



# UPSC – CSE

Civil Services Examinations

Union Public Service Commission

**General Studies**

Paper I – Volume - 5

**GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD**



# G.S. PAPER – 1 VOLUME – 5

## GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD

S.No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
1.	<b>Universe and the Solar System</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Origin of the Universe               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Big Bang Theory</li> <li>○ Pulsating Theory</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Components of the Universe               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Galaxy</li> <li>○ Stars</li> <li>○ Nova</li> <li>○ Black Dwarf</li> <li>○ Brown Dwarf</li> <li>○ Neutron Stars</li> <li>○ Black Holes</li> <li>○ Solar System</li> <li>○ Sun</li> <li>○ Planets</li> <li>○ Asteroids</li> <li>○ Comets</li> <li>○ Meteoroid, Meteor and Meteorite</li> <li>○ Moon</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Eclipse</li> </ul>	1
2.	<b>Earth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical Coordinates: Latitudes and Longitudes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Latitudes</li> <li>○ Longitude                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prime Meridian</li> <li>2. International Date Line</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Motions of Earth               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Earth's Rotation</li> <li>○ Earth's Revolution</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	14
3.	<b>Geological Time Scale</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precambrian Supereon</li> <li>• Hadean Eon</li> <li>• Archean Eon</li> <li>• Proterozoic Eon</li> <li>• Phanerozoic Eon</li> </ul>	20
4.	<b>Earth's Magnetic Field</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamo Theory of Generation of Earth's Magnetic Field</li> <li>• Magnetosphere</li> </ul>	23

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geomagnetic Poles</li> <li>• Geomagnetic Reversal</li> <li>• Magnetic Inclination/Dip</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Internal Structure of Earth</b>	<b>27</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source of Study Interior of Earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indirect Sources</li> <li>○ Direct Sources</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Division of Earth's Layers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chemical Layers</li> <li>○ Mechanical/Physical Layers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Minerals and Rocks</b>	<b>31</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Physical Characteristics of Minerals</li> <li>○ Types of Minerals</li> <li>○ Major Minerals and their Characteristics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Igneous Rocks</li> <li>○ Sedimentary Rocks</li> <li>○ Metamorphic Rocks</li> <li>○ Rock Cycle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Geomorphological Theories</b>	<b>37</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continental Drift Theory</li> <li>• Sea Floor Spreading Theory</li> <li>• Convection Current Theory</li> <li>• Plate Tectonic Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tectonic Margins and Boundaries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Geomorphic Processes</b>	<b>46</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exogenic Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weathering</li> <li>○ Mass Wasting</li> <li>○ Erosion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Endogenic Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diastrophism</li> <li>○ Sudden Movement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Volcanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Causes of Volcanism</li> <li>○ Types of Volcanoes</li> <li>○ Volcanic Materials</li> <li>○ World Distribution of Volcanoes</li> <li>○ Impact of Volcanism</li> <li>○ Hot Springs and Geysers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Earthquakes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Measuring Earthquakes</li> <li>○ Seismic Waves</li> <li>○ Propagation of Earthquake Waves</li> <li>○ Causes of earthquakes</li> <li>○ Classification of Earthquakes</li> <li>○ Global Distribution of Earthquakes</li> <li>○ Effect of Earthquake</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<b>9. Major Landforms</b>	<b>71</b>
• Mountains	
○ Classification of Mountains	
○ Major Mountains of the World	
• Plateaus	
○ Classification of Plateaus	
○ Major Plateaus of the World	
• Plains	
○ Classification of Plains	
○ Major Plains of the World	
<b>10. Minor Landforms</b>	<b>85</b>
• Desert Landforms	
○ Erosional Arid Landforms	
○ Depositional Arid Landforms	
• Marine Landforms	
○ Erosional Landforms	
○ Depositional Landforms	
• Riverine/Fluvial Landforms	
○ Erosional Landforms	
○ Depositional Landforms	
• Karst/Groundwater Landforms	
○ Erosional Landforms	
○ Depositional Landforms	
• Glacial Landforms	
○ Erosional Landforms	
○ Depositional Landforms	
• Volcanic Landforms	
○ Extrusive Volcanic Topography	
○ Intrusive Volcanic Topography	
<b>11. Climatology</b>	<b>111</b>
• Atmosphere	
○ Evolution of Atmosphere	
○ Composition of Atmosphere	
• Structure of Atmosphere	
○ Chemical Classification	
○ Thermal Classification	
• Thermal Radiation	
• Insolation	
○ Variability of Insolation	
• Heating and Cooling of Atmosphere	
• Terrestrial Radiation	
○ Heat Budget	
• Temperature	
○ Distribution of Temperature	
• Temperature Inversion	
○ Types of Temperature Inversion	
○ Effect of Temperature Inversion	

- Atmospheric Pressure
  - Distribution of Air Pressure
- Pressure Belts
  - Meridional Circulation of Atmosphere
  - Seasonal Shifting of Pressure Belts
- Winds
  - Permanent/Planetary Winds
  - Periodic Winds
  - Local Winds
- Jet streams
  - Polar Jet Stream
  - Subtropical Jet Stream
  - Tropical Easterly Jet Stream
  - Somali South-Westerly Jet Stream
- Water in Atmosphere
  - Water Cycle
- Clouds
  - Types of Clouds
  - Classification by WMO
- Precipitation
- Rainfall
  - Types of Rainfall
  - World Distribution of Rainfall
- Air Masses
- Fronts
  - Types of Fronts and Associated Weather
  - Frontal Zones
- Cyclones
  - Tropical Cyclones
  - Temperate Cyclones

## **12. World Climatic Zones**

**160**

- Koppen's Scheme of Climatic Classification
  - Group A: Tropical Humid Climate
  - Group B: Dry Climates
  - Group C: Warm Temperate (Mid-Latitud) Climates
  - Group D: Cold Snow Forest Climate
  - Group E: Polar Climates
  - Group H: Highland Climates

## **13. Oceans**

**169**

- Relief of the Ocean Floor
  - Major Relief Features
  - Minor Relief Features
- Temperature of Ocean
  - Factors affecting Temperature Distribution
  - Horizontal Distribution of Temperature
  - Vertical Distribution of Temperature
- Salinity of Ocean Waters
  - Composition
  - Factors affecting Ocean Salinity

- Horizontal Distribution of Salinity
- Salinity Variations in various Oceans and Seas
- Vertical Distribution of Salinity

**14. Movements of Ocean Water**

**181**

- Waves
  - Formation of Waves
  - Characteristics of Waves
- Ocean Currents
  - Forces influencing Ocean Currents
  - Characteristics of Ocean Currents
  - Types of Ocean Currents
  - Major Ocean Currents
  - Impact of ocean currents
- Tides
  - Causes of Tides
  - Mechanism of Tide Formation
  - Characteristics of Tides
  - Tidal Bore
  - Types of Tides
  - Magnitude of Tides
  - Importance of Tides

**15. Coral Reefs**

**193**

- Favourable Conditions for Coral Reefs
- Types of Coral Reefs
  - Fringing Reefs
  - Barrier Reefs
  - Atolls
  - Other Reef Types
- Global Distribution of Coral Reefs
- Coral Bleaching
  - Causes of Coral Bleaching
  - Types of Coral Bleaching
  - Global Efforts to Conserve Coral reefs

**16. Soil**

**200**

- Soil Profile
- Stages of Soil Formation
- Process Involved in Soil Formation
  - Weathering
  - Translocation
  - Humification
  - Podzolization
  - Gleying
  - Lateralisation
- Factors influencing Soil Formation
- Classification of Soils
  - Zonal Soils
  - Intrazonal Soils
  - Azonal Soils
- Minerals of the Soil

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Erosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Erosion by Water</li> <li>○ Erosion by Wind</li> <li>○ Erosion by Human Activity</li> <li>○ Prevention of Soil Erosion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>17.</b>	<b>Major Biotic Regions of the World</b>	<b>213</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forest Biome</li> <li>○ Grassland Biome</li> <li>○ Desert Biome</li> <li>○ Tundra Biome</li> <li>○ Taiga or Boreal Biome</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>18.</b>	<b>Human Geography</b>	<b>217</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution of Man</li> <li>• Races <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Types of Races</li> <li>○ Indigenous People of Asia</li> <li>○ Indigenous People of Australia and New Zealand</li> <li>○ Indigenous People of Eurasia</li> <li>○ Indigenous People of North America</li> <li>○ Indigenous People of South America</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Human Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dimensions of Human Development</li> <li>○ Human Development Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Global Population Distribution</li> <li>○ Factors Influencing Population Distribution</li> <li>○ Population Density</li> <li>○ Population Growth</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Demographic Transition Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Demographic Dividend</li> <li>○ Stages of Demographic Dividend</li> <li>○ Demographic Dividend-Opportunity for India</li> <li>○ Challenges for India</li> <li>○ Measures to be taken by India</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Human Settlements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Types of Human Settlements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>19.</b>	<b>Economic Geography</b>	<b>238</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Primitive Subsistence Farming</li> <li>○ Commercial Agriculture</li> <li>○ Dryland Farming</li> <li>○ Wet Farming</li> <li>○ Shifting Agriculture</li> <li>○ Plantation Agriculture</li> <li>○ Intensive Agriculture</li> <li>○ Mixed Cropping</li> <li>○ Vertical Farming</li> <li>○ Modern Farming Methods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Crops
  - Cereal Crops
  - Fiber Crops
  - Oil Crops
  - Cash Crops
  - Beverage Crops
  - Global Distribution of Major Crops
- Livestock
  - Contribution of Livestock to Farmers' Economy
- Dairy Farming
  - Global Production fo Dairy Products
- Floriculture
  - Classification of Ornamental Plants
  - Global Production
- Marine Resources
  - Biotic Resources
  - Abiotic Resources
- Mineral Resources
  - Iron Ore
  - Manganese
  - Copper
  - Aluminium
  - Gold
  - Silver
  - Tin
  - Lead
  - Zinc
  - Diamond
  - Nickel
  - Tungsten
  - Antimony
  - Mica
- Energy Resources
  - Conventional Resources
  - Non-Conventional Resources
  - Energy Crisis

<b>20.</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>282</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification of Industries</li> <li>• Factors Affecting Location of Industries</li> <li>• World Industrial Regions</li> <li>• World Industrial Problems</li> </ul>	

<b>21.</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>286</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Transportation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Road Transport</li> <li>○ Rail Transport</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Water Transportation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inland Waterways</li> <li>○ Ocean Transport</li> <li>○ Advantages of Water Transport</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Air Transport</li> </ul>	



# 1 CHAPTER

# Universe and the Solar System



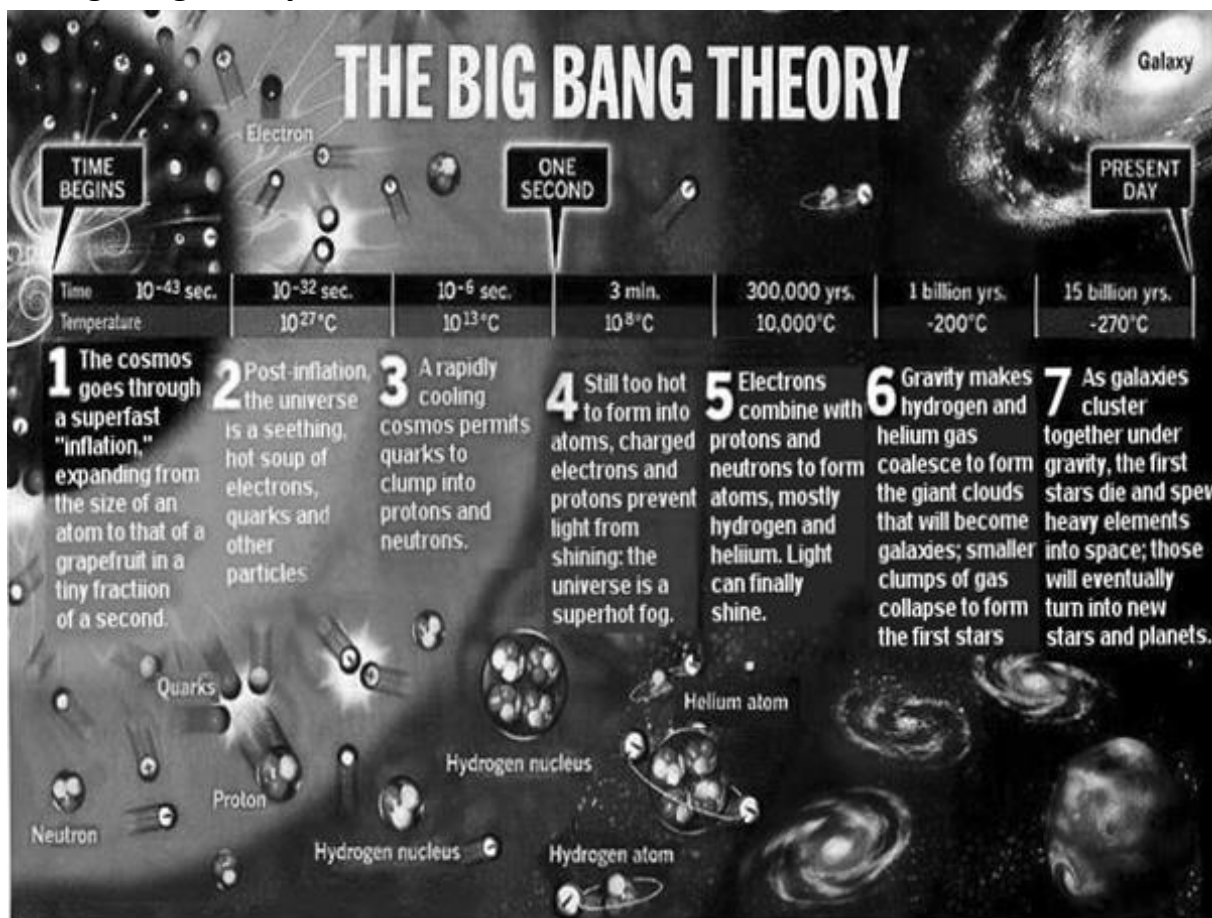
## Origin of the Universe

- **Universe:** Everything that exists, including distant stars, planets, and satellites, as well as our own planet and all of its people.



## Theories about origin of Universe:

### 1. Big Bang theory



- The **most popular argument** regarding the origin of the universe .
- aka **expanding universe hypothesis**.
- **Edwin Hubble in 1920 proved** that the universe is expanding .
- **Took place 13.7 billion years** before the present.
- **Galaxies move further and further apart with time** and thereby, the **universe is considered to be expanding**.
- Scientists believe that though the space between the galaxies is increasing, observations do not support the expansion of galaxies.
- **Stages** in the development of the universe:

- **Beginning-** All matter forming the universe **existed in one place** as a “**tiny ball**” (singular atom) with an **unimaginably small volume, infinite temperature and infinite density.**
- **Big Bang-** “**Tiny ball**” **explodes violently** which led to a huge expansion.
  - The expansion **continues even to the present day.**
  - As it grew, **some energy was converted into matter.**
  - **Rapid expansion within fractions of a second after the bang-** later, it slowed down.
  - **Within the first 3 minutes** from the Big Bang event, the **first atom began to form.**
  - **Within 300,000 years from the Big Bang,** temperature **dropped to 4,500K** and gave rise to atomic matter.
  - The **universe became transparent.**
- **Common misconception:**
  - Gives the complete origin of the universe but it **does not describe the energy, time and space involved in the creation of the universe.**
  - **Only explains how the universe emerged** from its initial high-temperature state.
  - **Only describes the size of the observable universe** and not the universe as a whole
- **Evidences of Big Bang**
  - **Expanding galaxies:**
    - **Hubble in 1929 noted that galaxies outside our own Milky Way were all moving away from us,** at a speed proportional to its distance from us.
    - **Realized that there must have been an instant** in time (now known to be about 14 billion years ago) **when the entire Universe was contained in a single point in space.**
    - The **Universe must have been born in this single violent event** which came to be k/a “**Big Bang.**”
  - **Cosmic Background radiation:**
    - **Early photons ,the afterglow of the Big Bang** k/a cosmic background radiation (CBR) **can be observed even today.**

## 2. Pulsating theory

- Universe is believed to be **pulsing, expanding and shrinking alternately,**
- According to this theory, the **universe's expansion may be halted by gravitational attraction at some point in the future, causing it to compress again.**
- **After it has been constricted to a particular size, it will explode again, and the universe will begin to expand.**
- The **pulsating universe is created by the universe’s parallel expansion and contraction.**



## Components of the Universe

### Galaxy

- **Collection of millions or billions of stars, gas and dust,** bound together by gravity.
- Mainly divided into **four types viz. elliptical, normal spirals, barred spirals and irregular.**



## Milky Way Galaxy

- Shape- spiral.
- **Has a disk-shaped structure** - diameter of roughly 100000 light years.
- Around its centre, the Milky Way galaxy **rotates gently in a counter-clockwise manner**.
- **Centre- All stars** (including the sun and the solar system) **rotate**.
- **Appears like a river of light flowing from one corner to the other** in the night sky, therefore k/a Akash Ganga.

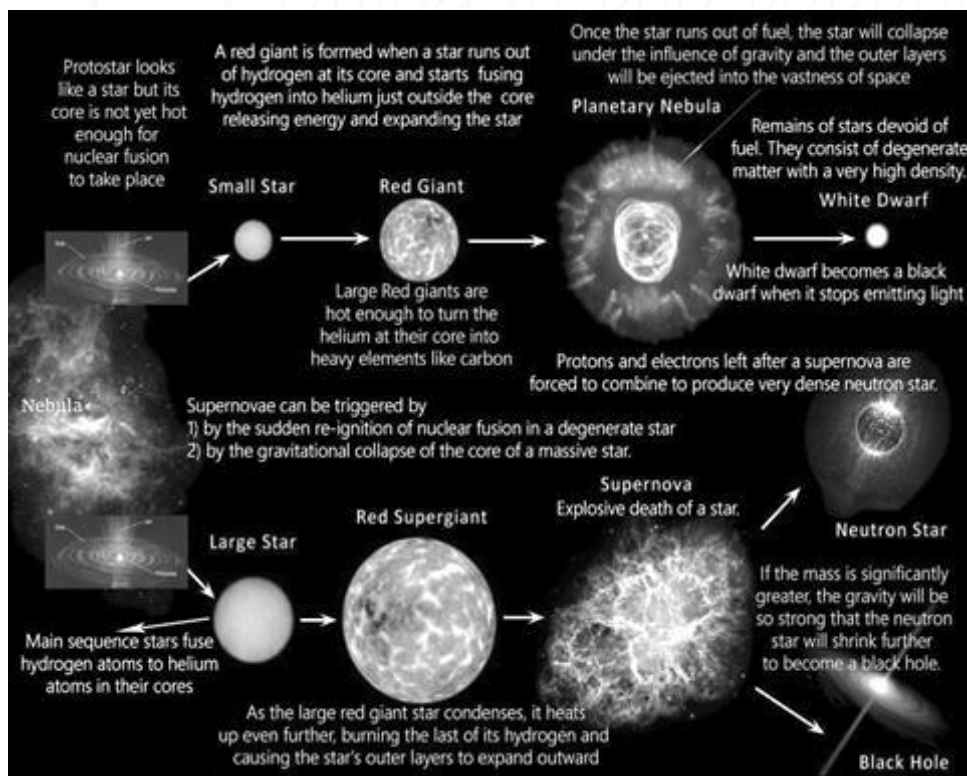
## Stars

- Incredibly **hot celestial beings** that generate their **own light**.
- Massive **clouds of hydrogen gas, helium, and dust**.
- **3 types** as per their colour and temperature:
  - **Red: low surface temperatures**
  - **White: high surface temperatures**
  - **Blue: very high surface temperatures**
- In the night sky, all **stars** (save the pole star) **appear to travel from east to west**- caused by the **earth's rotation** on its axis.
- The **monthly locations of the stars fluctuate**- due to interaction between the **rotation of the earth around its axis and the orbit of the earth around the sun**.



## # Birth and Evolution of a Star

- **Raw material** for star formation- **Hydrogen**.
- **Beginning of a star's life cycle**- **formation of thick clouds of hydrogen and helium gas (i.e. Nebula)** in galaxies.
- **Birth** - caused by the **gravitational collapse** of these too thick **clouds of gases** in the galaxy.



## # ProtoStar

- **Resembles a star, but core not heated enough for nuclear fusion to occur- occurs only when the initial temperatures are very high - hard to achieve and control.**
- **Difficult to view** - frequently **covered by dust**, which filters the light they emit.

## # T Tauri Star

- **Young (< 10 million years old) , light star experiencing gravitational contraction .**
- **Intermediate stage** between a **Protostar** and a low-mass **main sequence star**.

## # Main sequence stars of fusion ignition

- **Hydrogen + helium.**
- **Make up the vast majority of stars** in the universe (**about 90%**).
- **A star like the Sun** swells up to **become a red giant** at the end of its life, **before shedding its outer layers** as a planetary nebula and finally decreasing to become a white dwarf.

## # Final Stages of a Star's Life

- Enters **red-giant phase-** becomes a **red-giant star**.
- Can then **die out** by becoming a **white dwarf star** or exploding as a **supernova star** → development of **neutron stars and black holes, depending on its mass.**
- **White dwarf** - **tiny hot star** that is **at the end of its life cycle** - **leftovers of regular stars** that have exhausted their nuclear energy reserves.

## NOVA

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- Occurs on the **surface of a white dwarf**.
- **If two stars in the system are close enough** together, **material (hydrogen) from the partner star's surface can be transferred onto the white dwarf.**
- When enough material accumulates on the surface of a white dwarf, **nuclear fusion occurs**, resulting in a **dramatic brightening of the star.**



## # Supernova

- **Star's rapid death causes it to brighten to the brightness of 100 million suns** for a brief period of time.
- **The very bright burst of radiation disperses most or all of a star's material at a high velocity, causing a shock wave to propagate into the interstellar medium.**
- These shock waves **cause condensation in a nebula, opening the way for the formation of a new star.**
- **Responsible for a large amount of primary cosmic rays.**

## Black Dwarf

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- **Last stage** of star development.
- It is a **white dwarf that has cooled** to the point that **no substantial heat or light is emitted.**
- **No black dwarfs are projected to exist** in the universe yet since the time necessary for a white dwarf to achieve this condition is calculated to be greater than the universe's current age.



## Brown Dwarfs

- Objects that are **too big to be planets** but **not big enough to be stars**.
- Considered to **develop** from a collapsing cloud of gas and dust in the **same manner as stars do**.
- The **centre** of the cloud, however, is **not thick enough to start nuclear fusion** when the cloud falls.



## Neutron Stars

- Stars that **emit neutrons**.
- Mostly **made up of neutrons**.
- **Formed during supernova** pushing protons and electrons to combine to form a neutron star.
- **High density stars** (A sphere with a diameter of merely 20 kilometres can hold three times the mass of the Sun).
- If it has a **larger mass**, and **intensely high gravity** shrinking it even further, eventually becoming a black hole.



## Black Holes

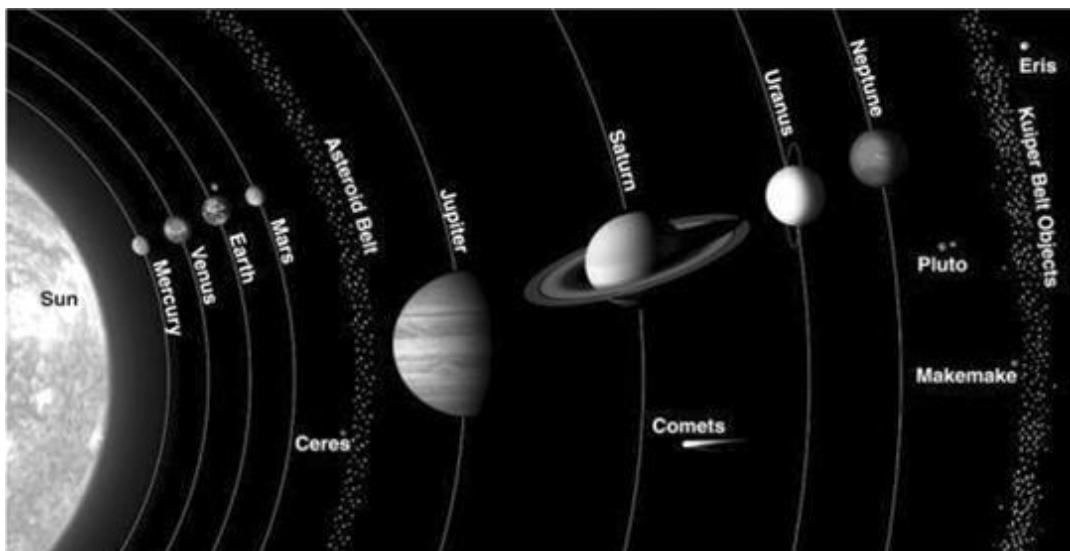
- At the end of their lives, **big stars are believed to create black holes**.
- **Gravitational pull is so strong** that nothing, **not even light**, can escape it.
- A black hole's **matter density can't be measured** (it's infinite!).
- **Warp space around them** and can pull nearby objects, including stars, into them.



### Dark matter

- A kind of matter hypothesised in astronomy and cosmology to account for a significant amount of the **universe's mass that appears to be absent**.
- **Invisible to telescopes**- does not emit or absorb significant amounts of light or other electromagnetic energy.
- **A black hole is not the same as dark matter**.
- **Unknown elements** of dark matter.
- Might be a swarm of black holes, a dwarf, or a whole new particle.

## Solar System



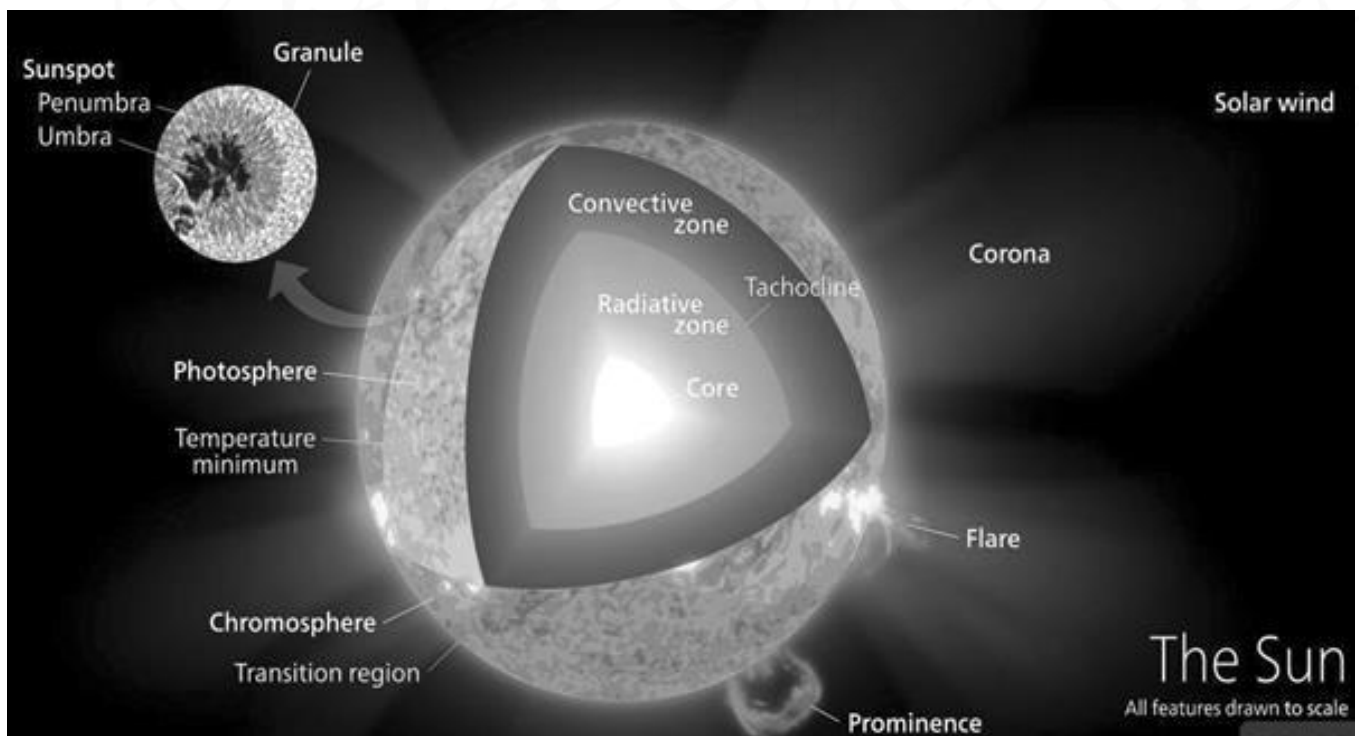
- **Age:** 4.6 billion years old
- **Distance:** 27,000 light years from the Milky Way's centre.
- **Components** - sun, eight planets and their satellites + asteroids, comets, and meteors.
- **Sun-** centre of the solar system.
- The sun's **gravitational influence maintains** the whole **solar system** rotating around it → sun's **gravitational pull determines velocity** of all solar system **components**.
- ~ **99.9% of the matter in the solar system** - from the sun.

## Sun

- **Age:** 4.6 billion years.
- **Diameter:** 1.39 million km.
- **Temperature:**
  - **Surface-** 6000 °C on surface
  - **Core:** 16 million °C
- **Density:** 1.41 times that of water.
- **Rotation time:** 25 days and 9 hours.
- **Rotational speed:** 7179.73 km/h. (rotates **counter-clockwise** )
  - The **earth's rotational velocity** is 1675 kilometres per hour.
- **Mass:** 3,32,900 times of Earth masses.
- **Distance:** 150 million kilometres away from Earth
- **Time taken by light to reach earth:** 8 minutes and 20 seconds.



**Time taken by light to reach Earth from the closest star, proxima centauri : 4.3 light years.**



### Internal Structure and Atmosphere of the Sun

- **Solar interior** - core, radiative zone and the convective zone.

- **Solar atmosphere - photosphere, chromosphere, and the corona** (solar wind is an outflow of gas from the corona).
- **Photosphere**
  - **Bright outer layer of the Sun** emits most radiation.
  - Extremely **uneven surface**.
  - **Effective temperature** on the outer side of the photosphere- **6000°C**.
- **Chromosphere**
  - **Just above the photosphere** is the chromosphere.
  - **Relatively thin layer** of burning gases.
  - The chromosphere is a **bit cooler — 4,320° C**.
- **Corona**
  - **Atmosphere of plasma** that **surrounds the Sun** and other celestial bodies.
  - **Stretches millions of kilometres into space** and may be **viewed best during a total solar eclipse**.

#### Plasma

- **Ionised gas** (atoms and molecules are converted into ions typically by removing one or more electrons from the outer shell)
- **Eg. Lightning and electric sparks** -made from plasma.
- **Neon lights - 'plasma lights'**- light comes from the plasma inside of them.

- **Sunspot**
  - **Dark patch on the surface of the Sun**.
  - **Appear as dark areas** - as **about 500-1500°C cooler than the surrounding chromosphere**.
  - **Has a lifetime** ranging from a few days to a few months.
  - **Each spot has a black centre or umbra**, and a **lighter region or penumbra**, surrounding it.
  - **Sun - 1% cooler when it has no sunspot** and that this variation in solar radiation might affect the climates of the Earth.
- **Solar prominence**
  - **An arc of gas that erupts from the surface of the Sun**.
  - Can loop **hundreds of thousands of miles into space**.
  - **Held above the Sun's surface by strong magnetic fields** and can last for many months.
  - Later they **erupt, spewing enormous amounts of solar material into space**.
- **Solar Wind**
  - **Stream of energised, charged particles**, primarily electrons and protons, **flowing outward from the Sun**.
  - **Speeds upto 900 km/s** and at a **temperature of 1 million degrees** (Celsius).
  - **Made of plasma** (ionised atoms).
- **Solar Flares:**
  - **Magnetic anomalies cause solar flares to form** on the sun's surface.
  - **Magnetic storms that seem like brilliant spots** with a **gaseous explosion on the surface**.

#### Impact of Solar winds:

##### 1. Aurora

- **A natural light show in the sky** - commonly observed in **high latitudes** (Arctic and Antarctic).  
(This is due to the earth's magnetic field lines and the solar wind.)

- **Caused by Charged particles (electrons and protons),** entering the atmosphere from above, creating ionisation and excitation of atmospheric elements, as well as **visual emissions.**

**2. Some planets have atmospheres, while others don't.**

- **Solar wind particles have a well-developed magnetic field - reach the planet - deflected.**
- **Magnetosphere -**
  - **Region around a planet dominated by the planet's magnetic field-** Earth has the **strongest magnetosphere** of all the rocky planets.
  - **Overall shape** is determined by the **solar wind.**
  - **Planets with a weak / non-existent magnetosphere** - prone to solar wind atmospheric stripping.
  - **Side facing the Sun-** magnetosphere is generally shaped like a hemisphere,
  - **Opposite side-** extends in a lengthy trail.
- **Magnetopause -**
  - **Abrupt boundary between a magnetosphere and the surrounding plasma.**
  - **Boundary between the planet's magnetic field and the solar wind.**

**Planets**

- A celestial body that orbits a star in an elliptical path.
- **2 groups:**
  - **Terrestrial Planets-**
    - **Inner planets** (as they lie between the sun and the belt of asteroids)
    - Have **smaller and denser bodies**
    - **Composition-** silicates and metals.
    - **Dense, rocky compositions, few or no moons, and no ring systems.**
- **Mercury (Buddh):**
  - **Smallest** and **closest** to the sun.
  - **Distance from Sun:** 57.91 million km
  - **Orbital period:** 87.97 Earth days,(Shortest)
  - **Length of day:** 58d 15h 30m
- **Venus (shukr):**
  - **Brightest planet** in the solar system (**morning/ evening star**)
  - Rotates in **anticlockwise direction**
  - The **hottest** planet in the Solar System- high concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and thick atmosphere.
  - **Distance from Sun:** 108.2 million km
  - **Orbital period:** 225 days
  - **Length of day:** 116d 18h 0m
- **Earth (Prithvi):**
  - Only known planet to **sustain life.**
  - **Distance from Sun:** 149.6 million km
  - **Age:** 4.543 billion years
  - **Orbital period:** 365 days
  - **Natural Satellite:** MOON





- **Mars (Mangal):**

- **Red Planet:** Presence of **iron oxide on surface**
- **Length of day:** 1d 0h 37m
- **Distance from Sun:** 227.9 million km
- **Orbital period:** 687 days
- **Natural satellites:** Phobos, Deimos
- **Jovian planets / Gas Giants -**
  - **planets of outer circle**
  - Have a **greater size and less dense** materials.
  - They usually have a **thick atmosphere**, consisting of **helium and hydrogen**.

- **Jupiter(Brhaspati):**

- **Largest planet of the solar system**
- **Length of day:** 0d 9h 56m
- **Distance from Sun:** 778.5 million km
- **Age:** 4.603 billion years
- **Orbital period:** 12 years
- **Natural satellites:** Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto( called the Galilean satellites because Galileo discovered them.)

- **Saturn(shani)**

- ☞ **Saturn's rings** are probably made up of **billions of particles of ice and ice-covered rocks**.
- ☞ **Length of day:** 0d 10h 42m
- ☞ **Distance from Sun:** 1.434 billion km
- ☞ **Orbital period:** 29 years
- ☞ **Moons:** Titan, Enceladus, Mimas, Tethys, etc.
- ☞ **Titan - second-largest moon** in the Solar System (larger than Mercury)
- ☞ **Only satellite in the Solar System with a substantial atmosphere (nitrogen-rich).**

- **Uranus(arun)**

- ☞ Rotates in **clockwise direction** i.e opposite of the sun's rotation.
- ☞ **Length of day:** 0d 17h 14m
- ☞ **Distance from Sun:** 2.871 billion km
- ☞ **Orbital period:** 84 Years
- ☞ **Natural satellites:** Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon.

- **Neptune(Varun)**

- ☞ **Farthest known planet**
- ☞ **Uranus and Neptune - Twin planets.**
- ☞ **Strongest sustained winds** (2,100 km/h) of any planet in the Solar System found here.
- ☞ **Length of day:** 0d 16h 6m
- ☞ **Distance from Sun:** 4.495 billion km
- ☞ **Orbital period:** 165 years
- ☞ **Natural satellites:** Triton, Hippocamp, Proteus, Nereid, etc.

## Asteroids

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- **Rocky remains** left over from the formation of the solar system.
- These remains failed to consolidate due to **Jupiter's gravitational influence**.
- **Composition** - refractory stony and metallic materials, with some ice.
- **Size**- microscopic to hundreds of kilometres.
- **Ceres** - largest asteroid (946 km in diameter), a protoplanet, and a dwarf planet.
- **All other asteroids** are considered as **tiny** Solar System bodies.



**Kuiper Belt:**

- A **circumstellar disc in the outer Solar System**.
- Spans 30 AU from Neptune's orbit to around 50 AU from the Sun.
- **Pluto (39 AU)**- largest known object in the Kuiper belt.

**Oort cloud**

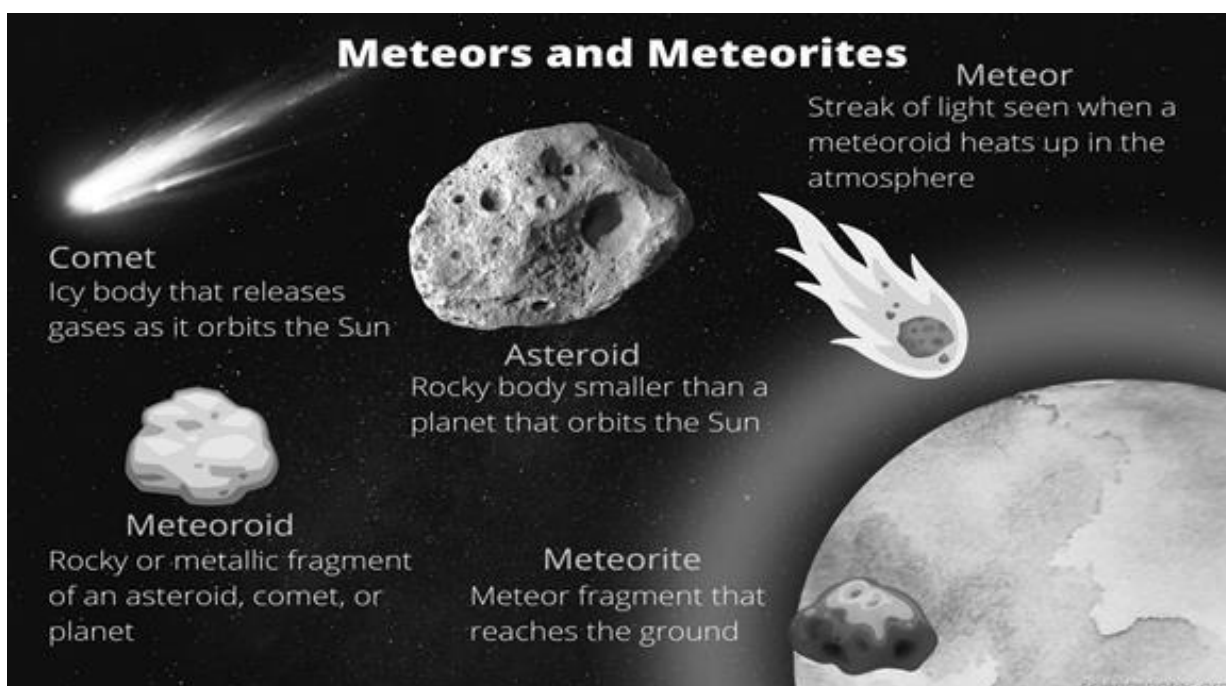
A **giant shell of icy bodies** that encircle the solar system occupying space at a **distance between 5,000 and 100,000 AU**.

**Comets**

- An **icy small solar system body**- **heats up** (when passing close to the Sun) due to **solar radiation** and the **solar wind** - begins to **outgas (release gases)** - atmosphere and sometimes a tail visible .
- Have highly **elliptical orbits**.
- **Composition**- **Stony and metallic minerals held together by frozen gases** (water, ammonia, methane, and carbon dioxide).
- **Types:**
- **Short-period comets** - orbital period - **100 years**- generally **originate** in the **Kuiper belt**.
- **Long period comets** - orbital period - **thousands of years**, come from the more distant **Oort Cloud**.



**Meteoroid, Meteor and Meteorite**



- **Meteoroid:** Any solid debris originating from asteroids, comets, or other astronomical objects that drifts across interplanetary space.
- **Meteor:** A flash of light that emerges in the sky when a meteoroid hits the atmosphere (mesosphere) at a high speed and **burns up due to friction**. Sometimes known as a 'shooting star' or a 'falling star.'
- **Meteorite:** When a meteoroid does not burn entirely and lands on the surface of the Earth.

#### **Meteorite crater:**

- A circular depression generated on the earth's surface as a result of a meteorite impact.
- Most visible meteorite craters - Moon and Mercury's surfaces (because they are geologically inactive due to a negligible atmosphere).
- **World's Largest Meteor Crater:** 1,300 metres deep **Arizona(US)**.
- **Chicxulub crater (Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula)** - caused by a meteor impact that is **believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs** (mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous 65 million years ago).
- **Meteorite craters in India**
  - **Lonar Lake (1.8 km in diameter)** in Buldhana District of **Maharashtra**.
  - **Dhala crater (14 km in diameter)** in Shivpuri district, **Madhya Pradesh**.
  - **Ramgarh crater (3.5 km in diameter)** is a potential meteorite crater in **Kota plateau** in **Rajasthan**.

#### **Meteor Showers**

- Occurs when Earth encounters many meteoroids at once.
- Comets also orbit the sun.
- As a comet gets closer to the sun, some of its icy surface boils off, releasing lots of particles of dust and rock (meteoroids).
- This comet debris gets scattered along the comet's path, especially in the inner solar system (including planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars).
- When Earth makes its journey around the sun, its orbit crosses the orbit of a comet i.e. Earth encounters a bunch of comet debris.
- These meteoroids when enter the earth's atmosphere burn up and cause continued lighting of sky for some time k/a meteor shower.
- Named for the constellation where the meteors appear to be coming from.
- Eg. **Orionids Meteor Shower** appears to be originating near the constellation 'Orion the Hunter'.

#### **Moon**

- **Diameter** - one-quarter of earth.
- **Distance from earth**- **3,84,400 km**.
- Light takes only a second to reach us from the moon.
- **Tidally locked to the earth**, meaning that the **moon revolves around the earth** in about 27 days which is the **same time it takes to complete one spin**.
- Hence, **only one side of the moon is visible from earth**.
- **Without moon, Earth's tilt could vary as much as 85 degrees** (at present the Earth's axis of rotation is tilted at an angle of 23.5° relative to our orbital plane).



**Tidal locking** - Object's orbital period = rotational period.

## Formation of Moon:

- Formation is an **outcome of 'giant impact'** aka **'the big splat'**.
- A **body of the size 2-3x of mars collided into the earth** shortly after the earth was formed- **blasted a large part of the earth into space.**
- **Part of blasted material** - continued to orbit the earth - **formed into present moon** about 4.44 billion years ago.
- **Moon used to revolve much closer to Earth than today.**
- **Earth rotates -> Moon's gravity causes tides.**
- **Little friction between the tides and the turning Earth-** earth's rotation slows down just a little (1.4 milliseconds in 100 years).
- As Earth slows- **Moon drifts away a little** (four centimetres per year).

## Types of Moon:

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### 1. Blood Moon/ Copper Moon

- **Total lunar eclipses aka blood moons** because of the **reddish orange glow the moon takes on.**
- **Total lunar eclipse** - Earth moves **between the Sun and the Moon** - cuts off the **Moon's light supply.**
- **Surface of the Moon takes on a reddish glow** instead of going completely dark.
- Reddish color during totality **due to Rayleigh scattering.**

#### Rayleigh scattering

Same mechanism **responsible for causing colorful sunrises and sunsets**, and for the **sky to look blue.**

### 2. Blue Moon

- **Appearance: two and a half years** on average.
- Blue moon **does not mean blue coloured moon.** It is just **second full moon of any calendar month.**

### 3. Super moon

- **Full moon occurs at its perigee.**
- **Rare event.**
- Has to satisfy **two conditions**
  - **Moon must be closest** to the earth
  - Should be a **full moon.**
- Moon- **30 % brighter** and **14 % larger.**
- **Difference cannot be seen with naked eye.**

## Dawn and Twilight

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- **Dawn:**The period between **sunrise** and full **daylight.**
- **Twilight:** The period between **sunset** and complete **darkness.**
- **Occurrence-** Earth receives **scattered or refracted light** from the sun **when** it is still **below the horizon** during **dawn and twilight.**
- **Poles-** winter darkness is much **longer-** mostly **merely twilight.**

## Eclipse

- **Occurrence:** When the **Sun, the Earth, and the Moon** are in a **straight line**.
- **Types :**



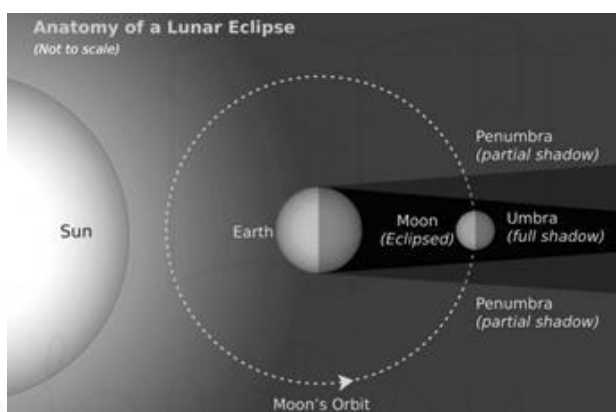
### 1. Lunar Eclipse

- **Ideal Position:** Only when the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon are in a straight line, and the **Earth is between the Sun and the Moon**,
- Possible only on a **Full Moon day**. However, since these **three bodies must be in the same plane as the ecliptic**, a **lunar eclipse does not occur on every Full Moon day**.

**Total lunar eclipse:** Moon exactly in the plane of the ecliptic.

**Partial lunar eclipse:** Moon close to the ecliptic plane.

**No eclipse:** Moon much above or far below the ecliptic plane.



### 2. Solar Eclipse

- **Ideal Position:** Only when the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon are all in a straight line, and the **Moon is between the Sun and the Earth**.
- Possible on a **New Moon day** -But **does not occur on every New Moon day**.

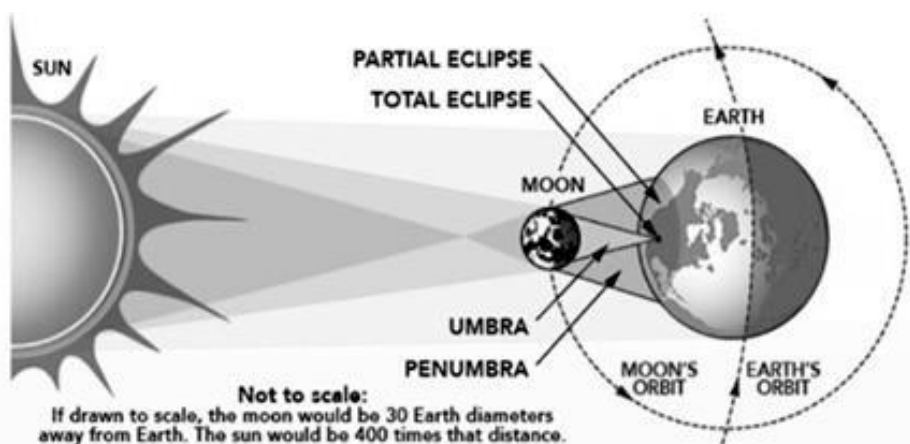
**Total Solar Eclipse:** Moon is **exactly in the plane of the ecliptic**.

**Partial solar eclipse:** Moon is **close to the ecliptic plane**.

**No Eclipse :** Moon is **much above or far below** the ecliptic plane.

**Annular Eclipse:** Moon **covers the sun but** the sun can be seen around the edges of the moon.

- **Diamond Ring Effect:** A visual phenomena **can be seen from Earth** when standing in the **umbra** of the moon's shadow.



# 2 CHAPTER

# Earth



## Geographical Coordinates: Latitudes and Longitudes

- Shape of Earth- 'Geoid'
- Latitudes and longitudes are **imaginary lines** used to **pinpoint a location** on the globe.
- Eg: The location of New Delhi is 28° N, 77° E.

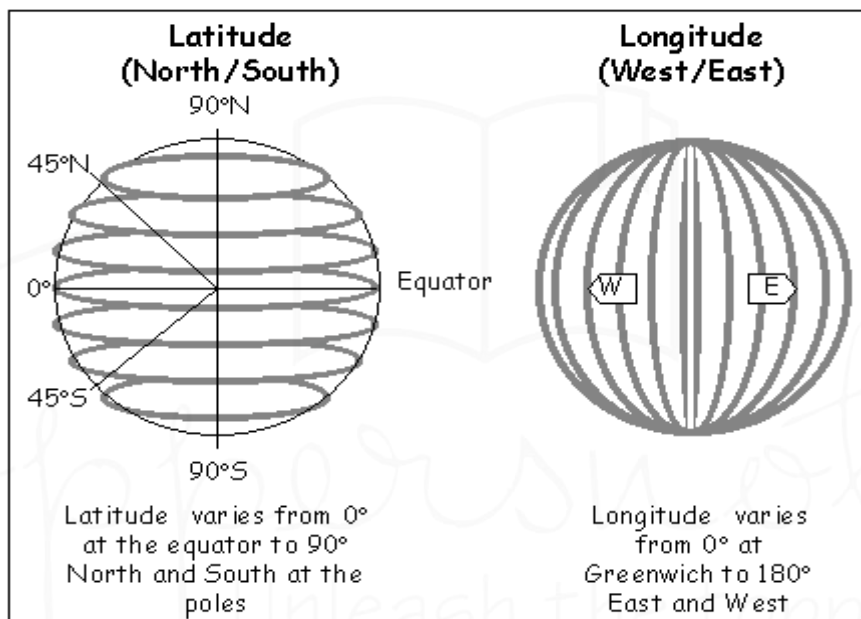


Fig : Latitudes and Longitudes

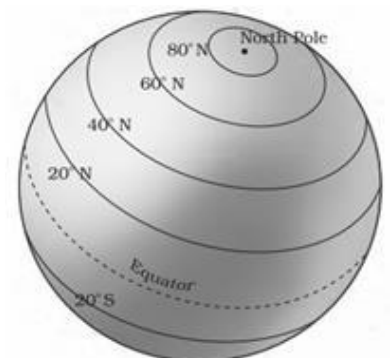
### Latitudes

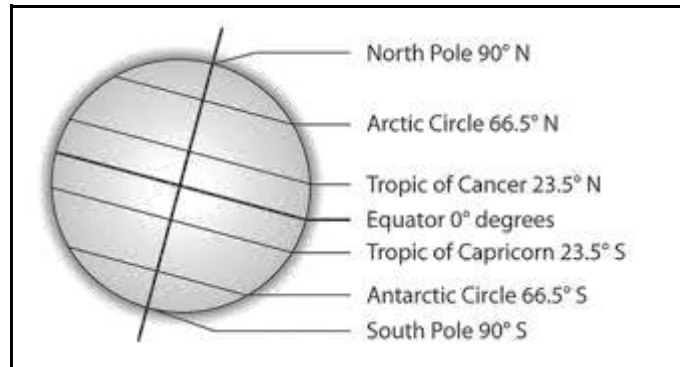
- Angular distance of a place on the earth's surface from the earth's centre.
- **Equator:** Another imaginary line running on the globe; divides it into two equal parts.
  - **Northern Hemisphere:** Upper half of the earth
  - **Southern Hemisphere:** Lower Half of the Earth
- **Parallels of Latitude :** All parallel circles from the equator up to the poles.
- Latitudes are **measured in degrees.**
- **Equator- zero degree latitude.**



### # Important Parallels of latitude:

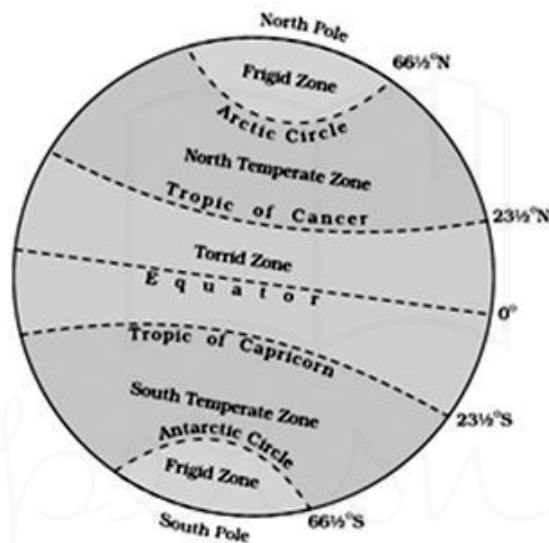
- **Arctic Circle:** 66½° N in the Northern Hemisphere
- **Tropic of Cancer:** 23½° N in northern hemisphere
- **Tropic of Capricorn:** 23½° S in southern Hemisphere
- **Antarctic circle:** 66½° S in Southern hemisphere





## # Latitudinal Heat zones of Earth/ Tropics

- Receive maximum heat.



- Bordered on north by the Tropic of Cancer and on south by the Tropic of Capricorn
- Define the northern and southern extremes of places where the sun passes directly overhead seasonally.
- On all latitudes between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the midday sun is exactly overhead at least once a year.

## Longitude

- An angular distance along the equator measured in degrees east or west of the Prime (or First) Meridian.
- Represented by a sequence of semi-circles that go from pole to pole and pass across the equator- aka meridians.
- **Function:** to calculate local time in relation to G.M.T. or Greenwich Mean Time, often known as World Time.
- **1884** - meridian passing through the Royal Astronomical Observatory at Greenwich, near London was chosen as Zero meridian or Prime meridian.

