

Last Annular Solar Eclipse of the decade

June 24, 2020

There will only be **two solar eclipses this year**. The first one on **June 21st** (Summer solstice). The next one will take place on **December 14** which will be a **total solar eclipse**, during which the Moon will completely block off the Sun's rays and cast a shadow over the Earth.

What is a Solar Eclipse?

- When the **Sun, the Moon, and the Earth are aligned in a straight line or an almost straight configuration, such that the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth** blocking the rays of Sun from directly reaching the Earth, we witness a solar eclipse.
- Based on the alignment, there are three kinds of solar eclipses-**total, partial, and annular**.
- The solar eclipse on the day of Summer Solstice is an **annular eclipse where the Moon is so far from Earth (apogee)** that its relative size **fails to cover the Sun completely** and leaves the outer rims visible, thus creating a **ring of fire** in the sky.
- It is a rare annular eclipse that occurs once in every one or two years, and coincides with the northern hemisphere's longest day of the year.

Source: *Indian Express*