locate Shani above and east of Chandra on August 30th. The following morning, they will find Shani slightly west of Chandra. On September 4th at dawn, observers in the USA will find Guru slightly east of Chandra high above the south-southwest horizon. Observers in India will find Guru directly below Chandra on September 5th. On September 11th at dawn, observers in the USA and in India will find Shukra directly below Chandra. They will be among the dim stars of Kataka rashi. The Ring of Hydra below marks Ashlesha nakshatra.

Fig. 15: India, dawn, September 11, 2023



Fig. 16: USA west coast, dawn, September 11, 2023



Around September 13th Budha makes its helical rise in the morning sky. Observers in both India and the USA can look directly below Chandra to locate Budha in the light of dawn on this date. Observers in India can also

find Budha slightly west of Chandra on September 14th. This will not occur for observers in the USA because Chandra will be below and east of Budha on September 14th. By the time Chandra rises in the USA, Budha's visibility will be lost in the morning's light.

Fig. 17: USA, west coast, dawn, September 13, 2023



Fig. 18: India, dawn, September 14, 2023



As the sunsets at the beginning of September, Mangala is the only graha left in the western **evening** sky. However, Shani can now be observed in the east at sunset. On September 11th, Mangala passes below Porrima of Kanya rashi and Hasta nakshatra but Porrima is not likely to shine through the twilight for this to be observed. The stars of Corvus the Crow also mark Hasta nakshatra but they will be below the horizon at sunset. On the evening of September 16th, observers in India can locate Mangala slightly above and east of Chandra. Both will be very low to the western horizon and set before twilight has finished. On September 17th, they can locate Mangala west of Chandra. Observers in the USA can locate Mangala west of Chandra on September 16th. These are the last days to observe Mangala in the evening sky if you are away from city lights. In the city, Mangala will become invisible during the first few days of September.

Fig. 19: India, dusk, September 16, 2023



Fig. 20: USA, west coast, dusk, September 16, 2023

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On the last day of summer, Shani is the only planet in the evening sky and can be located in the south-southeast at sunset. Looking up at dawn at summer's end, locate Budha and Shukra above the eastern horizon. Shukra will be higher and brighter. Guru will be in the southwest at dawn.

Happy stargazing and planet tracking! Tune in to the winter issue of The Comet for Mangala to return in the morning sky and for Guru's transition from morning to evening visibility.