



Sun, Planets and Transitions

The **Sun** will be in Pisces, the Fishes (*Meena*), on 1 April. Its angular diameter will be 32'1.4". It will move to Aries, the Ram (*Mesha*) on 19 April. On 30 April, its angular size will decrease to 31'45.8".

Mercury is above the eastern horizon at dawn. By mid-month, **Mars** and **Saturn** can also be seen rising before the **Sun**. From 19 to 21 April these three planets are within two degrees of each other. These three mornings will present good photo-opportunities.

Mercury will be in Aquarius, the Water Bearer (*Kumbha*) on 1 April. It will move to Pisces on 13 April and then to Cetus, the Whale (*Timingal*), on 19 April. After a few days on 23 April, Mercury will move back to Aries. It reaches its maximum western elongation on 4 April and then moves towards the eastern horizon.

Ephemeris of Mercury:

Date	Alt*	Diam''	Mag	El°
01 Apr	+13°25'	8.0	0.4	27.6 W
10 Apr	+14°07'	6.9	0.1	27.0 W
20 Apr	+13°02'	6.0	-0.1	22.9 W
30 Apr	+09°59'	5.4	-0.7	15.6 W

Venus will be in Aries on 1 April. It moves to Taurus, the Bull (*Vrushabha*) on 19 April. It passes between the Pleiades (*Kruttika*) and the Hyades cluster from 24 to 28 April.

Ephemeris of Venus:

Date	Alt*	Diam''	Mag	El°
01 Apr	+08°37'	10.6	-3.9	20.5 E
10 Apr	+11°24'	10.9	-3.9	22.7 E
20 Apr	+14°35'	11.2	-3.9	25.1 E
30 Apr	+17°40'	11.6	-3.9	27.6 E

List of Events in April 2026 (Time in IST)

Dt	Dy	Time	Event
02	Th	07:42	Full Moon
03	Fr	07:02	Moon-Spica: 1.9° N
04	Sa	04:29	Mercury elongation: 27.8° W
07	Tu	00:51	Moon-Antares: 0.7° N
07	Tu	14:02	Moon apogee: 405000 km
08	We	10:31	Moon south declination: 28.3° S
10	Fr	10:22	Last quarter
13	Mo	10:55	Mars 0.3° N of Neptune
14	Tu	05:13	Moon ascending node
16	Th	06:15	Moon-Mars: 3.8° S
16	Th	07:29	Saturn 4.7° S of Moon
17	Fr	17:22	New Moon
19	Su	12:27	Moon perigee: 361600 km
19	Su	14:18	Moon-Venus: 4.7° S
19	Su	21:58	Moon-Pleiades: 1° S
20	Mo	00:34	Mars-Saturn: 1.2° N
20	Mo	15:11	Mercury-Saturn: 0.5° N
21	Tu	03:45	Mercury-Mars: 1.7° N
21	Tu	16:42	Moon north declination: 28.2° N
23	Th	00:32	Lyrid shower: ZHR = 20
23	Th	03:36	Moon-Jupiter: 3.6° S
24	Fr	06:51	Venus 0.8° N of Uranus
24	Fr	08:02	First quarter
24	Fr	09:45	Venus-Pleiades: 3.5° S
24	Fr	13:16	Moon-Beehive: 1.1° S
26	Su	06:07	Moon-Regulus: 0.2° S
26	Su	20:06	Moon descending node
30	Th	13:47	Moon-Spica: 2° N

Mars is in Aquarius on 1 April. It moves to Pisces on 2 April and continues in Pisces until 18 April, when it enters Cetus. It then moves back to Pisces on 22 April.

Ephemeris of Mars:

Date	Alt*	Diam''	Mag	El°
01 Apr	+06°50'	4.1	1.2	18.2 E
10 Apr	+10°03'	4.1	1.2	20.0 E
20 Apr	+13°38'	4.1	1.2	22.0 E
30 Apr	+17°13'	4.2	1.2	24.1 E

Jupiter remains in Gemini, the Twins (*Mithuna*). It is still in the eastern sky at sunset.

Ephemeris of Jupiter:

Date	Alt*	Diam"	Mag	El°
01 Apr	+81°29'	38.8	-2.2	94.0 W
10 Apr	+74°24'	37.7	-2.1	85.8 W
20 Apr	+66°26'	36.6	-2.1	77.1 W
30 Apr	+58°37'	35.6	-2.0	68.6 W

Saturn will be in Pisces on 1 April. It moves to Cetus on 10 April. It reappears above the eastern horizon by mid-April, and by the month's end it is well above the horizon by dawn.

Date	Alt*	Diam"	Ring#	Mag	El°
10 Apr	+04° 34'	15.8	35.9"	0.9	13.7 W
20 Apr	+12° 52'	15.9	36.1"	0.9	22.2 W
30 Apr	+21° 16'	16.0	36.3"	0.9	30.7 W

Angular diameter of the major axis of the ring.

* Altitudes of a planet are given for the beginning of civil twilight if the planet is to the west of the Sun, or for the end of civil twilight if the planet is to the east of the Sun.

(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.)

March of the Moon

The month begins with a bright, nearly full Moon rising above the eastern horizon at sunset. Full Moon is on 2 April. The next day on 3 April, the Moon will be west of Spica (*Chitra*).

It can then be seen south of Antares (*Jyeshtha*) on 7 April in the early morning. The next day on

8 April, the Moon is in the direction of the centre of the Milky Way. It passes through the tea pot asterism of Sagittarius on 9 April.

In the second half of April, a couple of days are packed with a grouping of four planets and the Moon. On 15 April, the Moon, Mercury, Mars, Saturn and Neptune are within a 15° circle. On 16 April they are within a 5° circle.

On 19 April, the thin lunar crescent will be west of the Pleiades, and to its south will be Venus. Then on 22 and 23 April, the Moon passes through Gemini and is close to Jupiter. On 25 April the Moon is to the west of Regulus (*Magha*), and on the next day it is to its east. On 30 April, the Moon can be seen rising soon after Spica.

Events Involving the Moons of Jupiter

In the table below, we list the events visible from India. The table gives the timings of eclipses, occultations, transits and shadow transits of the moons of Jupiter, suitable for Indian observers. The timings are given in Indian Standard Time (IST).

The output is given as per the following abbreviations and notations:

Columns: 1 = date; 2 = time; and 3 = satellite number.event type.phase.

Satellite numbers: 1 = Io; 2 = Europa; 3 = Ganymede; and 4 = Callisto.

Event type: Ec = eclipse; Oc = occultation; Tr = transit; and Sh = shadow transit.

Phase: D = disappear; R = reappear; I = ingress; and E = egress.

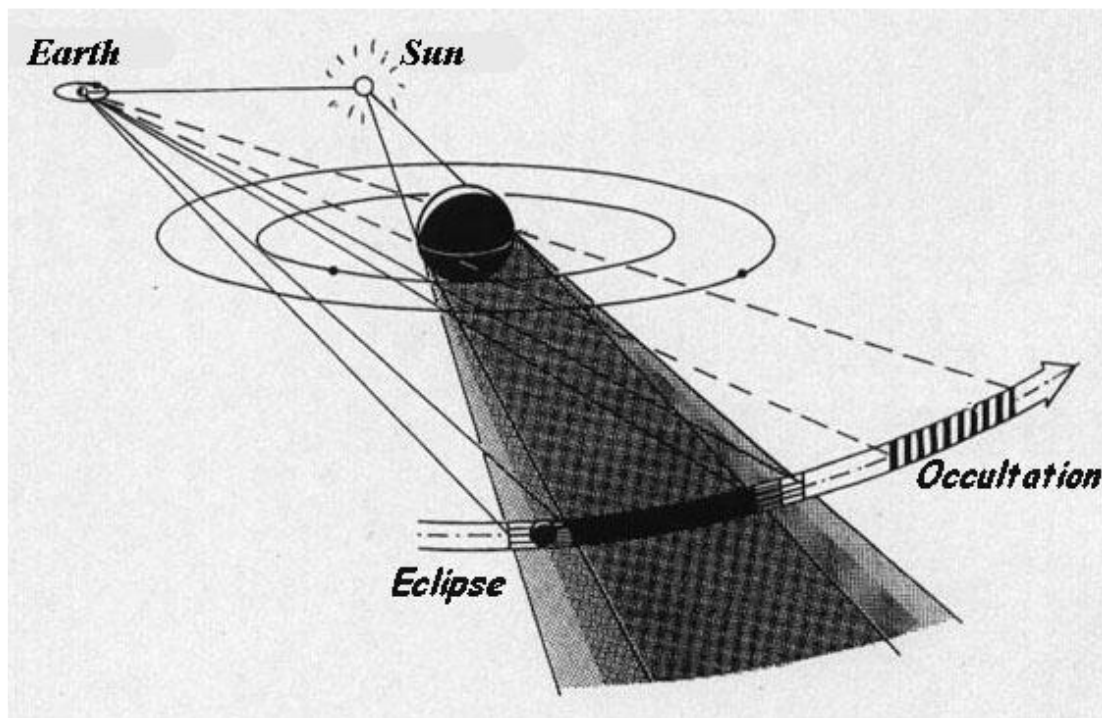
Example:

01	19:41:24	2.Oc.D
02	23:32:24	1.Tr.I

Means that

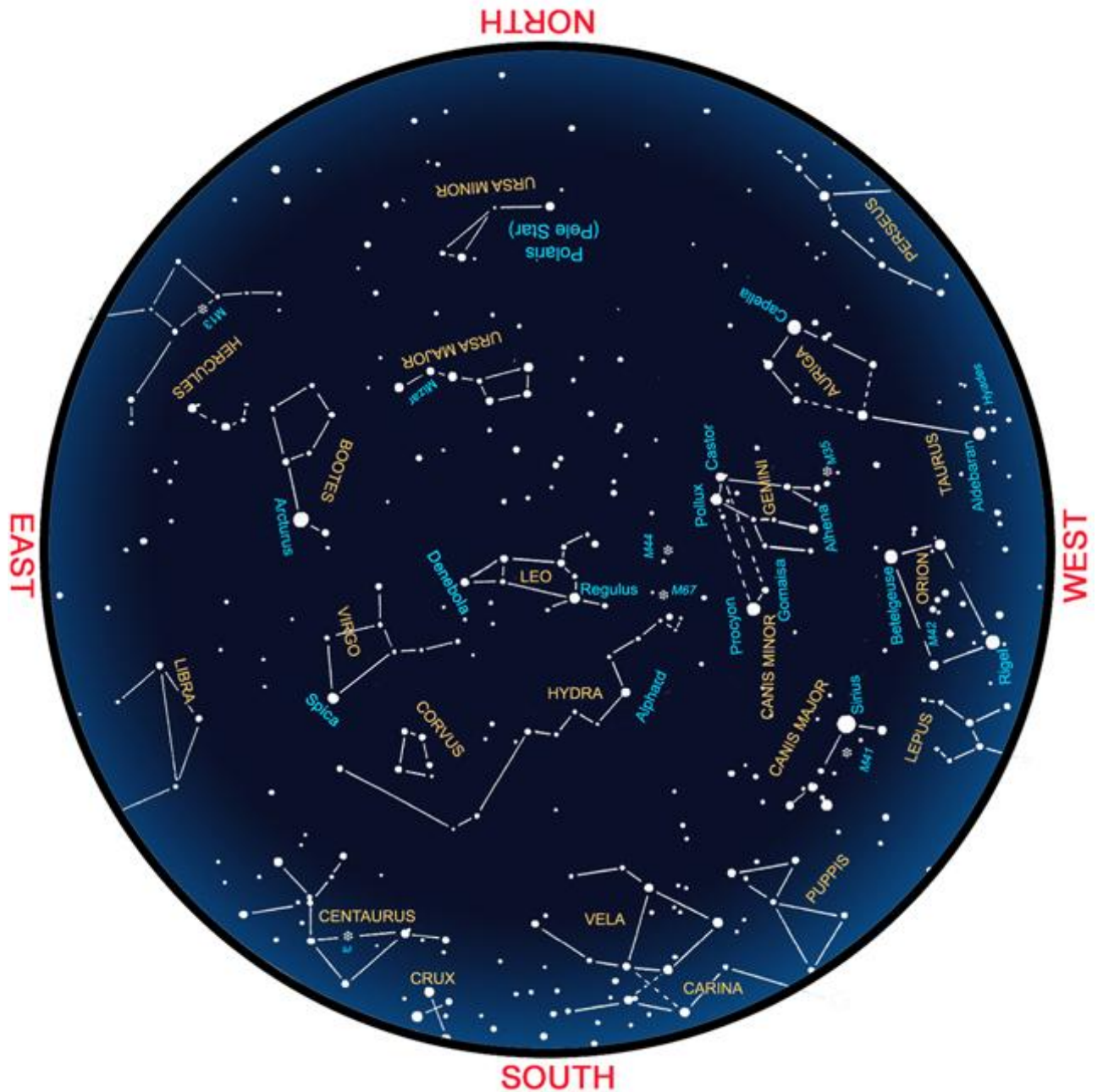
At 19:41:24 hours on 1 April, Europa will disappear behind Jupiter. On 2 April at 23:32:24 hours, Io will begin its transit across the planet's disk.

Satellites of Jupiter in April 2026										
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
01	19:41:24	2.Oc.D		10	19:54:24	2.Sh.I		18	23:08:48	1.Sh.I
02	23:32:24	1.Tr.I			20:11:06	2.Tr.E		19	19:11:00	1.Oc.D
03	00:49:00	1.Sh.I			22:43:54	2.Sh.E			19:47:42	2.Ec.R
	18:42:42	4.Tr.I			22:45:54	1.Oc.D			22:43:42	1.Ec.R
	20:08:24	2.Sh.E		11	19:56:42	1.Tr.I		20	19:54:30	1.Sh.E
	20:50:48	1.Oc.D			21:13:18	1.Sh.I		24	19:27:54	3.Sh.I
	22:40:36	4.Tr.E			22:12:42	1.Tr.E			22:39:00	2.Tr.I
04	00:25:00	1.Ec.R			23:29:54	1.Sh.E			22:53:54	3.Sh.E
	19:17:48	1.Sh.I		12	20:48:48	1.Ec.R		26	21:08:00	1.Oc.D
	20:17:00	1.Tr.E		13	20:10:42	3.Oc.D			22:25:48	2.Ec.R
	21:34:18	1.Sh.E			23:31:12	3.Oc.R		27	19:33:12	1.Sh.I
05	18:53:48	1.Ec.R		17	18:53:06	3.Sh.E			20:36:30	1.Tr.E
06	19:29:06	3.Oc.R			20:00:06	2.Tr.I			21:50:06	1.Sh.E
	21:21:42	3.Ec.D			22:29:42	2.Sh.I		28	19:07:24	1.Ec.R
07	00:48:48	3.Ec.R			22:48:36	2.Tr.E			20:34:00	4.Oc.D
08	22:18:30	2.Oc.D		18	21:53:12	1.Tr.I				



Eclipses occur when the satellites pass in the shadow of Jupiter. Occultations occur when the satellites pass behind Jupiter for a terrestrial observer. (Picture courtesy: <https://promenade.imcce.fr/en/pages3/365.html>)

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



For the latest updates, please 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
Anjanee Rao (rao.anjanee@gmail.com)