Spring/Vernal Equinox 2025

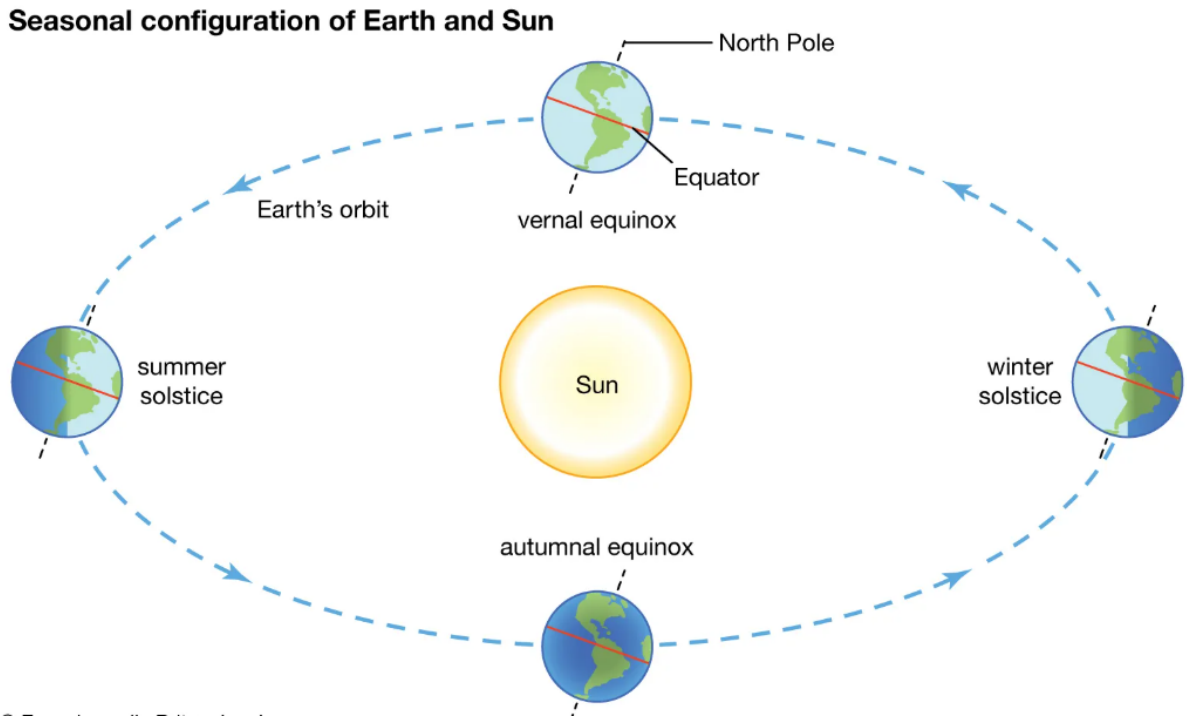
Syllabus

Prelims *– Physical geography of world*

Why in News?

March 20 marks the start of the spring season for the Northern Hemisphere and autumn (fall) in the Southern Hemisphere, with the arrival of the Spring equinox.

- **Equinoxes –** An equinox is a time when the Sun appears directly above the Earth's equator, resulting in roughly equal day and night lengths across the planet.
- Equinoxes happen due to the Earth's axial tilt of approximately 23.5 degrees.
- **Timing -** It occurs twice a year, in the **Northern Hemisphere,**
  - The spring equinox, typically occurs between ***March 19 and 21***,
  - While the autumnal or fall equinox occurs between ***September 21 and 24***.
- In the **Southern Hemisphere**, the March equinox is called the autumnal equinox, and the September equinox is called the vernal equinox.
- The March equinox brings later sunrises, earlier sunsets, chillier winds, dryness, and falling leaves in the Southern Hemisphere, while the reverse happens in the Northern Hemisphere.



- **Cultural Significance**

- **Global -** The ancient Babylonian calendar began the 1st full moon following the March equinox, celebrating the new year in the spring.
- The ***Persian new year, Nowruz***, coincides with the vernal equinox in the northern hemisphere.
- The Vernal Equinox Day is a *national holiday in Japan*, while Easter (Christianity Festival) is determined according to the vernal equinox.
- In the Jewish calendar, ***Passover, the Jewish festival*** begins on the 1st full moon following a vernal equinox.
- The Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, two of the holiest days of the Jewish calendar, fall in this period.
- The autumnal equinox on the other hand sees the observance of autumnal harvest festivals, such as ***Chuseok***, celebrated over 3 days in both Koreas.
- **In India -** The festival of Holi, a vibrant celebration of spring, is often associated with the spring equinox.
- Parsis celebrate Nowruz, which is associated with the spring equinox.
- Ugadi falls during the spring equinox while Navaratri falls around the time of fall equinox.

Reference

The Indian Express | About the vernal equinox

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering