

Perseids meteor shower to light up the sky

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The Rain Gods are delighted; this incessant rain is not the only downpour happening in Delhi, there would be a meteor shower as well on August 12 and 13. The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at their peak. The shower's peak usually occurs on August 12 & 13, but these meteors are visible any time from July 23 - August 22.

These typically fast and bright meteors radiate from a point in the constellation Perseus the Hero. But you don't need to know Perseus to watch the shower. The meteors appear in all parts of the sky. Look to the northeast after midnight. The Perseids are considered by many people to be the year's best shower, and often peak at 50 or more meteors per hour – in years when the moon is out of the sky. The Perseids meteor shower is named after the constellation Perseus, which is located in roughly the same point of the night sky where the Perseids meteor shower appears to originate from. The source of the Perseids meteor shower is actually debris from the comet Swift-Tuttle.

Every year, the earth passes through the debris cloud left by the comet when the earth's atmosphere is bombarded by what is popularly known as "falling stars." Unfortunately, the full moon will hamper this 2011's Perseids display, obscuring all but the brighter meteors, during the shower's actual peak. But you will see Perseids in the weeks leading up to the peak, too, if you have dark skies. These typically fast and bright meteors radiate from a point in the constellation Perseus - the Hero.

The Perseids Meteor Shower would be difficult to see in Delhi due to dense cloud cover and full moon. On August 13th, 2011 the onset of Perseids meteor shower is estimated to be around 12:30 IST.

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