



Sun, Planets and Transitions

The Sun will be in Aries, the Ram (*Mesha*) on 1 May. Its angular diameter will be 31'45.3". It will move to Taurus, the Bull (*Vrushabha*), on 14 May. On 31 May, its angular size will decrease to 31'33.3".

The month of May brings us two bright planets above the western horizon at sunset. Closer to the horizon is **Venus**, the evening star. It is climbing above the horizon. Well above it is **Jupiter**, which is moving towards the horizon. The two planets are moving in opposite directions on the celestial sphere. **The Moon** will be between them on 19 May. In June, they will pass within 1.5° of each other.

In the pre-dawn sky we have **Mars** and **Saturn**, with the latter well above the eastern horizon.

Mercury will be in Pisces, the Fishes (*Meena*) on 1 May. It moves to Aries on 4 May and then to Taurus on 14 May. It is too close to the Sun to be seen easily. By the month's end, it will make its appearance over the western horizon.

Ephemeris of Mercury:

Date	Alt*	Diam"	Mag	El°
30 May	+04°57'12"	5.95	-0.7	17.6 E
31 May	+05°48'16"	6.05	-0.6	18.4 E

Venus will be in Taurus on 1 May. It moves to Gemini, the Twins (*Mithuna*) on 19 May. It can now be seen shining in its full glory.

Ephemeris of Venus:

Date	Alt*	Diam"	Mag	El°
01 May	+13°08'	11.6	-3.9	27.8 E
10 May	+15°49'	12.0	-4.0	30.0 E
20 May	+18°51'	12.6	-4.0	32.3 E
30 May	+21°46'	13.2	-4.0	34.6 E

List of Events in May 2026 (Time in IST)

Dt	Dy	Time	Event
01	Fr	Evening	Venus: 27.8° E
01	Fr	22:53	Full Moon
02	Sa	06:29	Venus-Aldebaran: 6.4° N
04	Mo	07:50	Moon-Antares: 0.5° N
05	Tu	04:00	Moon apogee: 405800 km
05	Tu	13:46	Eta Aquarid shower: ZHR = 60
05	Tu	17:05	Moon south declination: 28.1° S
10	Su	02:41	Last quarter
11	Mo	10:06	Moon ascending node
13	We	11:20	Neptune 3.7° S of Moon
13	We	23:01	Saturn 5.1° S of Moon
14	Th	19:45	Mercury superior conjunction
15	Fr	02:34	Mars 4.7S of Moon
17	Su	01:31	New Moon
17	Su	19:18	Moon perigee: 358100 km
17	Su	06:32	Mercury 4.4° S of Moon
17	Su	09:42	Uranus 5.1° S of Moon
18	Mo	03:30	Mercury 0.9° N of Uranus
19	Tu	01:08	Moon north declination: 28.1° N
19	Tu	07:20	Moon-Venus: 2.9° S
20	We	18:09	Moon-Jupiter: 3.1° S
21	Th	20:09	Moon-Beehive: 0.8° S
22	Fr	21:26	Uranus conjunction
23	Sa	12:10	Moon-Regulus: 0°
23	Sa	16:41	First quarter
23	Sa	20:56	Moon descending node
27	We	19:39	Moon-Spica: 2.1° N
31	Su	14:02	Moon-Antares: 0.4° N
31	Su	14:15	Full Moon

Mars will be in Pisces on 1 May; it moves to Aries on 18 May.

Ephemeris of Mars:

Date	Alt*	Diam"	Mag	El°
01 May	+11°21'	4.2	1.2	24.3 W
10 May	+14°07'	4.2	1.2	26.1 W
20 May	+17°05'	4.2	1.3	28.2 W
30 May	+19°55'	4.3	1.3	30.3 W

Jupiter will remain in Gemini.

Ephemeris of Jupiter:

Date	Alt*	Diam''	Mag	EI°
01 May	+52°54'	35.5	-2.0	67.8 E
10 May	+46°16'	34.6	-2.0	60.4 E
20 May	+38°55'	33.8	-1.9	52.4 E
30 May	+31°37'	33.2	-1.9	44.6 E

Saturn will remain in Cetus, the Whale.

Ephemeris of Saturn:

Date	Alt*	Diam''	Ring#	Mag	EI°
01 May	+16°53'	16.0	36.4	0.9	31.6 W
10 May	+24°47'	16.2	36.7	0.9	39.3 W
20 May	+33°38'	16.3	37.1	0.9	47.9 W
30 May	+42°33'	16.6	37.6	0.8	56.6 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

May 2026 begins with the Full Moon rising above the eastern horizon as the Sun sets in the west. On 4 May the Moon passes less than half a degree from Antares (*Jyeshtha*). Two days later on 6 May, it can be seen in the spout of the tea pot asterism of Sagittarius, and in its handle on 7 May.

The Moon then passes north of Neptune, Saturn and Mars on 13, 14 and 15 May. It then reappears above the western horizon on Sunday, 17 May. Here is a nice summer challenge: The Moon's elongation at sunset on 17 May will be less than 12°. It will be a good challenge for seasoned amateur astronomers to sight the thin lunar crescent, even with a telescope or a pair of binoculars. It will be easier if you are on a hill station. We advise novices **against** attempting to try spotting the Moon on this day, because it will be too close to the Sun.

On 18 May the crescent Moon will be easily visible. Above it will be Alnath (*Agni* or Beta Tauri.) Venus will be shining brightly 8° south-east of the Moon. On 20 May both Jupiter and the Moon will be in the Gateway of Heaven. The Moon will be 3° north of Jupiter.

Then on 22 May, the Moon will be west of Regulus (*Magha*). The next day, the half-illuminated Moon will be to the east of Regulus.

On 27 May the Moon will be seen north of Spica (*Chitra*), and on 31 May it will pass less than 5° from Antares.

The month of May has a 'Blue Moon'. The second Full Moon in any given month is known as a Blue Moon. The first Full Moon will be on 1 May at 22:53 hours IST; the second Full Moon will be on 31 May at 14:15 hours IST. In the western world, in the northern hemisphere, the Full Moon of May is known as the 'Flower Moon' in recognition of the plentiful blooms that burst to life on Earth as the warm spring weather takes hold.

A Blue Moon occurs once every 2.5 – 3 years. The next Blue Moon will be in December 2028.

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 22:00:42 3.Tr.E

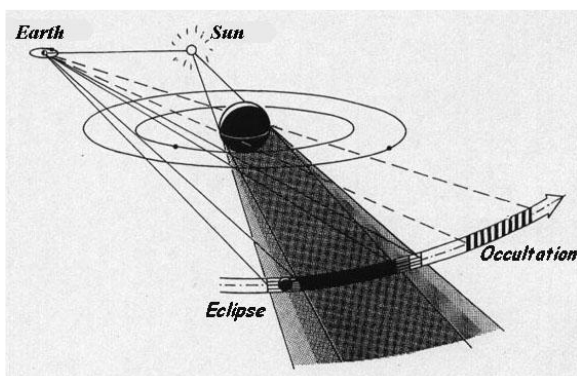
And

03 19:43:54 2.Oc.D

Means that

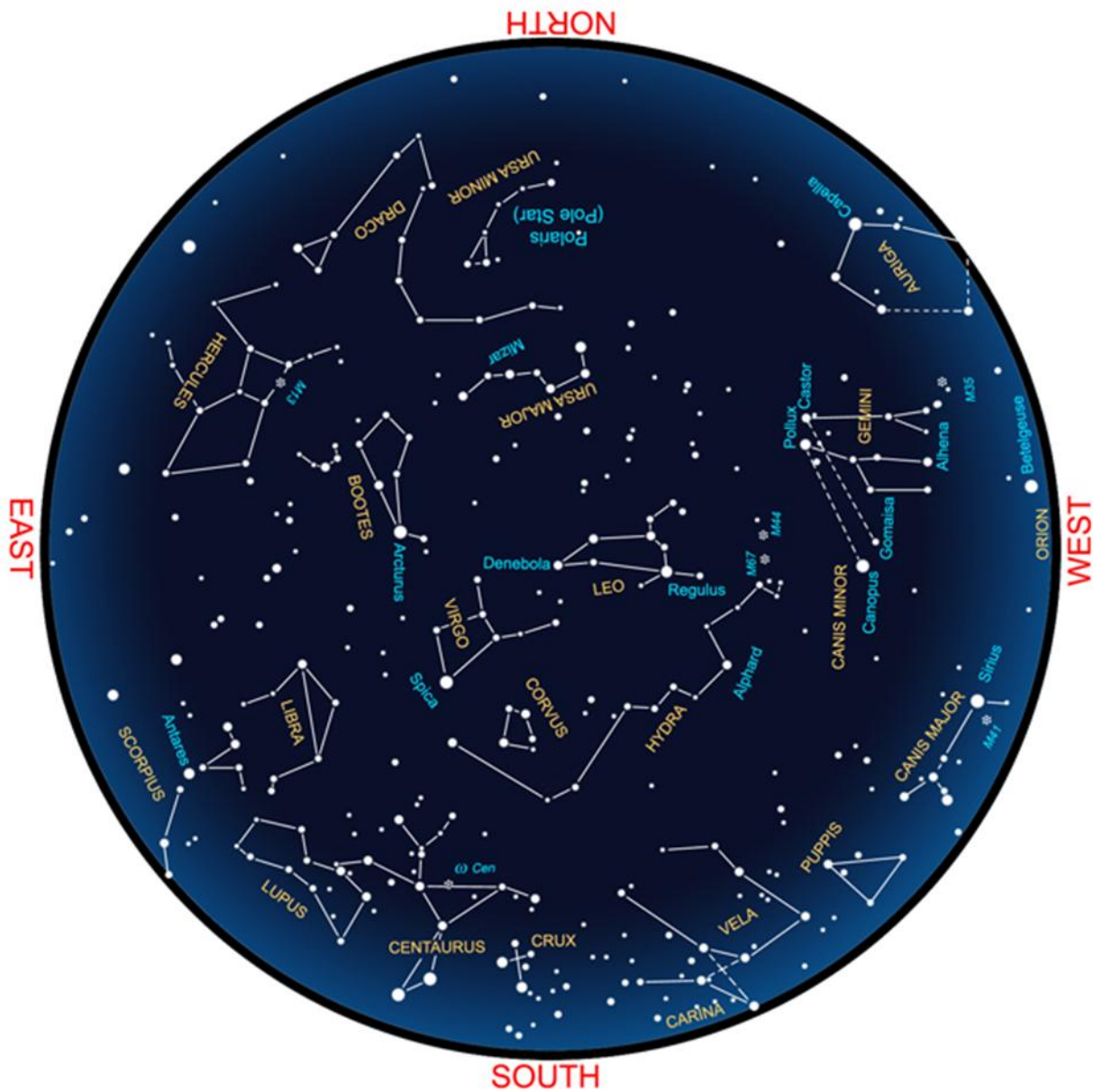
At 22:00:42 hours on 1 May, Ganymede will emerge after transiting the face of Jupiter. On 3 May at 19:43:54 hours, Europa will disappear behind the disk of the planet.

Satellites of Jupiter in May 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	22:00:42	3.Tr.E		12	19:32:30	2.Sh.I			21:32:36	1.Oc.D
03	19:43:54	2.Oc.D			19:33:36	1.Oc.D			22:07:24	2.Sh.I
	23:05:42	1.Oc.D			20:11:18	2.Tr.E	20	19:48:24	1.Sh.I	
04	20:18:24	1.Tr.I			20:49:18	3.Ec.R		21:03:48	1.Tr.E	
	21:28:42	1.Sh.I			22:22:36	2.Sh.E		22:05:48	1.Sh.E	
	22:35:00	1.Tr.E	13	19:03:54	1.Tr.E		21	19:20:30	1.Ec.R	
05	19:47:30	2.Sh.E			20:10:12	1.Sh.E		19:38:48	2.Ec.R	
	21:02:18	1.Ec.R	15	20:10:18	4.Oc.R		26	21:26:42	3.Oc.D	
08	22:53:48	3.Tr.I	19	20:05:24	2.Tr.I		27	20:46:54	1.Tr.I	
10	22:29:00	2.Oc.D			20:31:42	3.Oc.R		21:43:42	1.Sh.I	
11	22:17:24	1.Tr.I			21:18:36	3.Ec.D	28	21:15:12	1.Ec.R	



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 May 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
Anjaneer Rao (rao.anjaneer@gmail.com)



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send an email to astronomydiy@gmail.com