

The year's brightest meteor shower to be dulled by the brightest moon of the year

New Delhi: While the dark monsoon skies are expected to light up with a meteor shower tomorrow, it would be difficult to view it in Delhi this year, due to dense cloud cover and the Supermoon, i.e. Full moon on 10 August. The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at their peak. There is no single peak time for Perseids but it's likely to be at its peak between 19h UT (00:30 IST, 13 August) on 12 August to 08h UT (13:30 IST) on 13 August, 2014. In India one can try watching it on 11 and 12 August late night to dawn.

These typically fast and bright meteors radiate from a point in the constellation Perseus the hero. However, one does not need to know about Perseus to watch the cosmic shower. The meteors appear in all parts of the sky. One can look towards the northeast after midnight to see the shower.

The Perseids meteor shower is named after the constellation Perseus, which is located in roughly the same point of the night sky from where the Perseids meteor shower appears to originate. **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 Supermoon (full moon) this year will hamper this Perseids display, obscuring all but the brightest meteors, during the shower's actual peak. However, one will see Perseids in the weeks leading up to the peak, too, if there are dark skies.

To view the fireballs in the sky, go to a dark site outside Delhi and look at the sky in the late nights or dawn anytime during this period, but especially on the night of 11 and 12 August.

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