

Another celestial event: Moon Occults Venus tomorrow

Contact: Apoorva/ Aakanksha
Mobile: +91-9212669953, 9212669920
Email: pr.spaceindia@gmail.com

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On June 30th, another celestial event is set to occur as Moon comes in front of the second planet – Venus as seen from the Earth. This eclipsing of Venus by Moon is called occultation, similar to what happens in solar eclipse (moon covers the sun). An occultation is an event that occurs when one object is hidden by another object that passes between it and the observer.

There have been many night time lunar occultation of Venus but this time its special as it is happening in broad day-light in India. Therefore, it gives a great opportunity to all the amateurs to witness and capture occultation in daylight. **In India, the time (IST) to witness disappearance is 13:18:59 and reappearance is 14:41:55.** As India is presently hovered by the monsoon season, it might be a challenge to spot a crescent moon with Venus in daylight. A similar occultation occurred last year in the month of May during the daylight.



Venus occultation captured by SPACE Team from Sohna, Haryana during the night-sky in 2004

Across the globe, this lunar occultation of Venus is visible in Africa, Middle East and Asia. In, western Africa, it will be observable before the sunrise while the other countries will witness it during the day time. The first location where the Moon eclipses Venus will be Tripoli, Libya at 05:44 UT.

However, due to the phenomenon's close proximity with the Sun (approx. 12 degrees to the east) anyone who attempts to view or photograph it should be **EXTREMELY CAREFUL** not to accidentally point a telescope at the Sun while looking for the objects. The Sun's intense luminosity amplified through a telescope will cause severe injury to the careless individual. It is

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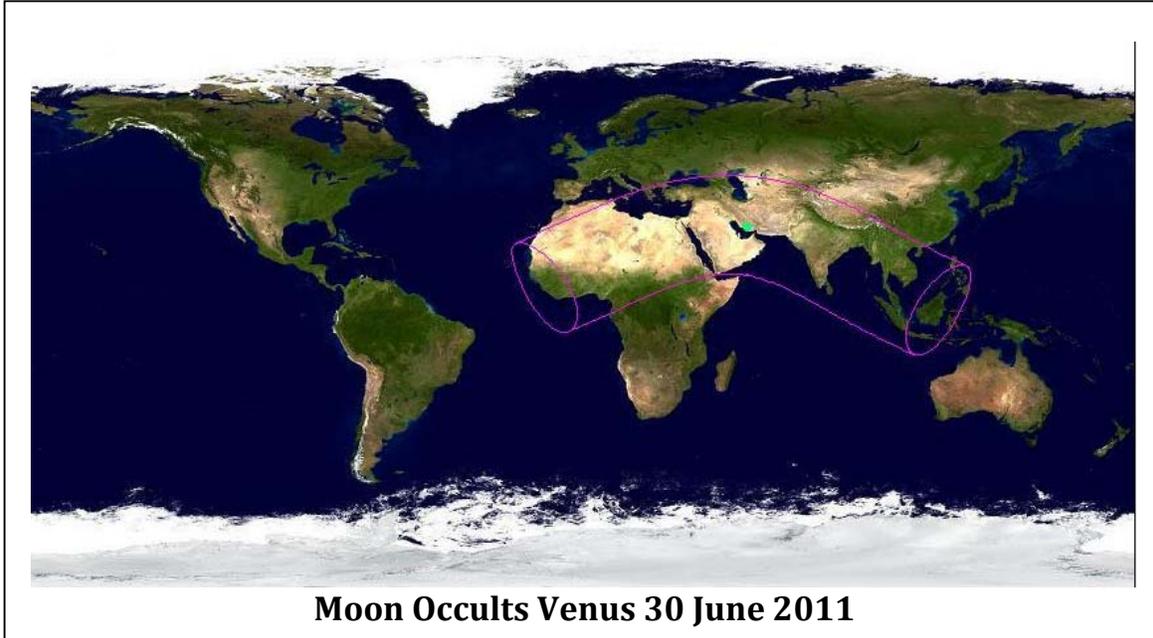
Head Office : WZ-19, Asalatpur, A-3, Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58

Ph.: 25522193, 41574592, Fax: 25532193

Website: www.space-india.org, E-mail: info@space-india.org

advisable that no one should attempt to watch it without proper assistance, as it could be dangerous because of it being too close to the Sun.

For more information visit: <http://occultationindia.blogspot.com/>



For more information: Contact **Apoorva 09212669953** or **Aakanksha 09212669920**.