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Chennaiites set to witness Supermoon spectacle

Sricharan R

Monday, 14 November 2016



Chennai: Tonight, gear up to watch the largest and brightest moon in nearly 70 years. The 'Supermoon' - as it is called - can be seen across the planet, will be the

closest Full Moon after 1948.

In simple words, when the moon is full and when it makes its closest pass to Earth, it is known as a Supermoon. The Full Moon will be much larger in diameter (14 per cent bigger) and it shines 30 per cent more moonlight on to the Earth. This Supermoon can be seen in India after dusk.

Are Supermoons rare? No, not really. By the time 2016 ends, people would have seen three Supermoons (on 16 October, today and 14 December).

The fact is that it will be the closest in recent times. On 14 November, the Full Moon will be 356,508 km from the Earth, the closest ever since January 1948, when it was nearly 47-km closer. There won't be another such supermoon until 2034, when it will be even closer to Earth, at 356,445 km.

It is noted that supermoon's scientific name is perigee-syzygy. The moon will become full at around 7.22 pm IST, or before sunset in most parts of India. The size will not look very different after nightfall and people can witness this with their naked eye.



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- Certainly
- Not at all
- To a small extent
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When the moon is closer to the Earth, it can lead to slightly higher tides and greater variations between the tides.

SPACE-Chennai is organising Supermoon observation at Shri Natesan Vidyasala Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mannivakkam, near Tambaram, for around 150 students and their parents today from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Chennaiites are bracing to watch the celestial spectacle and a section of students said they were waiting to see the Moon at its 'biggest best'.

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