

Gola – September 2023

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Gola is the observational astronomy limb of Jyotish. Throughout autumn we can observe Shukra, Guru and Shani. Shukra will be visible in the morning sky. Guru will rise after sunset and be visible in the morning until its opposition with Surya in early November. At which point Guru will be visible from dusk until dawn. Meanwhile Shani will shift from all night visibility to evening visibility. Mangala is travelling too close to Surya to be observed this autumn. Budha is visible in the morning until early October. It becomes an evening planet in November however the low slant of the ecliptic will make it difficult

to observe amid the evening twilight.

Autumn commences with **Shani** visible in the east-southeast at sunset in the constellation Aquarius, Kumbha rashi, and Shatabisha nakshatra where the graha will remain throughout the season. Sadalamelik (above Shani in Aquarius) and Formulhaut (below Shani in Pisces Austrinus) mark Shatabisha. Shani will travel westward or retrograde away from these stars until its direct station in early November just below Sadalmelik. At this point Shani will become visible in the south-southeast at sunset. In December we can begin to observe its forward motion as moves eastward away from Sadalmelik and becomes visible in the south-southwest at sunset.

At the end of September **Guru** rises about two hours after sunset in the constellation Aries, Mesha rashi, and Bharani nakshatra. Almach (above Guru in Andromeda) and Menkar (below Guru in Cetus) mark Bharani. Guru will travel westward or retrograde away from these stars throughout the season. In early November Guru opposes the Sun, rises as the sunsets, and becomes visible all night long, setting with the sunrise. In late November Guru will retrograde into Ashwini nakshatra marked by Hamal and El Sharatan of Aries. At this point Guru will be visible above the eastern horizon at sunset.

Meanwhile, in the morning sky, **Shukra** rises about three hours before Surya throughout autumn. Shukra begins autumn in the constellation Cancer, Kartaka rashi and Ashlesha nakshatra (marked by the stars comprising the Ring of Hydra below) and ends autumn in the constellation Libra, Tula rashi and Vishaka nakshatra (marked by Zuben Elgenubi and Zuben Eschmaili). This provides a great opportunity to learn the stars associated with these nakshatras and all those in between as Shukra travels through the predawn sky.

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.

On the evening of September 26th, observers in the USA will find Shani above Chandra. Observers in India can locate Shani to the east of Chandra on September 26th and below and west of Chandra on September 27th.

Fig. 1: USA east coast, 2 hours after sunset, September 26, 2023



Fig. 2: India, 2 hours after sunset, September 26, 2023



On October 1st, two hours after sunset, when Guru is above the horizon, observers in the USA

will find Guru below Chandra. Observers in India can locate Guru below and east of Chandra on October 1st and west of Chandra on October 2nd.

Fig.3: USA, east coast, 2 hours after dusk, October 1, 2023



Fig. 4: India, 2 hours after dusk, October 2, 2023



On the morning of October 10th, observers in both India and the USA will find Shukra just below Chandra, although there will be a slightly greater distance between the two over India. Shukra will be in the constellation Leo, Simha rashi, as the planet passes below the star Regulus marking Magha nakshatra.

Fig. 5: India, dawn, October 10, 2023

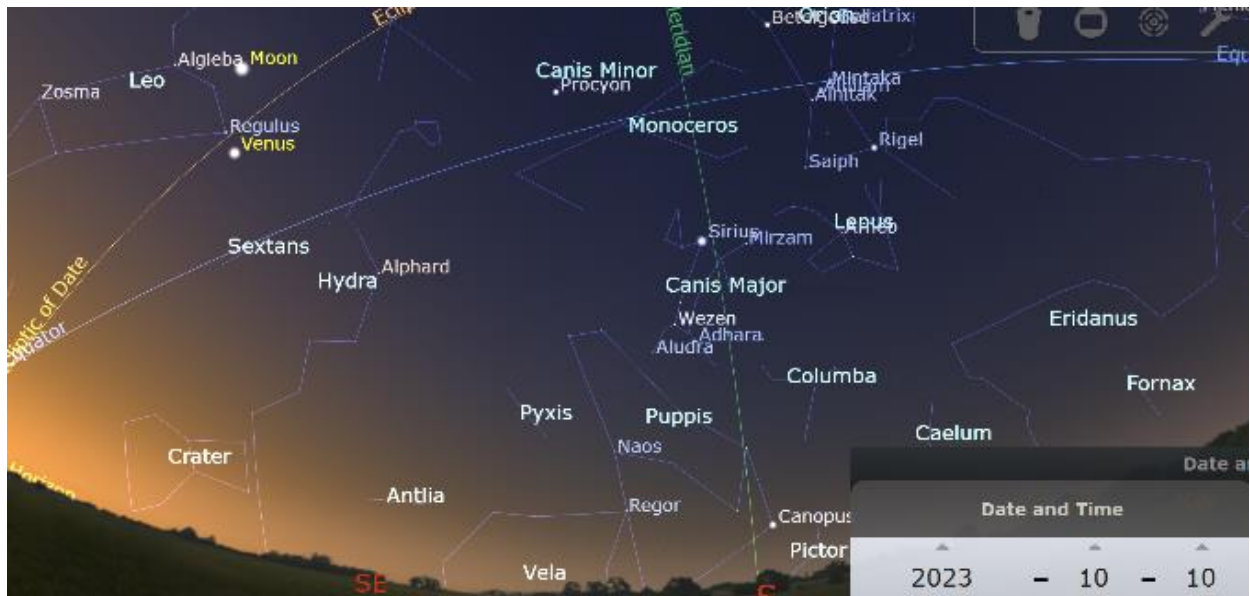
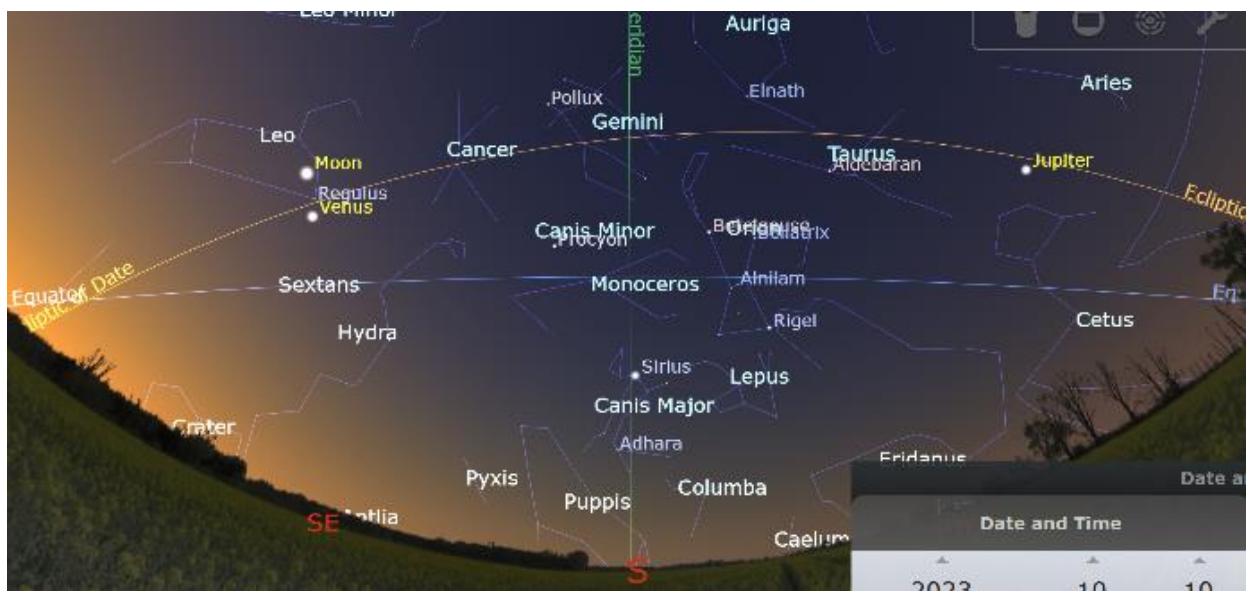


Fig. 6: USA, east coast, dawn, October 10, 2023



On the evening of October 24th, observers in India will find Shani above and slightly east of Chandra. Observers in the USA can locate Shani above and east of Chandra on October 23rd and west of Chandra on October 24th.

Fig. 7: India, dusk, October 24, 2023

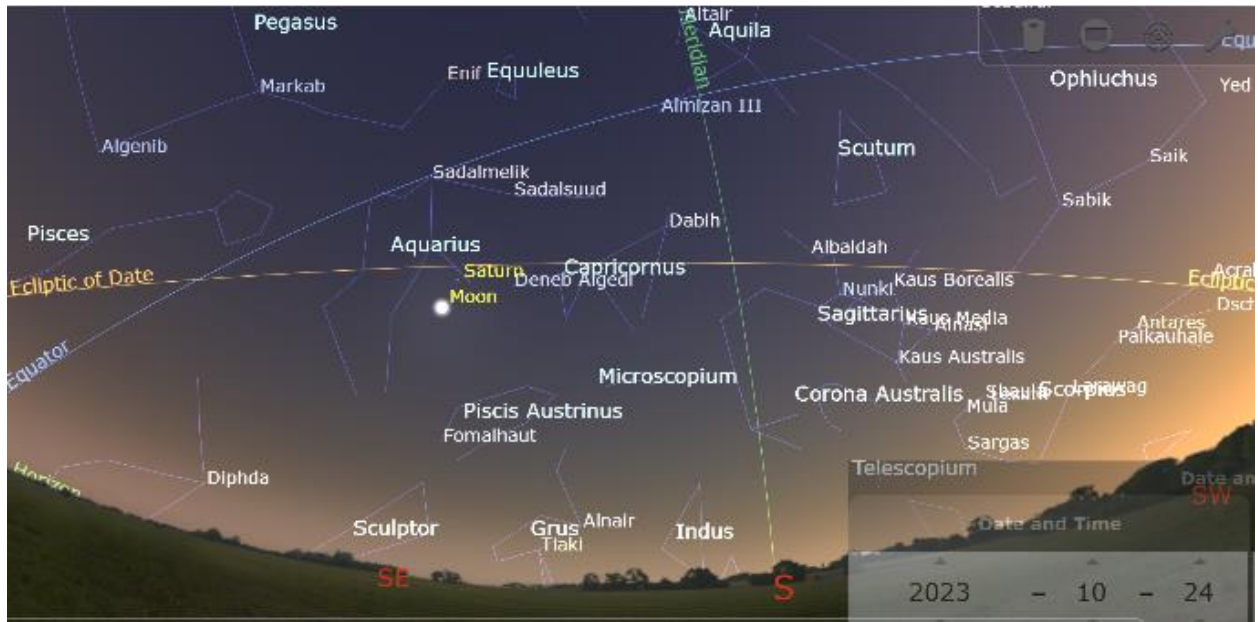


Fig. 8: USA, east coast, dusk, October 24, 2023



On the evening of October 28th, observers in India will find Guru to the east of Chandra. On October 29th, Guru will be below and west of Chandra. USA observers can locate Guru below and east of Chandra on the evening of October 28th and west of Chandra on the evening of October 29th.

Fig. 9: India, 1 hour after dusk, October 28, 2023



Fig. 10: USA, east coast, 1 hour after dusk, October 28, 2023



On the morning of October 26, observers in the USA can locate Shukra directly below Zosma of the constellation Leo marking the base of the Lion's tail and Purva Phalguni nakshatra. Observers in India will find Zosma above and east of Shukra. On the morning of November 3rd, observers in the USA can locate Shukra directly below Denebola of the constellation Leo marking the tip of the lion's tail and Uttara Phalguni Nakshatra. Observers in India will find Denebola above and east of Shukra. On the morning of November 9, observers in India can locate Shukra below Chandra. The following morning observers in India will find Shukra above Chandra. To observers in the USA, Shukra will appear to touch Chandra's right side on the morning of November 9th.

Fig. 11: India, dawn, November 9, 2023



Fig. 12: USA, east coast, dawn, November 9, 2023

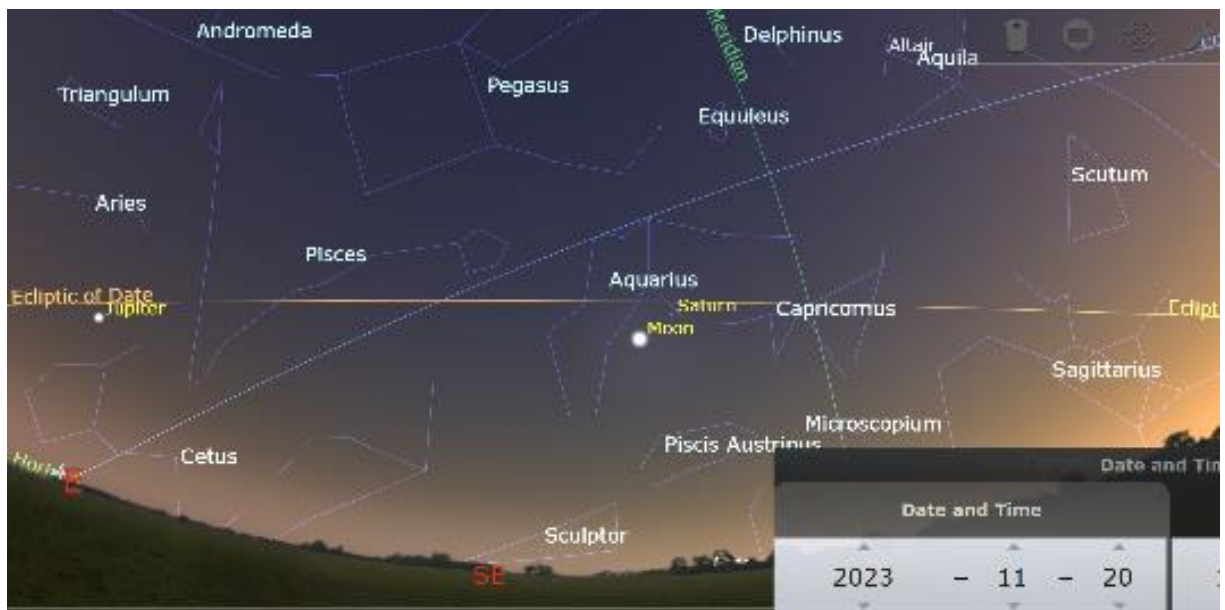


On the evening of November 19th USA observers can locate Shani above and east of Chandra. The following evening Shani will be above and west of Chandra. On November 20th, observers in India will find Shani above Chandra.

Fig. 13: India, dusk, November 20, 2023



Fig. 14: USA, east coast, dusk, November 20, 2023



On the evening of November 24, observers in both India and the USA will find Guru east of Chandra. On November 25th, Guru will be below and west of Chandra. The distance between Chandra and Guru will be different for these locations.

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



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

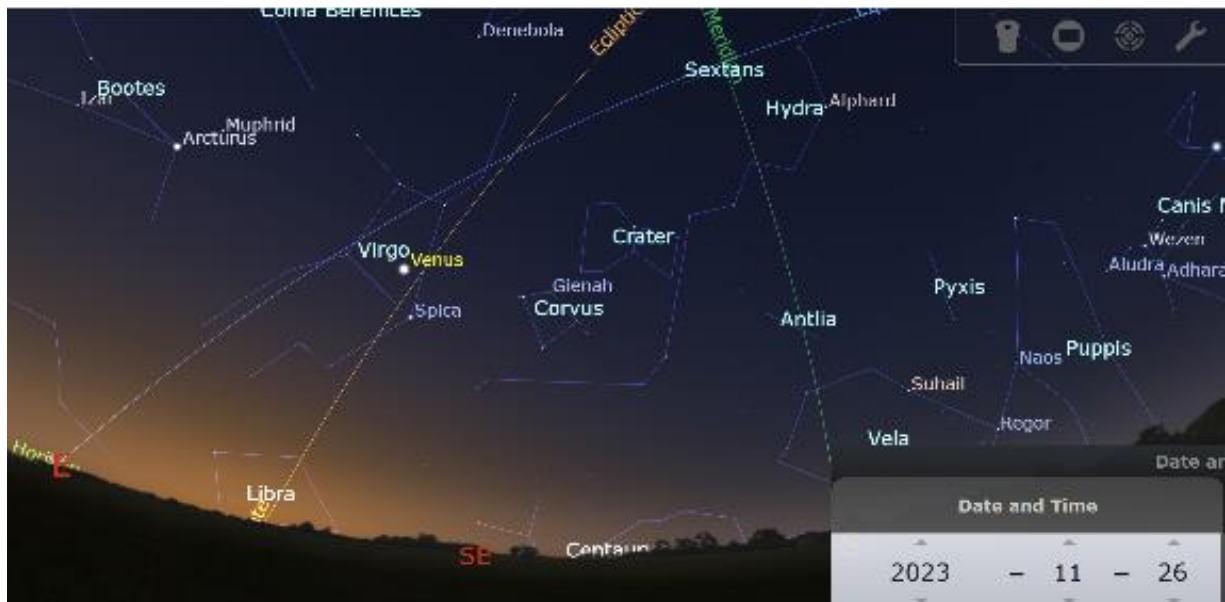


Meanwhile, in the morning sky, Shukra moves through the nakshatras of Kanya rashi. On the morning of November 18, Shukra will pass below Porrima (of the constellation Virgo) and above Algorab, one of the four stars marking Corvus the Crow. These stars mark Hasta nakshatra in Kanya rashi. On the morning of November 26, Shukra will pass above Virgo's alpha star Spica marking Chitra nakshatra.

Fig. 17: USA east coast, dawn, November 18, 2023



Fig. 18: India, dawn, November 26, 2023



On the morning of December 9th, Observers in the USA will find Shukra slightly above and east of Chandra. On December 10th, Shukra will be above and west of Chandra. Observers in India will find Shukra east of Chandra on December 9th. On December 10, Shukra will be above Chandra. The bright star above Shukra in the constellation Bootes is Arcturus, marking Swati nakshatra. While Shukra is among the feet of the constellation Virgo, it is actually in Tula rashi. Remember that even in the sidereal zodiac constellations do not equal rashis. All rashis are equal 30° in length while constellations are of various sizes. The most disparity between the constellated and

sidereal zodiacs occurs around Virgo/Libra and Pisces/Aries because both Virgo and Pisces are very long constellations spanning more than 30° of the ecliptic, while Libra and Aries measure less than 30° along the ecliptic.

Fig. 19: USA east coast, dawn, December 9, 2023



Fig. 20: India, dawn, December 10, 2023



On December 18th, observers in the USA will find Shukra directly between Zuben Elgenubi and Zuben Eshmalli of Libra constellation and Tula rashi that mark the gateway of Vishaka nakshatra. Observers in India will observe Shukra just before the gateway (slightly above the Zubens) on the morning of December 18th and through the gateway on December 19th (just below the Zubens).

Fig. 21: India, dawn, December 18, 2023



Fig. 22: USA, east coast, dawn, December 18, 2023



Meanwhile, Chandra passes Shani in the evening sky. Observers in India can locate Shani above and east of Chandra on December 17th and west of Chandra on December 18th. On December 22nd Chandra will be directly above Guru. Observers in the USA will find Shani directly above Chandra on December 17th. Guru will be east of Chandra on December 21st and below and west of Chandra on December 22nd.

Fig. 21: USA, east coast, dusk, December 17, 2023



Fig. 22: India, dusk, December 22, 2023



Happy stargazing and planet tracking! Tune in to the winter issue of *The Comet* for better viewing opportunities for Budha and begin watching for Mangala to appear in the morning sky in late December.