



## Sun, Planets and Transitions

The **Sun** will be in Cancer, the Crab (*Karka*) on 1 August, with an angular diameter of 31'31". On 10 August the Sun moves to Leo, the Lion (*Simha*). Its angular diameter then will be 31'41".

**Mercury** will be in Leo on 1 August. On 4 August it will be stationary and will then travel retrograde for a brief period of five days starting 6 August, when it enters the boundary of Sextans, the Sextant (*Shadansh*). It will be stationary again on 28 August and will resume its prograde motion thereafter.

**Venus** will be in Leo on 1 August. It moves to Virgo, the Virgin (*Kanya*) on 25 August. **Mars** will be in Taurus, the Bull (*Vrushabha*) this month. **Jupiter** and **Saturn** continue to remain in Taurus and Aquarius, the Water-bearer (*Kumbha*) respectively.

On 1 August we can see Mars, Jupiter and Aldebaran make an equilateral triangle just before dawn. Mars and Aldebaran will shine red, whereas Jupiter will be nearly white. Mars is moving towards Jupiter. On 14 August it passes about 0.3° from Jupiter.

*(Disclaimer: we categorically mention here that we do not believe in astrology and believe that the only influence a planet has on us is to give us the viewing pleasure of its beauty. The sole purpose of giving the transition of planets and the Sun is to acquaint the reader with the Indian nomenclature of planets and constellations and also to show that the actual positions of the Sun and planets, which are based on modern computing, are very different from those given in astrology tables.)*

### List of Events in August 2024 (Time in IST)

Dt	Dy	Time	Event
01	Th	11:29	Moon north declination: 28.5° N
03	Sa	04:22	Pollux 1.8° N of Moon
04	Su	13:48	Mercury stationary
04	Su	16:43	New Moon
04	Su	19:10	Mars 4.9° N of Aldebaran
05	Mo	04:26	Venus-Regulus: 1° N
06	Tu	03:28	Regulus 2.7° S of Moon
06	Tu	03:34	Moon-Venus: 1.9° S
07	We	22:53	Mercury-Venus: 5.7° N
09	Fr	06:36	Moon Descending Node
09	Fr	07:02	Moon apogee: 405300 km
10	Sa	15:04	Moon-Spica: 0.8° S
12	Mo	19:08	Perseid Shower: ZHR = 90
12	Mo	20:49	First quarter
14	We	20:15	Mars-Jupiter: 0.3° N
15	Th	02:10	Mercury 5.2 S° of Regulus
16	Fr	01:40	Moon south declination: 28.5° S
19	Mo	07:18	Mercury inferior conjunction
19	Mo	23:56	Full Moon
21	We	08:24	Moon-Saturn: 0.4° S
21	We	10:35	Moon perigee: 360200 km
22	Th	15:57	Moon ascending node
26	Mo	03:18	Uranus 4.3° S of Moon
26	Mo	08:57	Moon-Pleiades: 0.1° S
26	Mo	14:56	Last quarter
27	Tu	17:01	Jupiter 5.6° S of Moon
28	We	05:18	Mars 5.3° S of Moon
28	We	16:39	Moon north declination: 28.6° N
28	We	08:02	Mercury stationary
30	Fr	10:17	Moon-Pollux: 1.8° N
31	Sa	11:01	Moon-Beehive: 3.3° S

## March of the Moon

On 1 August the approximately 14% illuminated lunar disk can be seen above the



◀ Please scan this QR code if you would like to receive this newsletter directly in your inbox or send an email to [astronomydiy@gmail.com](mailto:astronomydiy@gmail.com)

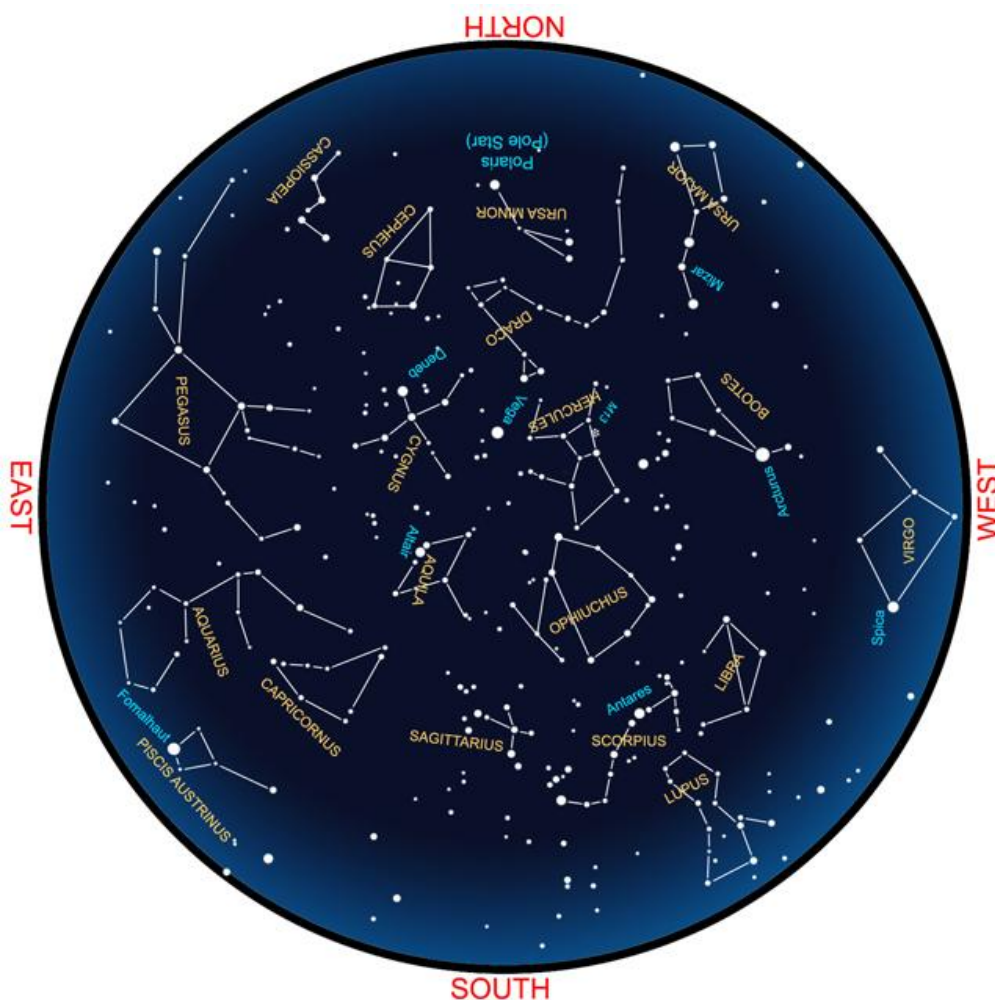
eastern horizon at dawn, with Mars, Jupiter and Aldebaran above it. On 2 August the Moon will be less than  $2^\circ$  north of Pollux. On 5 August, a day after New Moon, the Moon will reappear as a very thin crescent close to the western horizon. On 10 August it will occult Spica (*Swati*). This event will not be visible over India as it will take place around 3 pm IST.

On 15 August, the Moon, with nearly 78% illumination, will be seen projected over the Milky Way, almost in the direction of its centre. On 20 August, a day after Full Moon,

the Moon rises about 15 minutes before Saturn; as the night progresses, we can see it inching closer towards Saturn. By dawn on 21 August, it will be  $2^\circ$  west of Saturn.

On 26 August the Moon will occult stars of the Pleiades cluster. Again, this event will not be visible from India; but at dawn, the nearly half-illuminated Moon and the Pleiades can be seen almost overhead. On 28 August, the Moon can be seen right below Elnath (beta Tauri or *Agni*). Mars will be due south of it, and Jupiter above it. On 30 August the Moon will be seen southwest of Pollux.

**This sky map for August is drawn for mid-northern latitudes, to be used around 9:30 p.m. local time**



For notes on stargazing [click here](#).

Or visit <https://skytonight.wordpress.com/monthly-sky-notes-and-links/>

**These pages are contributed by:**

Arvind Paranjpye (paranjpye.arvind@gmail.com) (<http://arvindparanjpye.blogspot.com/>) and Anjaneer Rao (rao.anjaneer@gmail.com)