

# Summer solstice

June 21, 2021

**In news-** Summer Solstice, the Longest Day of the Year, falls on June 21.

## **More information-**

- Solstice means “sun stands still” in Latin.
- It is an astronomical event that occurs twice in a year, once in summer (June) and once in winter (December).
- Summer solstice refers to the **longest day and the shortest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.**
- The longest day does not necessarily mean that it brings the earliest sunrise or latest sunset and depends on the latitudinal location of the country.
- Technically, the solstice occurs when the **sun is directly over the imaginary Tropic of Cancer or 23.5°N latitude.**
- The **other names** of Summer Solstice are ***Estival solstice* or *midsummer.*** .
- The **Northern Hemisphere gets more direct sunlight** and heat from the Sun owing to the **earth’s axis’ maximum inclination towards the Sun** between March and September.
  - During the solstice, the Earth’s axis is tilted in a way that the **North Pole is tipped towards the sun and the South Pole is away from it.**
  - According to NASA, the amount of incoming energy the Earth received from the sun on this day is 30 percent higher at the North Pole than at the Equator.
- In contrast, the **Southern Hemisphere receives most sunlight on December 21, 22 or 23** when the northern hemisphere has its longest nights– or the **winter solstice.**

