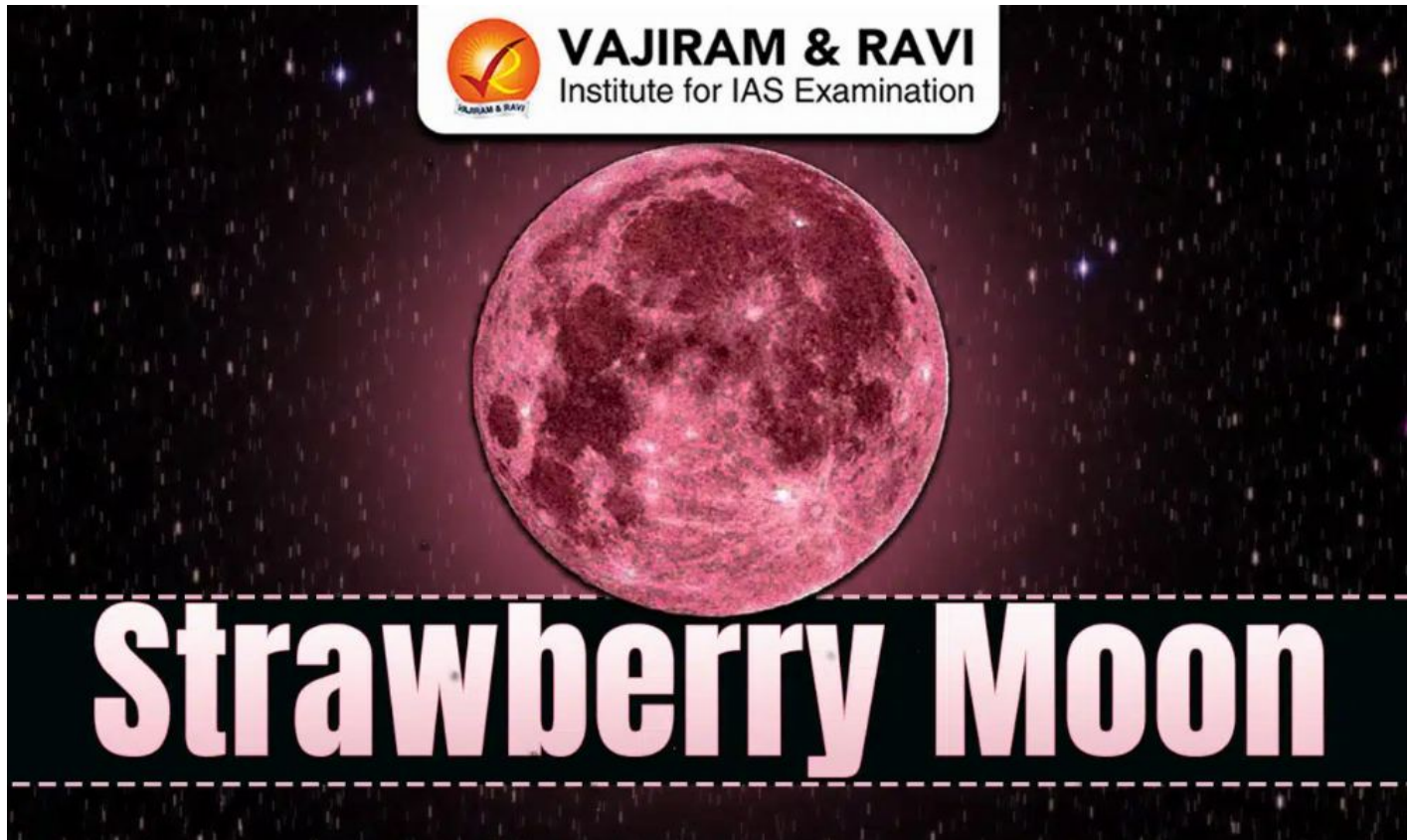


Strawberry Moon 2026, Meaning, Date, Time, Next Visibility

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Why in the News?: The Strawberry Moon of 2026 reached its peak illumination on 29 June 2026 (30 June in India). It attracted global attention because it appeared unusually low in the sky in the Northern Hemisphere and occurred near the Moon's apogee, making it one of the smallest full moons of the year.

What is Strawberry Moon?

A full moon occurs when the Earth lies directly between the Sun and the Moon, causing the entire Earth-facing side of the Moon to be fully illuminated by sunlight. ***The full moon that occurs in June is traditionally known as the Strawberry Moon.***

- Despite its name, the Moon does not appear pink or red.
- Instead, the name comes from the seasonal traditions of Indigenous communities in **North America**, who associated the June full moon with the harvesting of wild strawberries.
- Other Indigenous communities, including the **Ojibwe, Dakota, and Lakota**, also named full moons according to seasonal events to keep track of the changing seasons.

- In Europe, the June full moon was known by names such as the **Hot Moon, Honey Moon, Mead Moon, and Rose Moon**, reflecting local farming traditions.
- In 2026, the Strawberry Moon was the seventh full moon of the year because a **Blue Moon (the second full moon in a calendar month)** occurred on 31 May 2026. As a result, 2026 will have 13 full moons instead of the usual 12.
- The Spiritual Meaning of Strawberry Moon stands for sweetness and prosperity through labor and hardwork. It symbolizes the harvest of wild strawberries in North America after ripening linking it to the human values and goals.

Strawberry Moon 2026

The **2026 Strawberry Moon** reached its peak illumination on **29 June 2026 (5:27 a.m. IST on 30 June)**. It was the **first full moon of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and occurred near the Moon's apogee**, making it one of the year's **Micromoons**. Since it appeared shortly after the **summer solstice**, it followed one of the lowest paths across the sky, making the Moon Illusion and its characteristic golden-orange appearance more prominent for observers.

Why is it called Strawberry Moon?

The Strawberry Moon often attracts attention because it **appears low in the sky, larger, and more colourful than a typical full moon**. However, these are visual effects and not actual changes in the Moon.

- It **appears very low above the horizon** because it occurs soon after the summer solstice, when the full moon follows its lowest path across the sky in the Northern Hemisphere.
- When the Moon is close to the horizon, it often looks much larger than usual due to the **Moon Illusion** – an optical illusion in which our brain perceives the Moon as bigger when it is seen near trees, buildings, or hills.
- The **Moon may also appear golden, orange, or amber** because its light travels through a thicker layer of Earth's atmosphere. During this journey, the atmosphere scatters blue light and allows the warmer colours to become more visible.
- As the Moon rises higher in the sky, it gradually appears smaller and returns to its usual white or pale yellow colour.
- **Although it appears larger and more colourful, the Moon's actual size and colour do not change.**

When is the next Strawberry Moon?

The next Strawberry Moon 2027 is expected to be visible on June 18th, 2027 or nearby dates. This year the strawberry moon was visible in India during 05:26 IST on June 30, 2026. The last Strawberry Moon 2025 was visible in India during 19:15 hours IST on June 11, 2025.

Strawberry Moon Scientific and Cultural Significance

The Strawberry Moon is important because it connects astronomy with human history and culture.

- It shows how ancient communities used the Moon to understand seasons and agricultural cycles.

- The traditional names of full moons reflect the ecological knowledge of Indigenous peoples.
- It helps explain important scientific concepts such as lunar motion, Earth's orbit, atmospheric scattering, and optical illusions.
- Even today, the Strawberry Moon remains a reminder of how people have observed and understood the night sky for centuries.

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