



# Vernal Equinox

## Why in News?

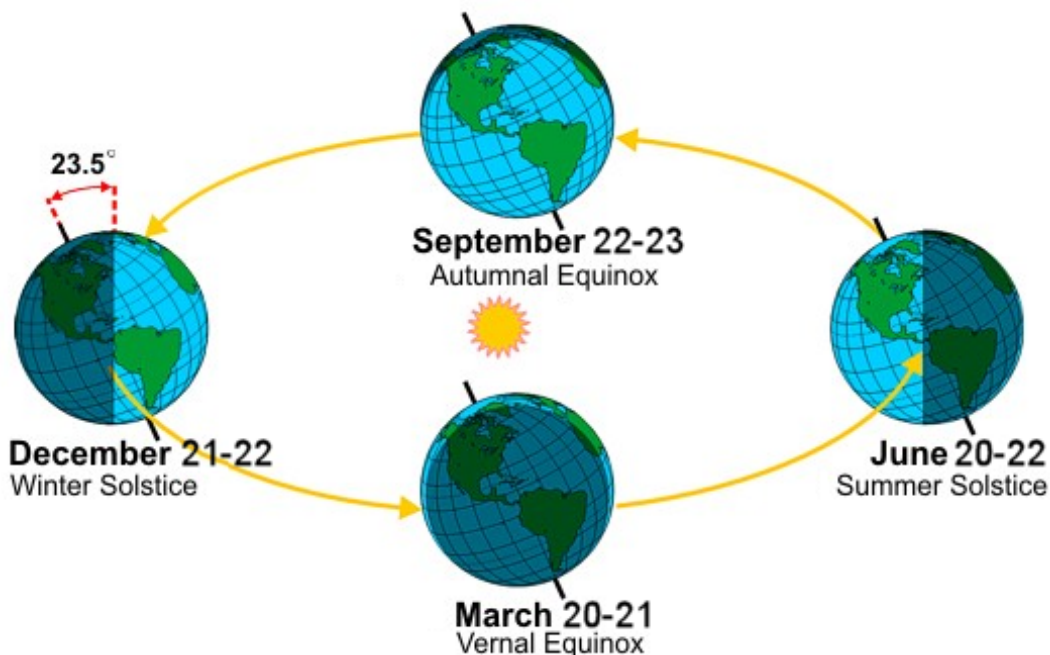
The vernal equinox is observed on March 21st 2023.

## What is Equinox?

### ▪ About:

- Equinox happens twice a year when the sun is directly above the equator, and it **occurs on approximately 21<sup>st</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> September.**
- During an equinox, both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres **have equal day and night time. The vernal equinox (spring equinox) takes place in the Northern Hemisphere around 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> March,** while in the Southern Hemisphere, it happens on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- Conversely, during the autumn season in the Northern Hemisphere on 23rd September (autumn equinox), it is springtime in the Southern Hemisphere, and on **21<sup>st</sup> March, it is the opposite.**

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### ▪ Significance:

- As a result, the Sun is located directly above the equator, and **both hemispheres receive an almost equal amount of sunlight.**
- After the spring equinox, **the northern hemisphere tilts closer to the sun in March, resulting in more hours of daylight,** with earlier sunrises and later sunsets.
- According to Hindu astrology, Vernal Equinox is known as Vasant Vishuva or Vasant Sampat.

- The Spring equinox brings earlier sunrises, later sunsets, and sprouting plants in the northern hemisphere.
- **Later sunrises, earlier sunsets**, chillier winds, and dry and falling leaves are observed in the south of the **equator (southern hemisphere)**.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. In the northern hemisphere, the longest day of the year normally occurs in the:**

- (a) First half of the month of June
- (b) Second half of the month of June
- (c) First half of the month of July
- (d) Second half of the month of July

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- In the northern hemisphere 'Second half of the month June (21st June)' is the longest day of the year.
- **Hence option (b) is correct.**

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