



DATE: 13 AUGUST 2026

1 Types of Eclipses (Source: The Indian Express)

Solar Eclipses: *Solar eclipses happen on New Moon day when the Moon's shadow falls on Earth.*

- **Total Solar Eclipse**
 - Sun, Moon, and Earth are almost perfectly aligned.
 - Moon completely covers the Sun's disk for observers in the path of totality.
 - Only the faint solar corona is visible.
 - Visible only from a narrow strip on Earth.
- **Annular Solar Eclipse**
 - Alignment is similar to a total eclipse, but the Moon is near apogee (farthest from Earth).
 - Moon's apparent size is smaller than the Sun's.
 - A bright ring of sunlight remains visible around the Moon – the "Ring of Fire".
 - No total darkness; corona is not fully visible.
- **Partial Solar Eclipse**
 - Sun, Moon, and Earth are not perfectly aligned.
 - Only a part of the Sun is covered by the Moon.
 - Appears as if a "bite" is taken out of the Sun.
 - Visible over a wider area than total/annular eclipses.

Lunar Eclipses: *Lunar eclipses occur on Full Moon day when Earth's shadow falls on the Moon.*

- **Total Lunar Eclipse**
 - Entire Moon passes through Earth's umbra.
 - Moon often appears reddish ("Blood Moon") due to Rayleigh scattering of sunlight through Earth's atmosphere.
 - Visible from the entire night side of Earth.
- **Partial Lunar Eclipse**
 - Only a part of the Moon enters Earth's umbra.
 - A dark "bite" is seen on the Moon's disk; rest remains bright.
 - More common than total lunar eclipses.
- **Penumbral Lunar Eclipse**
 - Moon passes only through Earth's penumbra, not the umbra.

2 De-Dollarization (Source: The Hindu)



De-dollarization refers to the process by which countries reduce their reliance on the U.S. dollar in international trade, finance and foreign exchange reserves.

WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

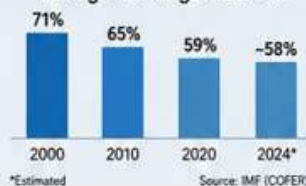
- Weaponization of the Dollar**
Use of financial sanctions and SWIFT exclusion has raised concerns.
- Geopolitical Shifts**
Rising tensions and declining trust in U.S. leadership.
- Desire for Strategic Autonomy**
Countries seek greater control over their economies and financial systems.
- Economic Power Shift**
Rise of emerging economies and regional influence.

HOW IS IT HAPPENING?

- Local Currency Settlement**
Countries are trading in their own currencies (e.g., India-UAE, China-Brazil).
- Alternative Payment Systems**
Use of systems like CIPS (China), SPFS (Russia) reducing dependence on SWIFT.
- Gold and Commodity-backed Trade**
Growing use of gold or commodities to settle trade.
- Diversification of Foreign Reserves**
Central banks increasing holdings of euro, yuan, gold and other assets.
- Rise of Regional Blocs**
Groups like BRICS, SCO and ASEAN promote financial and economic cooperation outside the dollar system.

GLOBAL TRENDS

Share of USD in Global Foreign Exchange Reserves



More countries are questioning dollar dominance and building alternatives for a more balanced global financial system.

Countries Leading the Shift



IMPACT OF DE-DOLLARIZATION

- Reduced U.S. Influence**
Limits U.S. control over global finance and sanctions.
- Greater Financial Stability**
Diversification reduces risks from dollar volatility.
- Stronger Regional Economies**
Boosts trade, investment and financial integration.
- Long-term Transition**
Dollar will remain important, but its dominance may gradually decline.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of Deep Alternative Markets**
Dollar markets are still the most liquid and trusted.
- Currency Convertibility Issues**
Many local currencies are not fully convertible.
- Geopolitical Reactions**
The U.S. and allies may push back to protect dollar dominance.
- Fragmentation Risk**
Multiple systems may increase complexity and transaction costs.

INDIA'S PERSPECTIVE

- Promoting INR for Trade**
India is encouraging use of INR in cross-border trade.
- Diversifying Reserves**
RBI is increasing gold and other currency holdings.
- Strengthening Partnerships**
Active in BRICS, SCO and G20 to shape alternative financial systems.
- Atmanirbhar & Strategic Autonomy**
A stronger, self-reliant economy reduces external vulnerabilities.



In a nutshell: De-dollarization is not about replacing the dollar overnight, but about building choice, resilience and a more multipolar financial world.



3 Cloud Seeding (Source: The Hindu)

