



Vernal Equinox

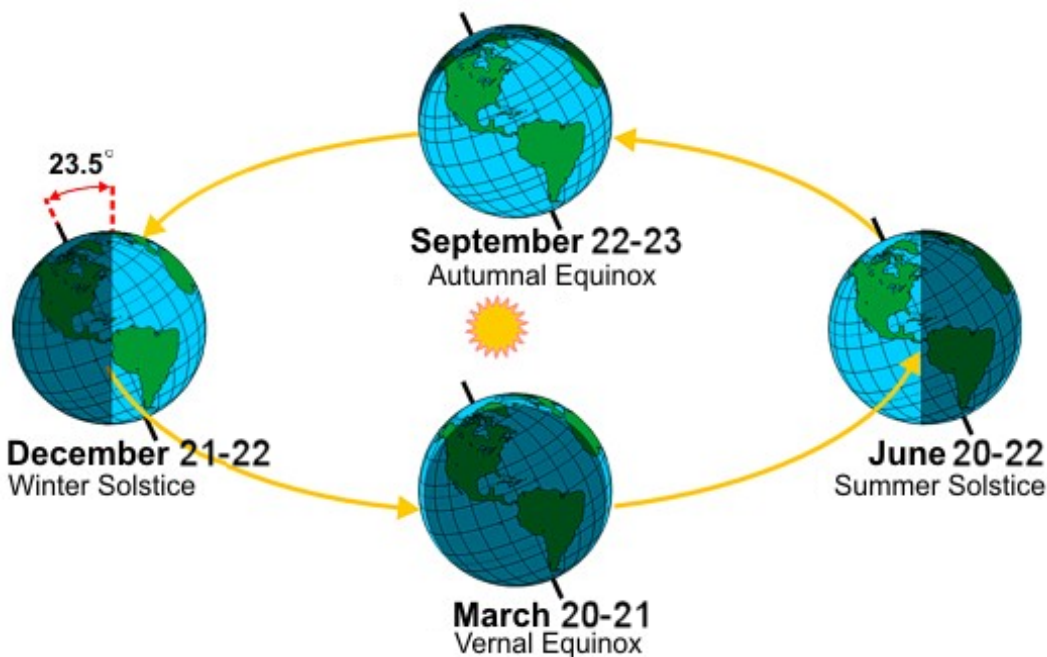
Why in News?

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 21st March and 23rd 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 20th or 21st March,** while in the Southern Hemisphere, it happens on 22nd or 23rd September.
- Conversely, during the autumn season in the Northern Hemisphere on 23rd September (autumn equinox), it is springtime in the Southern Hemisphere, and on **21st March, it is the opposite.**



▪ 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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