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## SUPER BLUE MOON

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Super Blue Moon". The topic "Super Blue Moon" has relevance in the "Geography" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

### For Prelims:

What is the Super Blue Moon ?

What is apogee and perigee?

### For Mains:

GS1: Geography

### Why in the news?

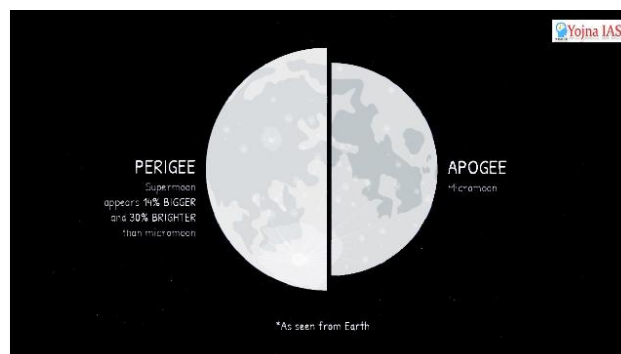
The full moon during Raksha Bandhan on August 30-31 is attracting attention for its uniqueness as it will be both a "blue moon" and a "super moon."

### What is a Supermoon?

- The moon's orbit around the Earth is not a perfect circle but an elongated or elliptical shape.
- It takes the moon 27.3 days to complete one orbit around the Earth, but 29.5 days from one new moon to the next.
- This slight difference arises because both the Earth and the moon are in motion around the sun.
- Consequently, it takes extra time for the sun to illuminate the moon the same way it does at the start of every Earth orbit.
- A full moon occurs when the moon is directly opposite the sun from Earth's perspective, resulting in the entire illuminated side facing Earth.
- **A super moon happens when the moon is passing through or is close to its perigee, the point closest to Earth in its elliptical orbit, and it's also a full moon.** While this also happens with new moons, they remain invisible.
- A full moon at perigee, or a super moon, appears approximately 14% larger and 30% brighter than a full moon at apogee, known as a "micro moon," according to NASA.

### Additional Information:

- **Perigee** is used to describe the point in an object's orbit around a celestial body, such as a planet or a moon, where it is closest to that body.
- In simpler terms, it is the lowest point or the **closest distance** an object reaches in its orbit to the celestial body it is orbiting.
- **Apogee** is used to describe the point in an object's orbit around a celestial body, such as a planet or a moon, where it is farthest from that body.
- In simpler terms, it is the highest point or the **greatest distance** an object reaches in its orbit away from the celestial body it is circling.



### What is a Blue Moon?

- **A blue moon is a term used when two full moons occur in a single calendar month.**
- Since the time between new moons is about 29.5 days, there are occasions when the first full moon of a month happens at the beginning, leaving days for another full cycle to be completed in the same month.

- Consequently, a month featuring a full moon on the 1st or 2nd day will also have a second full moon on the 30th or 31st. NASA notes that this phenomenon occurs every two or three years.
- Importantly, **the term “Blue Moon” has no relation to the moon’s actual colour**, as the moon can appear differently hued due to atmospheric conditions.

#### How Rare is a Blue Supermoon?

- According to NASA, blue supermoons are exceedingly rare events. They typically **occur only once every ten years** due to specific astronomical conditions.
- On occasion, the gap between blue supermoons can extend to as long as twenty years. The next pair of super blue moons is expected in 2037, appearing in January and March.

**Sources:**

In pictures | Rare blue supermoon dazzles stargazers around the globe – The Hindu

#### Q1. With reference to Supermoon, consider the following statements:

1. A super moon happens when the moon is passing through or is close to its apogee.
2. According to NASA, a full moon at perigee is known as a micro moon.
3. The term “Blue Moon” is related to the actual colour of the moon, as atmospheric conditions can cause the moon to exhibit a blue colour.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

**Answer: (d)**

#### Q2. Consider the following:

1. Perigee is the point in an object’s orbit where it is at its closest distance to the celestial body it is orbiting.
2. The apogee is the point where it reaches its greatest distance away from that celestial body.
3. A full moon at perigee appears approximately 14% larger and 30% brighter than a full moon at apogee.

#### How many of the abovementioned statements are correct ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (c)**

#### Q3. Discuss the scientific phenomena behind a Super Blue Moon and its occurrence. How does it differ from a regular full moon?

**Gaurav Nikumbh**

## OBC RESERVATION IN LOCAL BODIES

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “OBC Reservation in Local Bodies”. The topic “OBC Reservation in Local Bodies” has relevance in the Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.

#### For Prelims:

key points regarding this decision?

#### For Mains:

GS 2: Governance

What are the General Arguments in Favor of OBC Reservation in Local Body Elections?

Arguments Against?

#### Why in the news:

The state government of Gujarat has recently increased the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from the current 10% to 27% in panchayats and urban local bodies.

#### key points regarding this decision:

- The decision was made based on recommendations from the **Justice K S Jhaveri Commission**, which was established following a 2022 Supreme Court directive aimed at suggesting measures for OBC (Other Backward Classes) reservation in local bodies in Gujarat.

- The expanded OBC reservation of 27% will be applicable **across all levels of local bodies**, including municipal corporations, municipalities, gram panchayats, taluka panchayats, and district panchayats.
- However, this increased OBC reservation will **not be enforced in regions governed by the PESA Act of 1996, where the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population exceeds 50%**. In such areas, OBC candidates will receive a reservation of 10%.
- It's important to note that the existing quotas for Scheduled Castes (SCs) at 14% and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at 7% remain unchanged, ensuring compliance with the 50% reservation cap mandated by the Supreme Court.

#### What is the Supreme Court's stance on reservation in local bodies?

- In a landmark decision by a five-judge Constitution Bench in the case of **K. Krishnamurthy (Dr.) v. Union of India (2010)**, the Supreme Court interpreted **Article 243D(6) and Article 243T(6)**, which allow for the reservation of seats for backward classes in panchayats and municipal bodies, respectively.
- The Supreme Court also emphasized that the obstacles to political participation differ from those hindering access to education and employment, as seen in Article 15(4) and Article 16(4), which pertain to reservation in education and employment.
- However, the Supreme Court clarified that while reservations in local bodies are permissible, they are contingent on empirical evidence of backwardness specific to these bodies. This determination is based on what is known as the "triple test," comprising the following conditions:
  1. The establishment of a dedicated Commission to conduct a thorough empirical inquiry into the nature of backwardness in local bodies.
  2. The specification of the proportion of reservation required to be allocated on a local body-by-body basis.
  3. The assurance that such reservation does not exceed an aggregate of 50% of the total seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) combined.

#### What are the General Arguments in Favor of OBC Reservation in Local Body Elections?

- **Empowerment, Inclusivity, and Participation:** Reservation offers OBC individuals a chance to actively engage in local governance, enabling them to voice their concerns, represent their communities, and play a role in shaping policies that affect their lives.
- **Relevance of Policies:** Elected representatives from OBC backgrounds are more likely to comprehend the unique challenges faced by their communities and work effectively to address them.
- **Skill and Leadership Development:** Reservation provides increased opportunities for individuals to acquire experience in leadership positions, public speaking, and decision-making.
- **Heightened Political Awareness:** It fosters political awareness and engagement among community members, motivating them to participate more actively in the political process.
- **Long-Term Positive Impact:** Advocates argue that over time, this approach may lead to a fairer distribution of resources, improved socio-economic indicators, and reduced disparities among various segments of society.

#### Arguments Against:

- **Caste-Based Division:** Some critics argue that reservations based on caste perpetuate societal divisions, emphasizing differences instead of promoting unity.
- **Disadvantaged Groups Within OBCs:** Concerns exist regarding varying levels of privilege within the OBC category, with some groups considered more privileged (referred to as the "creamy layer") than others. Implementing reservations for the entire OBC category might lead to relatively more privileged groups benefiting disproportionately, while the most marginalized OBCs continue to be underrepresented.
- **Reservation Efficacy:** Skeptics also raise doubts about the long-term effectiveness of reservations in genuinely addressing socio-economic disparities. They advocate for alternative approaches such as targeted welfare programs and skill development initiatives.
- **Impact on Local Governance:** There are concerns that political considerations may take precedence over governance priorities when candidates are elected through reservations. This could potentially hinder effective decision-making and the overall development of local governing bodies.

#### SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/gujarat-government-hikes-reservations-for-obcs-to-27-in-panchayats-and-ulbs/article67248279.ece#:~:text=The%20Congress%20recently%20held%20a%20sit%2Din%20demanding%20reservations%20for%20the%20community&text=The%20Gujarat%20government%20on%20August,panchayats%20and%20urban%20local%20bodies.>

#### Q.1 Local self-government is most accurately described as a manifestation of:

- (a) Federalism
- (b) Democratic decentralization
- (c) Administrative delegation
- (d) Direct democratic engagement

**ANSWER: B**

#### Q.2 Consider the following statements:

1. To become a member of a Panchayat, an individual must be at least 25 years old.
2. If a Panchayat is reconstituted due to premature dissolution, it will exist only for the remaining duration of its original term.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: B**

**Q.3** “Discuss the evolving dynamics of reservation policies in India, considering the recent decision by the Gujarat state government to raise OBC reservations in panchayats and urban local bodies. Analyze the constitutional and social implications of such changes, and evaluate their impact on social justice and governance.”

**Rishabh**



**Yojna IAS**  
योजना है तो सफलता है