



Gola – Autumn 2023

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Gola is the observational astronomy limb of Jyotish. Throughout spring we can observe Mangala and Shukra in the evening sky, and Shani in the morning sky. Guru will be an evening planet until late-March and then will undergo a period of invisibility around its yuti with Surya in April. Guru will appear in the morning sky in mid-May. Budha appears in the evening sky from late March through mid-April and then in the morning sky from late-May until mid-June. Budha's period of invisibility is due to its inferior conjunction with Surya. The inferior conjunction is the retrograde conjunction when Budha passes between Earth and Surya.

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.

*Spring kicks off with three visible grahas present in the **evening**. As sunset darkens the sky, locate Guru low to the western horizon, Shukra higher above the west-southwest horizon and Mangala even higher above the southern horizon. On the evening of March 22nd observers in the USA can look slightly west of Chandra to locate **Guru** along the horizon while observers in India can locate Guru above Chandra before he disappears from the evening sky by month's end.*

Fig. 1: USA east coast, dusk, March 22, 2023

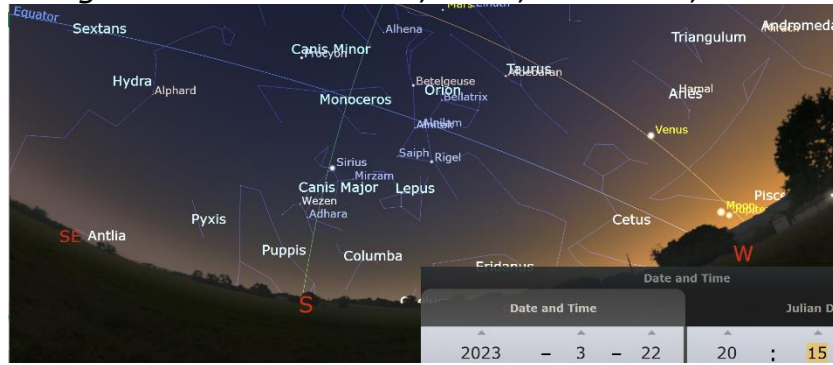
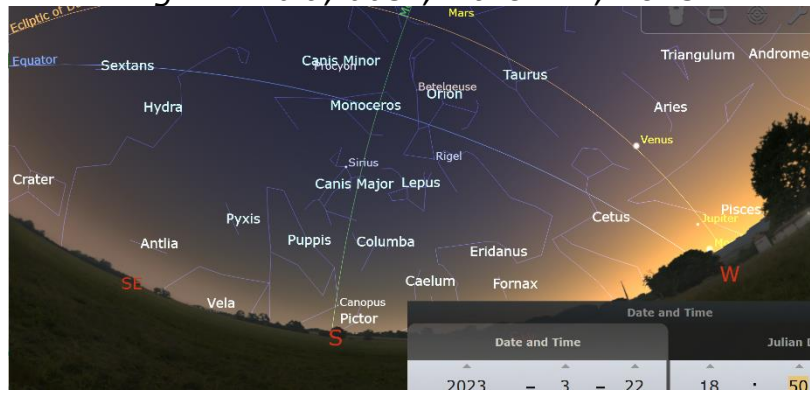


Fig. 2: India, dusk, March 22, 2023

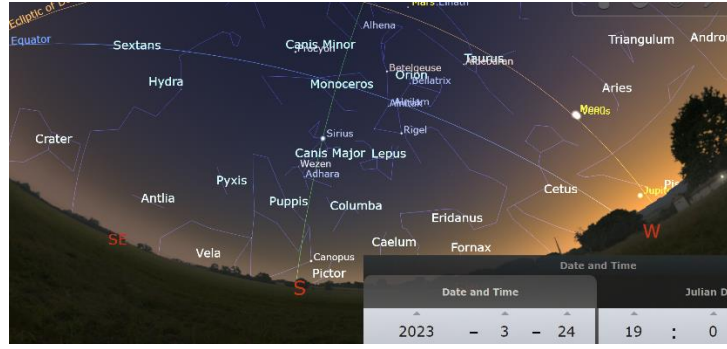


On the **evening** of March 23rd observers in the USA can locate **Shukra** slightly above and east of Chandra. The following evening Shukra can be located below and west of Chandra. On the evening of March 24th observers in India can witness Chandra passing in front of Shukra temporarily blocking the starry graha from view in what is known as an occultation. Shukra is passing by Hamal of Mesha Rashi marking Ashwini Nakshatra.

Fig.3: USA east coast, dusk, March 24, 2023



Fig. 4: India, dusk, March 24, 2023



On the **evening** of March 27th observers in the USA can locate **Mangala** slightly east of Chandra. The following evening Mangala will be below and west of Chandra. On the evening of March 28th observers in India can locate Mangala slightly below Chandra. Mangala is travelling through Mithuna Rashi. The star Betelgeuse, below in Orion, marks Mangala's entrance into Ardra Nakshatra. These are the last evenings to locate Guru before the graha disappears from the evening sky. Meanwhile, **Budha** makes his evening appearance. Observers in India and the USA with dark skies and a clear western horizon may be able to locate Budha above Guru through the twilight on March 28th. Budha will climb higher above the horizon in April and become easier to locate.

Fig. 5: USA, east coast, dusk, March 28, 2023



Fig. 6: India, dusk, March 28, 2023



On the **evening** of April 11th **Budha** reaches its greatest elongation from Surya. Observers in both the USA and India can locate Budha passing between Hamal of Mesha Rashi (above and right) and Menkar of Cetus (below and left) as the graha leaves Ashwini Nakshatra and enters Bharani Nakshatra. Locate Shukra below the Pleiades or Krittikas of Vrishabha Rashi marking Krittika Nakshatra. Mangala will still be above Betelgeuse of Orion in Ardra Nakshatra.

Fig. 7: USA, east coast, dusk, April 11, 2023



Fig. 8: India, dusk, April 11, 2023



On the **morning** of April 16th, observers in both the USA and India can locate **Shani** above Chandra in the southeast at dawn. Shani is beneath the star Sadalmelik of Kumbha Rashi marking Shatabishak Nakshatra where the graha will remain throughout spring.

Fig. 9: USA, east coast, dawn, April 16, 2023



Fig. 10: India, dawn, April 16, 2023



On the **evening** of April 21st observers in India can locate a dim **Budha** slightly west of Chandra as the starry graha ends of its period of evening visibility. Observers in the USA with dark skies and a clear western horizon may be able to locate Budha below and west of Chandra.

Fig. 11: India, dusk, April 21, 2023



Fig. 12: USA east coast, dusk, April 21, 2023



On the **evening** of April 23rd **Shukra** will appear to almost touch the lower left of Chandra for observers in India. Observers in the USA can locate Shukra east of Chandra on April 22nd and below and west of Chandra on

April 23rd. The bright star below Shukra is Aldebaran of Vrishabha Rashi marking Rohini Nakshatra. The Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks on April 23rd.

Fig. 13: India, dusk, April 23, 2023



Fig. 14: USA east coast, dusk, April 23, 2023



On the **evening** of April 25th observers in India can locate **Mangala** to the east of Chandra. The following evening Mangala will be below and west of Chandra. Observers in the USA can locate Mangala slightly below Chandra on April 25th. Continue to observe nightly as Shukra moves closer to Mangala.

Fig. 15: India, dusk, April 25, 2023



Fig. 16: USA east coast, dusk, April 25, 2023



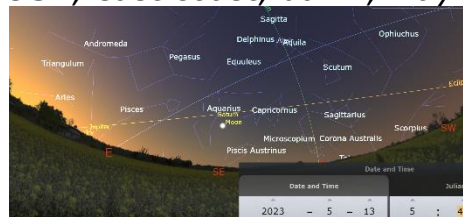
On the **evening** of May 4th locate **Shukra** above Bellatrix of Orion, the star marking Mrigashira Nakshatra and locate **Mangala** below Pollux of Mithuna Rashi, one of the stars marking Punarvasu Nakshatra. On May 5th the Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower peaks. On May 14th Shukra will be above Betelgeuse of Orion, the star marking Ardra Nakshatra.

Start watching the eastern horizon at dawn around May 9th for **Guru** to make its first **morning** appearance. On the morning of May 13th observers in the USA can locate **Shani** above Chandra while observers in India can locate Shani above and east of Chandra. The following morning observers in India can locate Shani above and west of Chandra.

Fig. 17: India, dawn, May 13, 2023



Fig. 18: USA, east coast, dawn, May 13, 2023

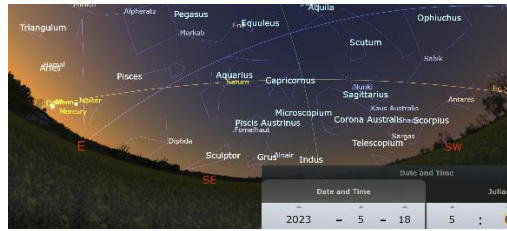


On the **morning** of May 17th observers in India can locate **Guru** to the east of Chandra. For observers in the USA, Guru will appear to almost touch the left side of Chandra. On May 18th observers in India can locate Guru will be west of Chandra. **Budha** makes its first morning appearance slightly below Chandra on May 18th.

Fig. 19: USA, east coast, dawn, May 17, 2023



Fig. 20: India, dawn, May 18, 2023



On the **evening** of May 22nd observers in India can locate **Shukra** above and east of Chandra while observers in the USA can locate Shukra directly east of Chandra. On May 23rd observers in India will find Shukra slightly below Chandra, while observers in the USA will find Chandra between Shukra and Mangala. On the evening of May 24th observers in India can locate **Mangala** slightly west of Chandra and observers in the USA can locate Mangala below and slightly east of Chandra. Shukra will be near Pollux and Castor of Mithuna Rashi marking Punarvasu Nakshatra. Mangala will be among the dim stars of Kataka Rashi, North and South Ascensus, that mark Pushya Nakshatra.

Fig. 20: India, dusk, May 23, 2023

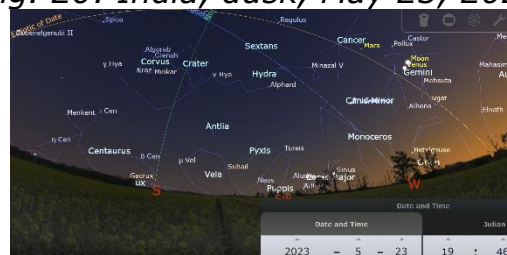


Fig. 21: USA, east coast, dusk, May 23, 2023



On the **morning** of June 10th observers in India can locate **Shani** above Chandra. Observers in the USA can locate Shani above and east of Chandra on June 9th and above and west of Chandra on June 10th. On the morning of June 14th observers in India can locate **Guru** slightly east of Chandra and observers in the USA can locate Guru slightly west of Chandra. On the morning of June 16th observers in the USA can locate Budha below Chandra and observers in India can locate **Budha** below and slightly east of

Chandra. The following morning Budha will be west of Chandra and this will end the starry graha's morning visibility.

Fig. 22: India, dawn, June 16, 2023

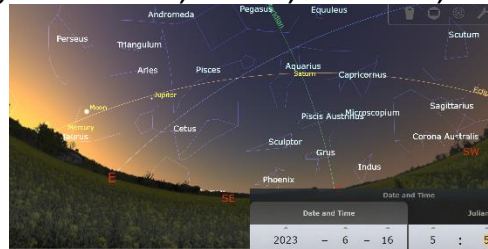


Fig. 23: USA, east coast, dawn, June 16, 2023



*On the last day of spring, the **evening** grahas Shukra and Mangala will be close together above the stars forming the ring of Hydra that marks Ashlesha Nakshatra. Shukra will be slightly below and east of Mangala.*

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