



# Super Blue Moon

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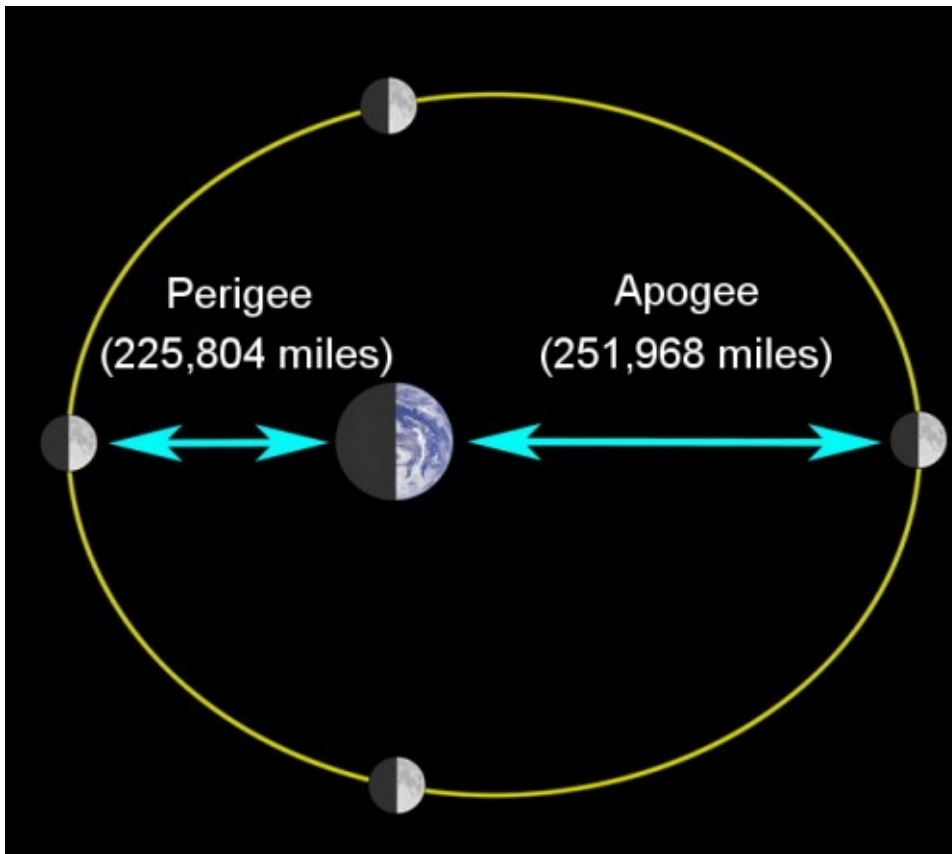
## Why in News?

On August 30, 2023, the night sky was illuminated by a **rare phenomenon: a super blue moon**. However, despite its name, this **full moon was neither blue in colour nor super in size**.

- The last blue supermoon was in 2009, according to the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#), and the next is not expected until 2037.

## What is a Super Blue Moon?

- A super blue moon combines a **supermoon and a blue moon**.
- A supermoon occurs when the **moon aligns closely with Earth during its orbit, making it appear larger and brighter**.
  - This alignment, called **perigee, contrasts with apogee, when the moon is farthest** in its elliptical orbit around earth. While the difference is subtle, near the horizon, an **optical illusion can make it seem larger**.
  - The term "**supermoon**" was coined in 1979 by astrologer Richard Nolle.
- A blue moon is the **second full moon in a month**. Despite its name, **a blue moon isn't blue**; it's the traditional name for the second full moon in a month.
  - Sometimes, smoke or dust in the air can scatter red wavelengths of light, as a result of which the moon may, in certain places, appear more blue than usual, but this has **nothing to do with the name "blue" moon**.



▪ **Effect:**

- The moon's gravitational pull during a supermoon slightly affects tides, causing minor fluctuations in coastal high and low tides. However, the difference is **usually not significant enough to cause major disruptions.**



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