

The observatory - New Year 2024 Edition

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Solstice season – maximum light in the Southern Hemisphere and maximum dark in the North. First, a few planetary highlights of the season.

Settle into Rahu in Pisces/Ketu in Virgo – Rahu generally causes less trouble in the watery Pisces than in assertive Aries. Ketu has left conciliatory Libra, leaving more latitude for this sign to engage in diplomacy and relationships. Ketu in Virgo may disrupt our digital world and aggravate Vata in vulnerable Virgos.

Many positive connections with Jupiter – Just before the New Year, Jupiter in Aries resumes direct motion, but it now is not sharing a sign with Rahu. Sun, Mercury, Venus, and Mars make positive connections throughout the seasons. While the outer planet Uranus is near 24-25 Aries, it makes no direct connections with Jupiter this season. Both do better without the company of Rahu.

Mercury, Venus, and Mars are moving in direct motion all season. No retrogrades! But be aware, events may move along rather quickly. Also, the interaction of Mercury and Mars at the Gandantha position where Scorpio and Sagittarius join is a complicated and volatile combination for the last weekend of December.

Busy Mars. Mars makes a number of aspects in rather quick succession to Rahu/Ketu, Jupiter, Saturn, Sun, and non-visible dwarf planet Pluto at 7-8 Capricorn.

Benefits from connections to Neptune at 0-3 degrees Pisces. This non-visible planet is associated with Pisces in Western astrology and is noticed by Neo-Vedic astrologers. As other planets pass through Pisces in the next months, we can hope for positive and deep connections with the deep waters of spiritual wisdom. Varuna, the Vedic deity of the oceans and the Sea of Stars, is sometimes associated with Neptune.

Get ready for a Total Solar Eclipse April 8. In Vedic tradition, this is an appropriate time for meditation and ritual in indoor places, not the occasion for a huge outdoor eclipse party. Om Shanti, Shanti, as it passes over much of North America.

THE ALMANAC

Times when listed are EST (6:00h) until Sunday, March 10, and EDT (-4:00h) after start of Daylight Savings Time in USA, unless otherwise specified.

Calculated for New York City, USA

The exact time and date of these events will vary around the world.

Sidereal zodiac, Lahiri Ayanamsa.

January, 2024

January 1, Mercury stations direct at 27d59 Scorpio

January 7, Venus in Scorpio enters Jyeshtha Nakshatra

January 8, Mercury enters Sagittarius and Mula Nakshatra

January 11, 6:56 am, New Moon at 25d58 Sagittarius, Purva Ashadha Nakshatra

January 11, Mars and Jupiter in trine aspect and Parivartana Yoga at 11:38 Sagittarius and 11:38 Aries

January 14, Mars moves from Mula Nakshatra into Purva Ashadha Nakshatra

January 14, Sun enters Capricorn

January 14, Mercury in Sagittarius receives a trine aspect from Jupiter in Aries

January 18, Venus enters Sagittarius/Mula Nakshatra

January 25, 12:54 pm, Full Moon at 10d36 Cancer/Pushya Nakshatra

January 27, Mercury catches up to an exact conjunction with Mars at 22d47 Sagittarius

January 28, Venus in Sagittarius receives an exact trine aspect from Jupiter in Aries

January 29, Mars in Sagittarius makes an exact 1:4 aspect on Rahu at 23:53 Pisces

January 29, Venus enters Purva Ashadha Nakshatra

February, 2024

February 1, Mercury enters Capricorn

February 3, Jupiter in Aries leaves Ashwini Nakshatra and enters Bharani

February 5, Mars enters Capricorn

February 9, 5:59 pm, New Moon at 25d52 Capricorn in Dhanistha Nakshatra

February 18, Mars in Capricorn leaves Uttara Ashadha Nakshatra and enters Shrivatsa

February 19, Mercury enters Aquarius

February 22, Venus in Capricorn enters Shravana Nakshatra

February 22, Venus, and Mars conjoin exactly at 12:42 Capricorn

February 24, 7:30 am, Full Moon at 10d57 Leo in Mula Nakshatra

February 27, Mars in Capricorn makes an exact 1:4 aspect to Jupiter in Aries

February 28, Sun, Mercury, and Saturn are in a triple conjunction at 15d30 Aquarius in Shatabhishak Nakshatra

March, 2024

March 7, Mars in Capricorn enters Dhanistha Nakshatra

March 7, Mercury enters Pisces

March 8, Venus enters Aquarius

March 10, 3:59 am, New Moon at 25d27 Aquarius in Purva Bhadrapada Nakshatra

March 14, Sun enters Pisces

March 15, Mars enters Aquarius

March 18, Mars exactly conjoined with Ketu and opposite Rahu at 21d33 Virgo/Pisces

March 20, 11:07 pm, Spring Equinox in Northern Hemisphere, Fall Equinox in Southern Hemisphere.

Looking ahead:

March 21, Venus exactly conjoined with Saturn at 18d09 Aquarius

March 25, 2:00 am, Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse at 10d56 Virgo – an Annular Eclipse visible in western hemisphere

April 8, 1:01 pm, Total Solar Eclipse at 24d59 Pisces – The path of totality will pass across North America – See the GOLA article for details.