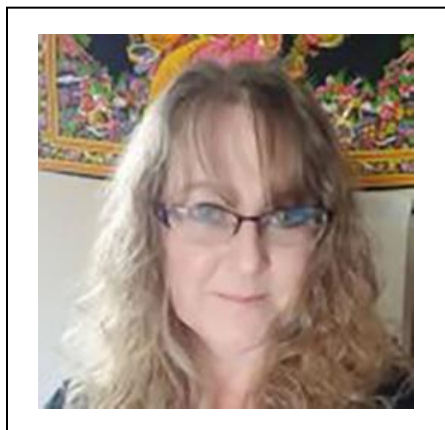


Gola – Spring 2024



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Gola is the observational astronomy limb of Jyotish. This spring Mangala and Shani are visible throughout the season in the morning sky. Shukra has morning visibility until mid-April. Guru and Budha begin the season in the evening sky, undergo periods of invisibility, and then appear in the morning sky. By the end of spring four grahas will be visible in the morning and none will be visible in the evening.

Go out and observe the grahas 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. Chandra passes other visible grahas during its 27.5-day cycle through the zodiac, which provides opportunities to witness their conjunctions and helps you to locate the starry grahas in the night sky.

Spring's **evening sky** viewing begins with **Guru** and **Budha** becoming visible in the west as sunset darkens the sky. Guru will be high and bright above the western horizon as it travels through Mesha rashi and Bharani nakshatra marked by the star Menkar, in the constellation Cetus below and the star Almach in the constellation Andromeda above. Budha will be dimmer and low to the western horizon. Budha is travelling through Mina rashi directly below the star Alpherig marking Revati nakshatra. We will lose sight of Budha during the first few days of April and Guru during first few days of May.

Fig. 1: USA, east coast, dusk, March 20, 2024



Fig. 2: India, dusk, March 20, 2024



Spring's **morning sky** viewing begins with **Mangala** rising in the east-southeast shortly before the first light of dawn touches the horizon. **Shukra** rises half an hour later amid the glow of dawn. **Shani's** first morning sky appearance, or helical rise, will be on or after March 22nd depending on the viewing conditions in your location. All three of these grahas are travelling through Kumbha rashi. Mangala can be located directly below the star Sadalsuud of the constellation Aquarius marking Dhanistha nakshatra, while Shukra and Shani can be located below and slightly east of the star Sadalmelik of the constellation Aquarius stars marking

Shatabisha nakshatra. Shukra will remain visible until mid-April, moving eastward along the horizon each morning. Mangala and Shani will remain visible throughout the spring season.

On the morning of March 22nd, Shukra and Shani conjoin in the morning sky. USA observers may locate Shani this morning in areas void of city lights with a clear view of the eastern horizon. Locate bright Shukra first, then look for very dim Shani to almost touch the right side of Shukra. For observers in India, Shukra will occult (or pass in front of) Shani in the morning sky making Shani invisible even under the best viewing conditions.

Fig. 3: USA east coast, dawn, March 22, 2024



Fig. 4: India, dawn, March 22, 2024



Continue to watch the morning planets as Shukra (remaining low to the horizon) pulls eastward away from Shani. Shani will climb higher above the horizon at dawn each day, due to Surya's eastward movement, and Mangala moves eastward each day decreasing its distance to Shani.

On the morning of April 6th observers in the USA can locate Mangala and Shani above Chandra. They will be below Sadalmelik and in Shatabisha nakshatra. Shukra, farther east, will be in Mina rashi below the stars Markeb and Scheat of the constellation Pegasus, marking Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra. Observers in the USA will find Chandra slightly west of Shukra the following morning on April 7th. Observers in India will find Chandra slightly west of Mangala and Shani on the morning of April 6th. The following morning Chandra will be between Shani and Shukra. On the morning of April 8th Chandra will be slightly east of Shukra.

Fig.5: USA, east coast, dawn, April 6, 2024

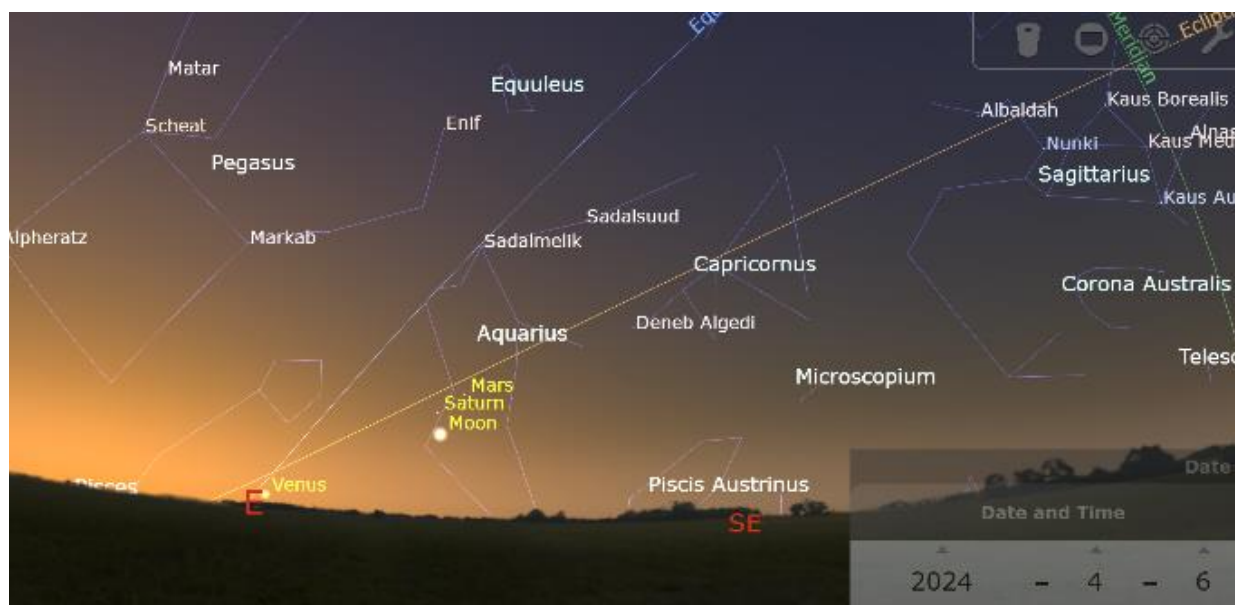


Fig. 6: India, dawn, April 6, 2024



Chandra joins Guru in the evening sky in mid-April. Observers in the USA can locate Guru below Chandra on the evening of April 10th. Observers in India can locate Guru slightly above and east of Chandra on April 10th. We will lose sight of Guru in the evening sky in early May. After which the rest of the season's graha sightings will take place in the morning.

Fig. 7: USA, east coast, dusk, April 10, 2024

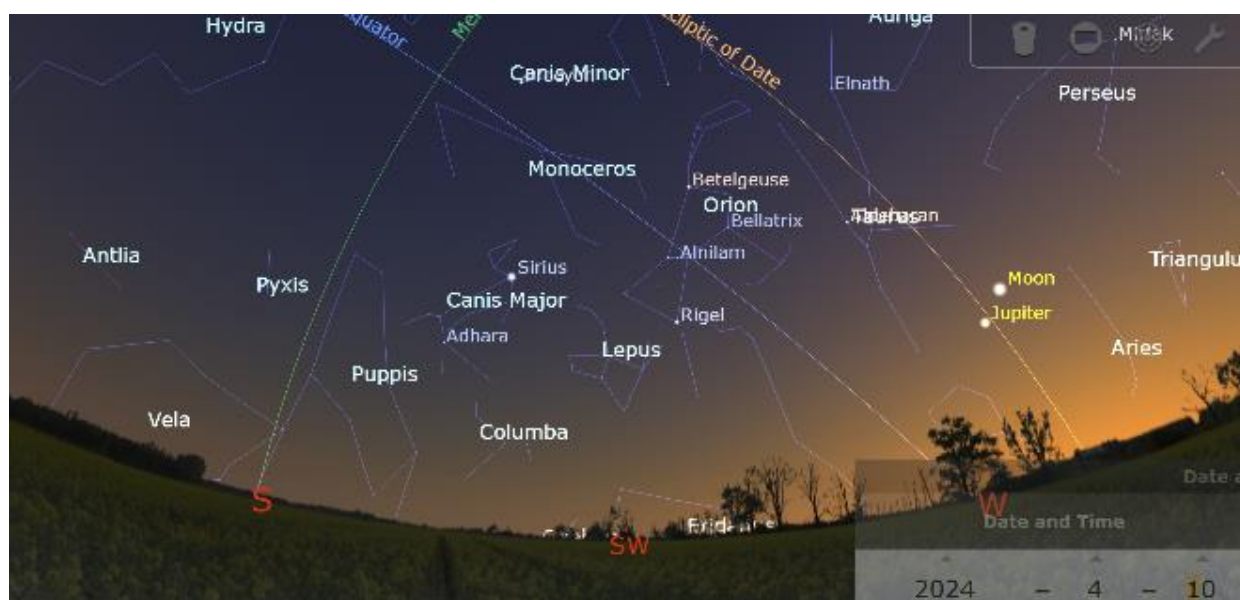


Fig. 8: India, dusk, April 10, 2024



Meanwhile in the morning sky on April 10th Mangala and Shani conjoin. After which Mangala will continue to increase the distance eastward from Shani in the morning sky.

At the end of April or beginning of May, depending on the viewing conditions in your location, Budha makes its helical rise and becomes visible in Mina rashi and Revati nakshatra, marked by dim Alpherig in the constellation Pisces. Shani will still be in Kumbha rashi but now in Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra as the graha moves eastward toward Markab and Scheat of Pegasus above. Mangala will have travelled eastward into Mina rashi, moving below Algenib and Alpheratz of Pegasus marking Uttara Bhadrapada nakshatra.

In early May Chandra joins the morning grahas once again. Observers in India will find Chandra east of Shani on May 3rd, and directly below Shani on May 4th. Observers in the USA will find Shani slightly east of Chandra on May 3rd. On the morning of May 4th Chandra will be between Shani and Mangala.

Fig. 9: India, dawn, May 4, 2024

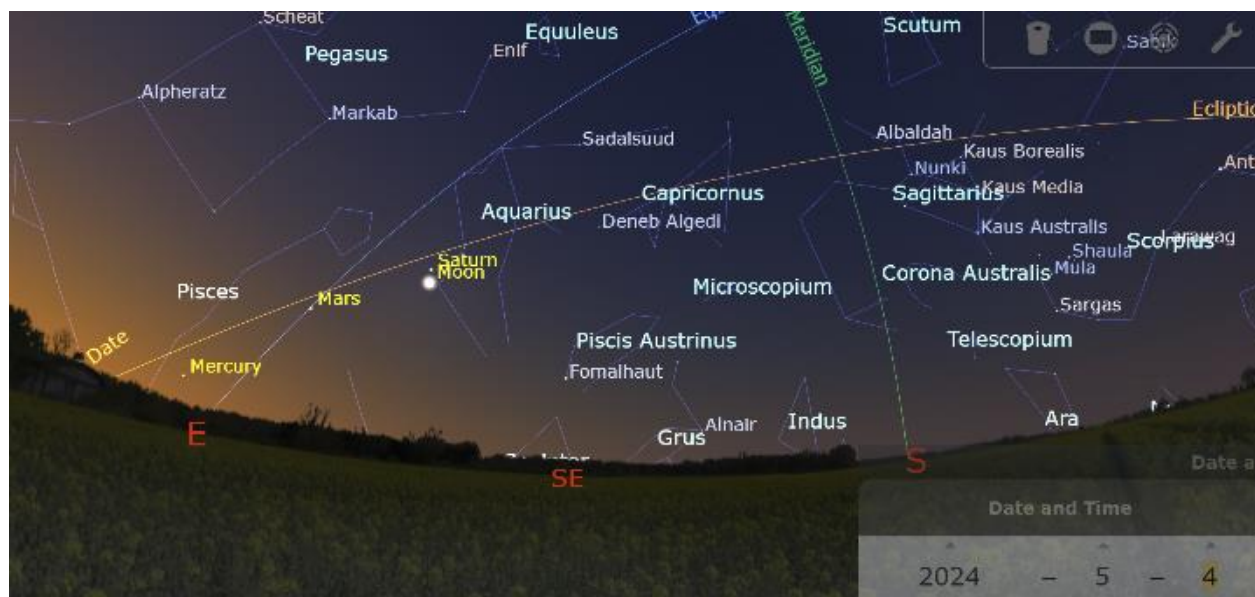
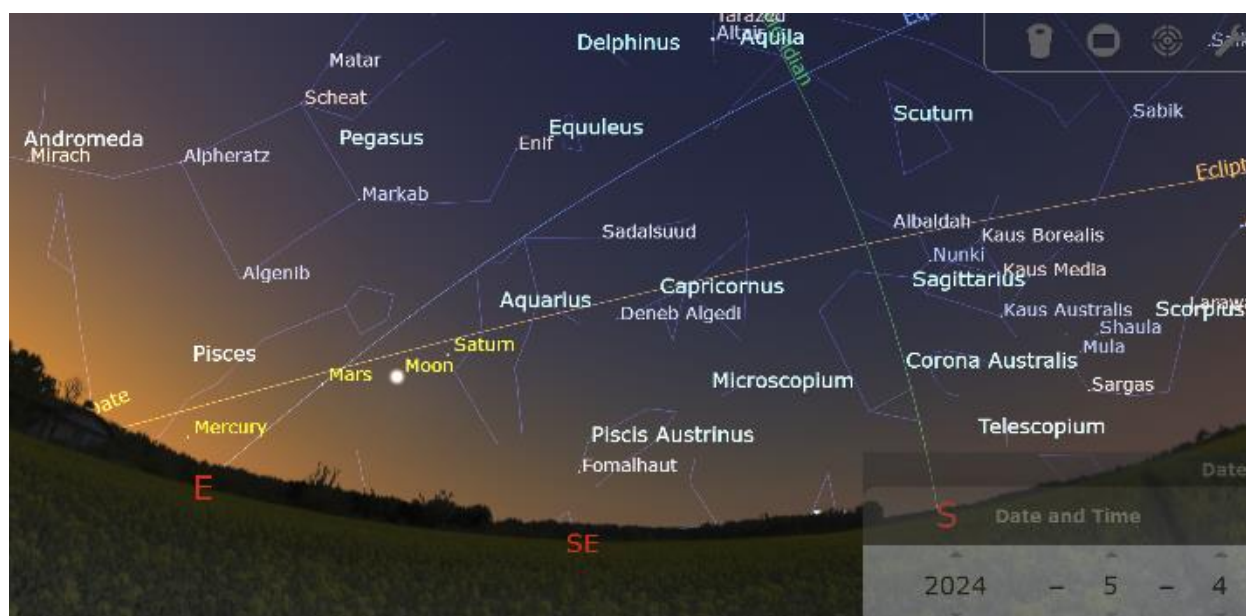


Fig. 10: USA, east coast, dawn, May 4, 2024

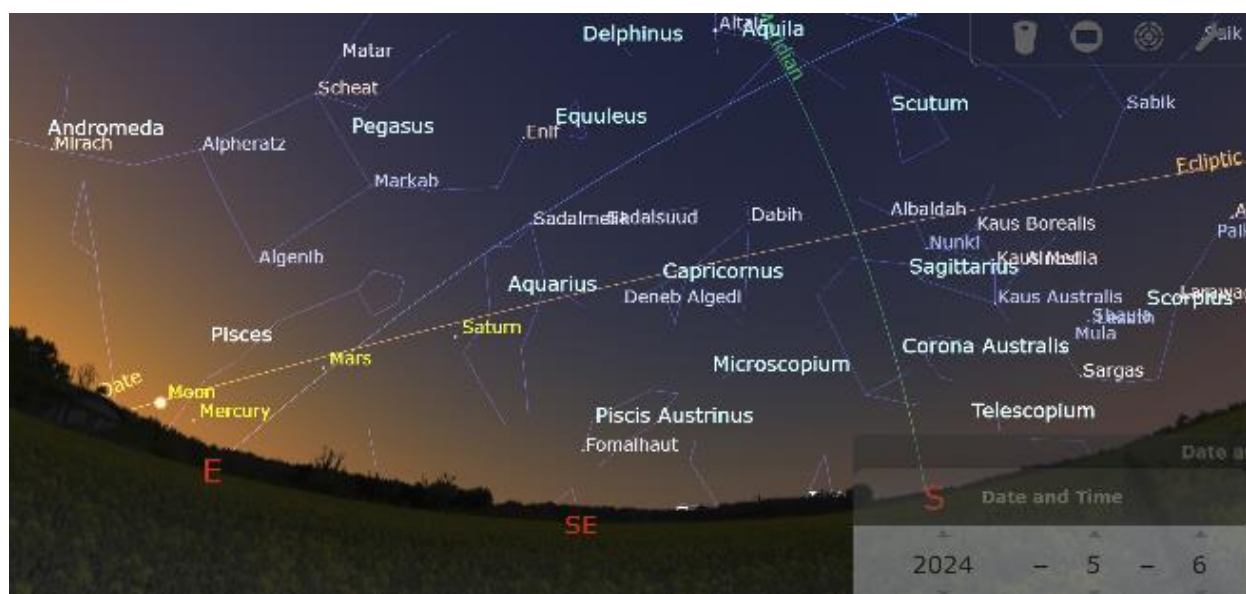


On the morning of May 5th, observers in India will find Mangala almost touching the eastern side of Chandra. On the morning of May 6th Budha will be below Chandra. Observers in the USA will find Chandra between Mangala and Budha on the morning of May 5th. The following morning Chandra will be east of Budha.

Fig. 11: India, dawn, May 6, 2024



Fig. 12: USA east coast, dawn, May 6, 2024



Continue to keep your eye on the morning sky throughout May. On May 16th Mangala passes directly below Algenib of Pegasus. On May 20th Budha passes directly below Sheratan of Mesha rashi marking Ashwini nakshatra. On May 23rd Budha passes directly below Hamal of Mesha rashi also marking Ashwini nakshatra. On May 30th Budha, still in Mesha rashi, passes directly below Almach of Andromeda marking Bharani nakshatra.

At the end of May and beginning of June Chandra joins the morning grahas. Observers in India will find Shani slightly east of Chandra on the morning of May 31st. Observers in the USA will find Shani just above Chandra on the morning of May 31st.

Fig. 13: India, dawn, May 31, 2024

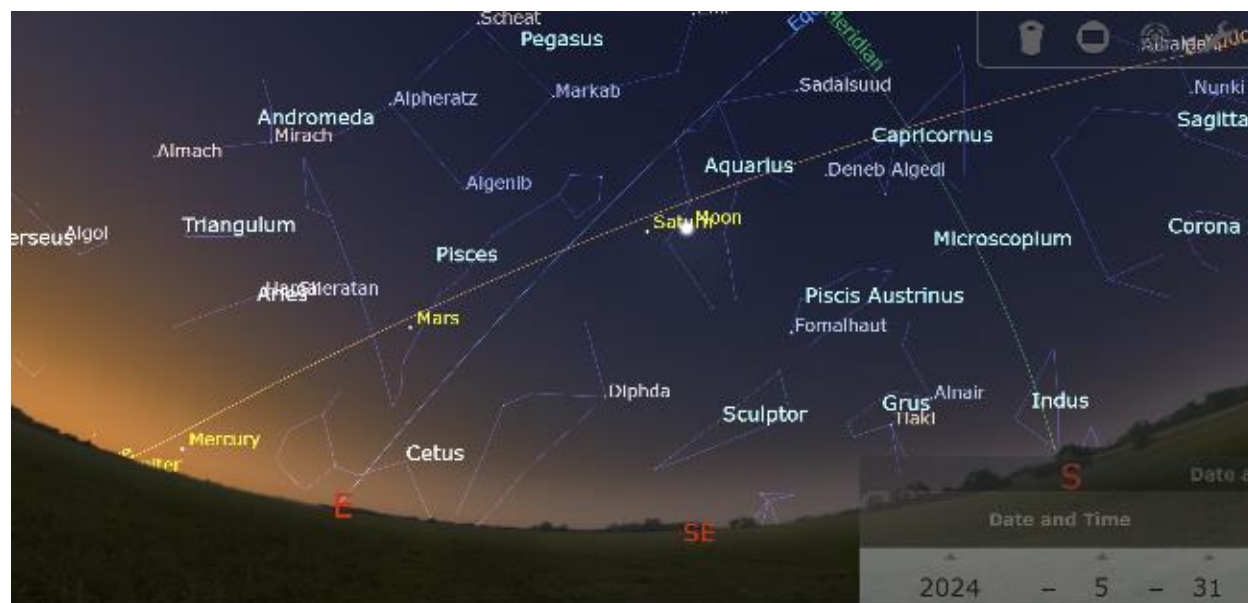


Fig. 14: USA, east coast, dawn, May 31, 2024

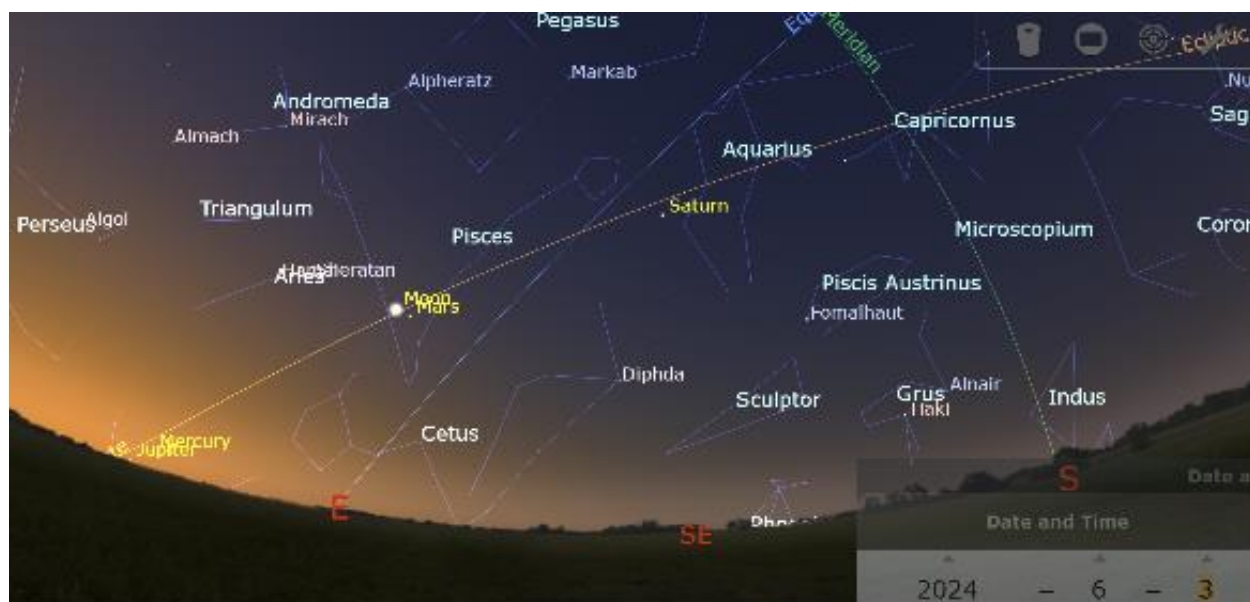


Observers in India will find Chandra travelling between Shani and Mangala on June 1st and 2nd. On June 3rd Mangala will be below Chandra. Observers in the USA will find Chandra between Shani and Mangala on June 1st. Chandra will be slightly west of Mangala on June 2nd and slightly east of Mangala on June 3rd. Guru will make its helical rise around June 3rd depending upon the viewing conditions in your location.

Fig. 15: USA, east coast, dawn, June 2, 2024



Fig. 16: India, dawn, June 3, 2024



Budha and Guru conjoin on June 4th as Guru begins its morning sky appearance and Budha's morning visibility comes to an end. Observers in India will find Chandra above and slightly west of Guru and Budha. Observers in the USA will find Chandra above Guru and Budha on the morning of June 5th. Both starry grahas will be in Vrishabha rashi below Algol of the constellation Perseus marking Krittika nakshatra.

Fig. 17: India, dawn, June 5, 2024



Fig. 18: USA, east coast, dawn, June 5, 2024



As June progresses Guru will become higher above the eastern horizon and the Pleiades cluster, aka Krittikas, will become visible above Guru and below Algol. Alcyone is the name of the brightest Krittika. On June 16th Mangala passes below Sheratan of Mesha rashi and Ashwini nakshatra. Shani continues to travel slowly through Kumbha rashi and Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra.

Fig. 19: USA east coast, dawn, June 16, 2024



Fig. 20: India, dawn, June 16, 2024



Happy stargazing and planet tracking! Tune in to the summer issue of *The Comet* when Budha and Shukra return to the evening sky.