



Public Outreach & Education Committee of **ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA**

(Regd. Office: Dept. of Astronomy, Osmania University, Hyderabad - 500 007)

Secretary's Office: Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Koramangala, Bangalore 560034

Phone: 91-80-22541431 Fax: 91-80-25534043 Email: secretary@astron-soc.in

24th July 2018

A Long Duration Total Lunar Eclipse

On the night of 27th July 2018 more than half the world will have opportunity to watch the century's longest Lunar eclipse. People living in large parts of Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America will have opportunity to observe this entire eclipse, from beginning to the end. This will be one the longest lunar eclipse lasting for about 103 minutes as the centres of the Sun, the Earth and the Moon would nearly be along one straight line.

A lunar eclipse takes place when the Moon enters the shadow of the Earth. On this night the Earth is directly between the Moon and the Sun, blocking the sunlight reaching the Moon. Or casting its shadow on the Moon. The event obviously takes place on the full moon night.

What would happen on the night of July 27, 2018

The Moon will enter the penumbral shadow of the Earth at about 10:53 p.m. IST. Nothing much will be noticeable to the untrained eyes for next 30 to 40 minutes. After that, one might notice gradual change in the brightness on the lunar disk. By 11:54 pm, the Moon will enter the umbra of the Earth's shadow. The dark shadow will now be seen progressing on the lunar disk. This will be quite noticeable to the naked eyes. At 01:00 a.m. of July 28, 2018, the Moon will be completely inside the umbra of the Earth. At this time, the colour of the lunar disk will be red with it's many hues - crimson, brick red etc. The time of the maximum eclipse is 1:51. The total phase of eclipse will end at 02:43 a.m., it will be out of umbral shadow by 03:49 a.m. and completely out of penumbra at 05:00 a.m.

Although lunar eclipses are a spectacular celestial phenomenon, it does not have any effects on human beings. The lunar eclipse can be safely observed without any filters or telescopes from your own homes or terraces. One should also note that it is perfectly safe to carry on your normal activities during the eclipse period including eating and drinking. In fact, ASI POEC promotes #EclipseEating campaign. We request people to take pictures of themselves eating / drinking during the eclipse and post it on social media with the hashtag #EclipseEating.

ASI POEC is happy to help members of press by answering any questions regarding the eclipses. You can contact the members mentioned below.

For ASI-POEC

Dr. Aniket Sule, Mumbai – aniket.sule@gmail.com, 9820273239

Mr. Arvind Paranjpye, Mumbai – paranjpye.arvind@gmail.com, 98338 30253, 94223 19923

Dr. Joe Jacob, Kochi – drjoephysics@gmail.com,

Dr. Niruj Mohan R., Chennai – nirujmohanr@gmail.com, 7798680084

Dr. Priya Shah-Hasan, Hyderabad – priya.hasan@gmail.com

Dr. N. Rathnashree, Delhi – rathnasree.nandivada@gmail.com, 9910939443

Mr. Samir Dhurde, Pune – samir@iucaa.in, 9422366819

Dr. T. V. Venkateswaran, Madurai – tvv123@gmail.com, 9819512077

President

Prof. S. K. Pandey
Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University
Amanaka G.E.Road, Raipur
Chhattisgarh (India) - 492010

Vice-President

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Bangalore-560231

Immediate Past President

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The Inter-University Centre for
Astronomy and Astrophysics
IUCAA, Post Bag 4
Ganeshkhind, Pune University
Campus, Pune 411 007

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II Block, Koramangala
Bangalore 560034

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The Inter-University Centre for
Astronomy and Astrophysics
IUCAA, Post Bag 4
Ganeshkhind, Pune University
Campus, Pune 411 007

Prof. Divya Oberoi
National Centre for Radio
Astrophysics
Pune University Campus,
Ganeshkhind, Pune, 411007

Dr. Santosh Vadawale
Physical Research Laboratory
Near Gujarat University,
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380009

Prof. Anandmayee Tej
Indian Institute of Space Science and
Technology
Valiamala Road, Valiamala,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695547

Editor BASI (Ex-officio)

Prof. D. J. Saikia
National Centre for Radio
Astrophysics
Pune University Campus,
Ganeshkhind, Pune, 41100

URL: <http://www.astron-soc.in>