

The last eclipse of the year -

'Total Lunar Eclipse observation and photography'

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For Immediate Release

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December 5th, 2011

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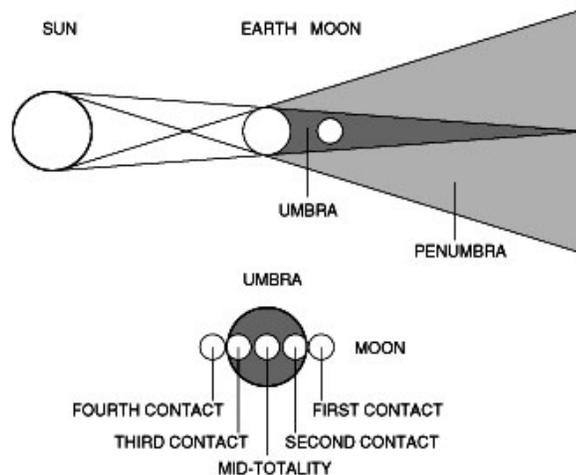
On 10th December 2011, the last Total Lunar Eclipse of the year 2011 occurred and brought to light a spectacular view of the moon. This celestial event was clearly visible from India and Delhiites were lucky enough to get an opportunity to observe Moon in its different phases on this Full Moon night.

SPACE with some of the esteemed scientists conducted an observation at heritage sites in Delhi like Shanti Stupa, Millenium Park and India Gate. Some of the eminent eclipse chasers used professional cameras and instruments to photograph the eclipse and experiment during its transcending phases.

Mr. Leo Dubal who is a speaker in Solar Eclipse Conference visited India Gate with his wife and was awed by the turnout of the public and congratulated SPACE for its efforts to popularize science.

Ms. Monique Larrey from France says, " I am loving the way moon is playing hide and seek with the clouds and this pleasant winter of Delhi is making the experience even wonderful."

SPACE conducted a public watch in supervision of our experts conducted at India Gate where people gathered to observe the eclipse in its different phases from 5 pm to 11pm on 10th December 2011. Many schools connected to SPACE and the public milled around to see the beautiful spectacle through telescopes. The parent of a child from Step by Step school, Noida commented that it was a wonderful opportunity for children to witness the celestial marvel first hand. Students from schools such as Amity International, Pushp Vikar and MVN were also present. Student sform Ryan International, Vasant Vihar who are also members of Astronomica, the amateur Astronomy wing connected to SPACE set up camera and were doing photography of the eclipse through phases.



SPACE has named this celestial event as – **'Heavens and Heritage'** as many enthusiastic scientists, Astronomers and eclipse chasers capture the total lunar eclipse from heritage locations of Delhi.

The total lunar eclipse on December 10, 2011 is one of six eclipses that occurred in 2011.

This celestial event is just 5 days ahead of the International Solar Eclipse Conference being organised by SPACE from 15th December to 17th December 2011 to be held at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri. The coming year of 2012 marks the year of various celestial events like Venus Transit, Annular Solar Eclipse and the biggest one is the Total Solar Eclipse in Australia. Several international scientists who are here for the conference also viewed the eclipse from India Gate with SPACE.

Points of Visibility of the Partial Solar Eclipse

The December 10 lunar eclipse was visible in the region covering Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, North America, Greenland, and the Indian, Pacific, and Arctic Ocean.

About the Eclipse

This year we got a chance to witness two Total Lunar Eclipses, previously on June 15th. This one was a relatively rare central eclipse where the moon passed in front of the center of the Earth's shadow. This eclipse could be seen nicely from India and in many locations of Delhi people gathered to watch this rare eclipse. The total phase itself lasted for 51 minutes.

About Lunar Eclipses

An eclipse of the moon occurs when the earth is in a direct line between the sun and the moon. The moon does not have any light of its own; instead, it reflects the sun's light. During a lunar eclipse,

the moon is in the earth's shadow. It will often look dim and sometimes copper or orange in color. The lighter part of Earth's shadow is call the "penumbra" and the totally dark part is called the "umbra". If you see a chart that says the lunar eclipse is going to be penumbral, this means that the Moon will only pass through the lighter part of Earth's shadow. A partial lunar eclipse occurs when only part of the Moon passes through the umbra, or darkest part, of Earth's shadow. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when moon passes through penumbra, the lighter part of the shadow

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