

# krittika

WEB EDITION, May 2008  
Edited by Vidur Parkash

## AAADELHI.ORG...Reloaded!!!!

As you may have noticed, [aaaadelhi.org](http://aaaadelhi.org) received a new facelift recently. Due to the recent volumes of traffic on the website, we ran out of allocated bandwidth within a 10 days. Yes no kidding 1GB transfer in 10 days....Sounds unbelievable right?

So what all changes have been made? Well, we've upgraded to the CMS to Drupal 6.2 with enhanced security features, and also installed GALLERY 2.0.



Yup you guessed it right. NOW YOU ALL CAN GET A PERSONAL PHOTO GALLERY on the website. To do so, just send your request to [vidur\\_itm@yahoo.com](mailto:vidur_itm@yahoo.com)

What else has improved?

We have started a video of the week section featuring educational documentary series on science, cosmology, astronomy for all those armchair enthusiasts.

No more comment spam, yeah....that was one serious problem.

## YOUR AADELHI.ORG BLOG

Yup register at the site and get started you're your own astro-blog, sharing your thoughts, field journals or pictures with fellow astronomers.

## Lunar Occultation of Mars

On May 10<sup>th</sup> the moon swept in front of Mars occulting it from stargazers in the subcontinent. Amateur astronomer Ajay was there with his LX200 and a Philips Toucam, took a spectacular closeup of the pair during the contact



Photo Courtesy : Ajay Talwar/AAAD

I must say the Toucam is a wonderful little webcam, but costs a fortune considering that it is only a "webcam". Philips has now discontinued this model but now sells virtually the same stuff under the model number SPC900NC for a \$84 ( ~ Rs 3500 ) price tag on amazon.com. Folks don't try this with that cheap desktop webcam you bought from Nehru place...they're just not the same CMOS sensor. I've heard the Quickcam Pro 9000 sports a similar low light CMOS sensor. Bohemians!.....time to check it out!

The bohemians set up camp at the Kushak mahal in the plani grounds....Whoaaa!!! you're probably thinking where is that....yes its that funny old structure next to the planetarium, the building who nobody cares about.

Way to go Rathna ma'am, atleast now we know there is something called the Pushpak.....oops!.....er....Kushak mahal :D

For the uninitiated, the Kushak mahal was a hunting lodge built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq. It is pretty much abandoned now, as resident peacocks of the Teen murti lawns will testify this fact for you.

**This Months Sky:  
(Messier 104) The Sombrero  
Galaxy**



*Courtesy : NASA/HST*

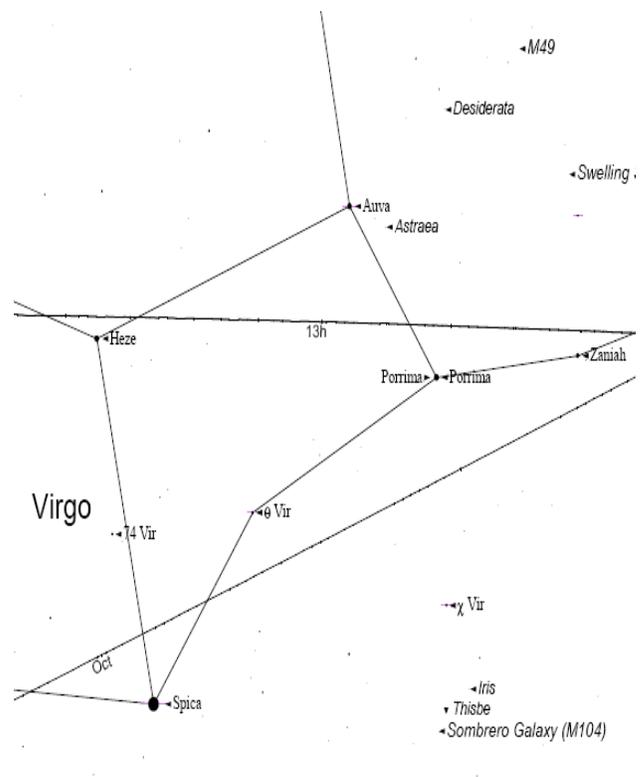
It's the summer sky, and its Messier marathon season. One of the most beautiful and vivid DSOs in the night sky. The Sombrero Galaxy (M104) is a edge on spiral galaxy which forms a part of the constellation Virgo. It is located about one degree due East of the bright star Spica. The galaxy has an apparent magnitude of 9.0, making it a galaxy that can easily be seen with amateur telescopes. The large bulge, the central supermassive black hole, and the dust lane all attract the attention of professional astronomers.

When seen through a small scope or binocular, it appears like a bright lemon shaped gas cloud. Larger scopes can resolve dust lanes and other features. Astrophotographers will find this an easy but delightful target

So the next time you go out on that field trip make sure that M104 is on your observing itinerary

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hear your story!**

You can send in your pictures, stories and articles to the AAAD. Send all publication material in MS word format to [vidur\\_itm@yahoo.com](mailto:vidur_itm@yahoo.com)



Finder Chart for M104