Strawberry Moon

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Why in News?

Recently, the Strawberry Full Moon was cited on June 29 in India.

- **Strawberry Moon** – Every full moon of the year carries a traditional name, and *2026 June's full moon* was popularly known as the Strawberry Moon, which is set to light up the night sky.
- **Naming** – The name comes from the *strawberry harvesting season* observed by Native American Algonquian tribes, who associated June's full moon with the brief season when wild strawberries ripen and are ready to be harvested.
- **Appearance** – The Strawberry Moon does not actually appear larger than usual; it can seem bigger when it is close to the horizon because of the Moon illusion.
- This is essentially an optical illusion that makes the Moon look larger against buildings, trees, and other objects.
- Despite its name, the moon *does not appear pink or red*.
- At the same time, its light passes through more of Earth's atmosphere, scattering shorter blue wavelengths and giving the Moon a *warm golden or orange glow*.

- The June full moon traces the lowest path across the sky of any full moon in the entire year, and 2026's version combines that low arc with a micro-moon status, making it an especially distinctive sight.
- **Significance** – This year's Strawberry Moon is also the first full moon of summer in

the Northern Hemisphere, adding to its seasonal significance.
- **Visibility in India** – It was visible across most of India if the skies are clear, and best seen from open areas, rooftops, beaches, or parks with minimal light pollution.

References

1. Indian Express | Strawberry Moon
2. Economic Times | Strawberry Moon