

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE – JAN 31, 2018

Report

GENERAL DETAILS

- Name of the Venue: India Gate, New Delhi
- Name of Organiser: SPACE India
- Date & time of conduction: 31st January, 2018, 6:30 – 9:00 pm
- Number of Participants (give best estimate): Over 900

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

'Blue Moon Supermoon Blood Red Moon -Total Lunar Eclipse' on Jan 31st 2018

Public Observation conducted by SPACE at India Gate

A triple Lunar event – 'Supermoon – Blue Moon - Total eclipse of the Moon occurred on Wednesday 31 January, 2018 from about 6:00pm to 9:30pm.

SPACE India conducted public observation of this rare and viewing worthy phenomenon, a **Total Lunar Eclipse, on 31st January 2018 from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm at India Gate, New Delhi. In addition to this, SPACE India conducted 30 different observations at 8 various locations across India – making it overall one of the largest public outreach efforts in the whole world for observing eclipses!**

The Moon was plunged into darkness for 1 hour and 16 minutes (in Full Eclipse phase), in a deep total eclipse. The eclipse was visible from all over India, but at moonrise the moon was already in partial eclipse while rising.

A total lunar eclipse appears dark red due to scattering of light, and is called the '**Blood Moon**'. The red wavelengths get refracted towards the moon by the earth's atmosphere hence the moon appears red or copper in hue. Additionally, during this eclipse the Moon was a supermoon, just a day past perigee which is the closest point to Earth in its orbit, making it appear very large and bright. And lastly 'blue moon', is what the second full moon in a month is called. As it is unusual for a full moon to occur twice in a month, hence the phrase, but there is no blue color!

As far as India is concerned, in 1982 on December 30, there was a Blue Moon- Lunar Eclipse – 35 years back. 150 years refers to the last time a Blue Moon – Lunar eclipse combination happened that was visible from the US. Additionally, from India we will witness another Total Lunar Eclipse on 27th July this year.

At India Gate:

SPACE set up a special conduction at India Gate, Delhi at the heart of the city to enable eclipse observations for the public. Close to 1000 people thronged at the conduction by SPACE India to enjoy the amazing sight of a supermoon in total lunar eclipse, framed near the landmark India Gate. 2 Dobsonian telescopes were set up that enabled the educators to show the moon in detail to the public. The educators also described the phases of the moon and explained what was happening. SPACE educators encouraged those present to share food at the time of the maximum eclipse at 7pm, to break the myth that one should not eat during an eclipse. Heavy clouds made it difficult to watch the start of the eclipse at India Gate. The eclipse became visible only at mid eclipse, after which the audience got a great view.

Space India

Glimpses of Public Observation at India Gate



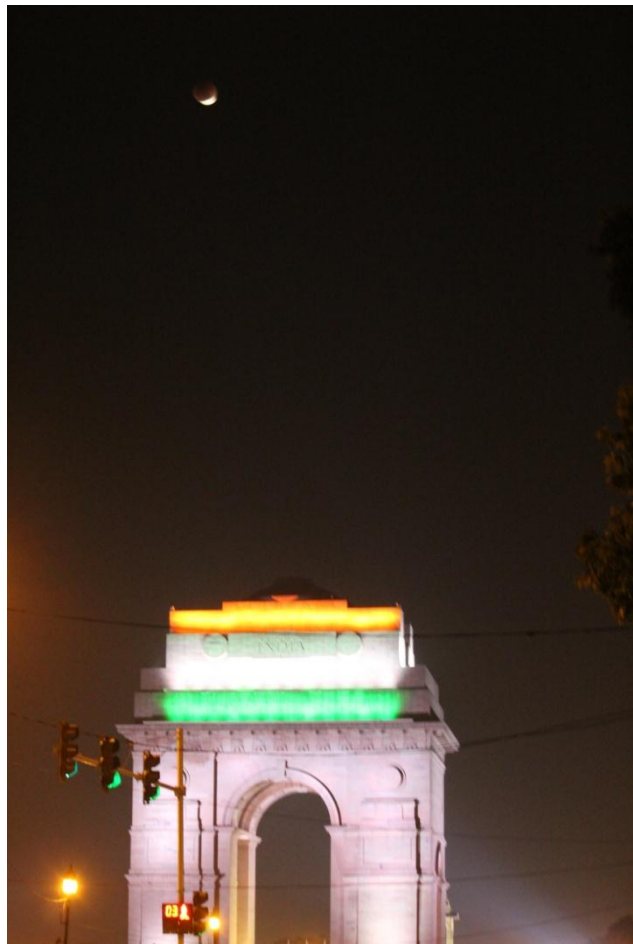
Observing the moon through a telescope



Educator explaining the eclipse



Observing the Moon



Eclipsed moon above India Gate