



CELESTIAL SPECTACLE: The midnight drama of the century's darkest lunar eclipse was captured by a city-based amateur astronomer couple, **Parimal** and **Ketaki Dave**, both members of the Jyotir Vidya Parisanstha, one of the oldest astronomy clubs in the country. On the midnight of 15-16 July, they rigged up a digital camera to their 4-inch computerised telescope which was continuously tracking the Moon for about three hours from around 12 midnight to 3 in the morning. Exposure timings varying from 2 seconds to 15 seconds enabled them to capture pictures of the Moon as it darkened. Shot from the balcony of their house in Aundh, the first picture shows the Moon as it started eclipsing, the second picture shows the Moon turning into a dull reddish-brown in partial eclipse phase, the third picture (the camera shutter was open for 15 seconds) captures the total eclipse, and the last picture shows the Moon emerging out of the eclipse. The next time this will happen will be on 27 July 2018.