

## Countdown for century's longest total lunar eclipse begins



A total lunar eclipse aka blood moon will take place on the night of July 27 and continue till the early hours of July 28 - marking the longest lunar eclipse in 100 years. The best part? India is the centre of the entire celestial event and it can be viewed from entire country - bet you don't want to miss the chance of viewing this historic event.

The excitement among stargazers and researchers have sparked at the peak as the countdown begins for the rare celestial event of the longest lunar eclipse of the century. On the night of July 27, 2018, the moon will perfectly align with the Sun and Earth - placed exactly in the middle, leading to a perfect total lunar eclipse. The total lunar eclipse state will last for 1 hour and 43 minutes - making it the longest in last 100 years and will also be visible until the early hours of July 28, 2018. While the sky is cloudy due to monsoon, there are good chances of glimpsing the eclipse due to long period absorption of the blood moon.

Perhaps, the best part is that India is at the centre stage of the celestial event and it will be visible from all over India. As per Indian Standard Time, the eclipse will begin at 11:44 PM on July 27th, reach partial eclipse state at 11:54 PM and total lunar eclipse will begin at 1:00 AM on July 28th. The peak of the blood moon will be reached at 1:51 AM and the total eclipse will last till 2:43 AM. However, partial eclipse can be viewed through the night from 3:49 AM and at 4:58 AM - totalling to 6 hours 14 minutes of lunar eclipse session. Now that's a huge window and one mustn't miss it, mark the date and book the time.

Alongside India, the blood moon will be visible from almost everywhere on world including - Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America - pretty much everywhere, except North America. The month of July has been interesting for stargazers with triple delights - a partial solar eclipse on July 13, the longest total lunar eclipse of century on July 27; followed by Mars coming the closest it has to earth in 15 years on July 31. Keep your heads up this month.