

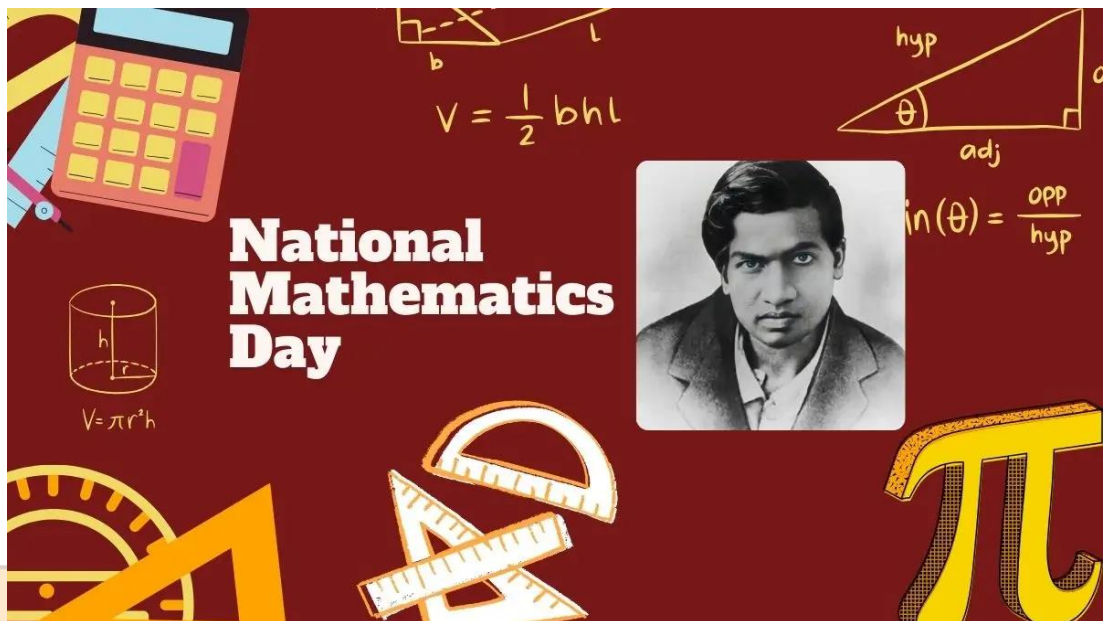
Daily Defence Current Affairs

22 December 2025

National Mathematics Day 2025

- National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year on December 22 across India. The day marks the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan who was one of the greatest mathematicians India has ever produced.
- National Mathematics Day is not just a tribute to Ramanujan. It has broader educational and social goals.
- The main purpose of the observance is to,
 - Encourage students to take interest in mathematics
 - Promote scientific thinking and problem-solving skills
 - Highlight the role of mathematics in technology, space science, economics, and daily life
- Recognise India's long and rich mathematical heritage
- December 22 is the birth date of Srinivasa Ramanujan, born in 1887.
- His work continues to influence modern mathematics even more than a century later.
- The Government of India formally declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day in 2011.
- The decision was taken to recognize Ramanujan's extraordinary and original contributions to mathematics, many of which were far ahead of their time.
- To further promote mathematical learning 2012 was celebrated as the National Mathematics Year across the country.
- Srinivasa Ramanujan is remembered for his groundbreaking work in number theory, infinite series, continued fractions, and mathematical analysis.

- Despite having very limited formal education, he independently discovered nearly 3,900 mathematical results, many of which were later proven to be both original and deeply significant.
- Ramanujan's approach to mathematics was highly intuitive.



World Basketball Day 2025

- World Basketball Day 2025 highlights the remarkable journey of basketball from a simple indoor game to one of the most popular sports on the planet. Celebrated every year on December 21, the day commemorates the first-ever basketball game played in 1891.
- Recognising basketball's global impact, the United Nations officially declared World Basketball Day in 2023. The day is observed annually on December 21 marking the anniversary of the first basketball game played in 1891.
- Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith, a physical education instructor in the United States.
- Tasked with creating an indoor sport for winter, Naismith used a soccer ball and two peach baskets fixed high on the walls.
- The early version of the game was very different from what we see today.



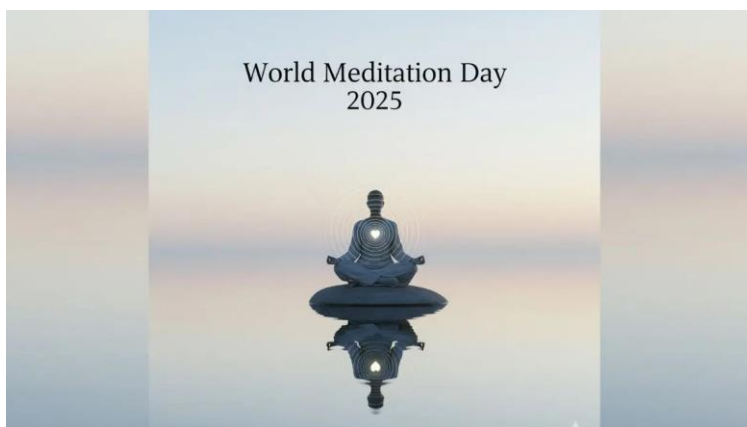
Winter Solstice 2025

- The Winter Solstice 2025 occurs on Sunday, December 21 marking the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. On this day many regions experience only eight to nine hours of daylight.
- While it often goes unnoticed amid holiday celebrations, the winter solstice is a key astronomical event that explains why seasons change and why daylight begins to increase after December.
- The reason for the winter solstice lies in the tilt of the Earth.
- Earth rotates on an axis tilted by about 23.5 degrees.
- This tilt causes different parts of the planet to receive varying amounts of sunlight throughout the year.
- A solstice is an astronomical event that happens twice a year, in June and December.
- The word comes from Latin, meaning “Sun stands still”, referring to how the Sun’s rising and setting points pause before reversing direction.
- **June Solstice:** Longest day in the Northern Hemisphere
- **December Solstice:** Shortest day in the Northern Hemisphere



World Meditation Day

- The United Nations marked the second World Meditation Day on the 21st December with a high level event at its headquarters in New York. Reaffirming the growing global recognition of meditation as a pathway to inner peace and global harmony.
- The observance brought together diplomats, spiritual leaders, scientists, and civil society members, reflecting the universal relevance of mindfulness in today's fast-changing and conflict-prone world.
- The second World Meditation Day event was organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, in collaboration with the missions of Andorra, Mexico, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- These countries together form the core group behind the World Meditation Day initiative.



Jay Shah Receives 'Transformational Leader of the Year' Award

- At the NDTV Indian of the Year 2025, Jay Shah was honoured with the 'Transformational Leader of the Year' award for his far-reaching contribution to Indian and world cricket.
- Under this reform, match fees for women players were increased manifold, ending long-standing disparities.
- Women cricketers now earn ₹6 lakh per ODI, ₹3 lakh per T20I, and ₹15 lakh per Test compared to much lower amounts earlier.
- Another landmark reform was the launch of the Women's Premier League (WPL).



Brazil Hands Over BRICS Presidency to India

- Brazil officially transferred the BRICS presidency to India on December 12, 2025, during the concluding session of the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting. The ceremonial handover marked a leadership transition within the bloc as India prepares to steer BRICS discussions and initiatives in 2026.
- BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, aimed at promoting cooperation among Global South countries in areas such as development, trade, finance, and global governance reform.
- The presidency of BRICS rotates annually among member states.

- During its presidency, Brazil prioritized six major areas,
- Global Health Cooperation
- Climate Change
- Trade, Investment, and Finance
- Multilateral Architecture for Peace and Security
- Governance of Artificial Intelligence
- Institutional Development of BRICS



Elon Musk Becomes First Individual to Reach \$700 Billion Fortune

- Tech billionaire Elon Musk has created history by becoming the first individual in the world to surpass a net worth of \$700 billion.
- According to the Forbes Billionaires Index, Musk's fortune surged to an estimated \$749 billion after a landmark ruling by the Delaware Supreme Court reinstated a massive Tesla stock options package.
- On December 20, 2025, the Delaware Supreme Court overturned the earlier ruling stating that the rescission of the compensation package was improper and inequitable.
- With the decision reversed, Tesla stock options worth \$139 billion were fully reinstated.
- As a result, Forbes removed the valuation discount, instantly adding nearly \$70 billion to Musk's personal wealth and pushing his net worth well beyond the \$700 billion mark.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When does the Winter Solstice 2025 occur in the Northern Hemisphere?

- A. December 20
- B. December 21
- C. December 22
- D. December 23

☒ **Answer: B. December 21**


2. The Winter Solstice marks which of the following phenomena?

- A. Longest day and shortest night
- B. Equal day and night
- C. Shortest day and longest night
- D. Beginning of spring season

☒ **Answer: C. Shortest day and longest night**

3. The United Nations observed the second World Meditation Day on which date in 2025?

- A. December 20
- B. December 21
- C. December 22
- D. December 23

 **Answer: B. December 21**

4. World Basketball Day is celebrated every year on December 21 to commemorate:

- A. Formation of FIBA
- B. Basketball becoming an Olympic sport
- C. First-ever basketball game played
- D. Invention of modern basketball rules

 **Answer: C. First-ever basketball game played**

5. In which year was the first basketball game played?

- A. 1885
- B. 1891
- C. 1900
- D. 1912

 **Answer: B. 1891**

6. National Mathematics Day in India is celebrated on December 22 to mark the birth anniversary of:

- A. C. V. Raman
- B. Aryabhata
- C. Srinivasa Ramanujan
- D. Satyendra Nath Bose

 **Answer: C. Srinivasa Ramanujan**

7. Srinivasa Ramanujan made significant contributions in which of the following fields?

- A. Quantum mechanics
- B. Astrophysics
- C. Number theory and infinite series
- D. Statistics and probability

 **Answer: C. Number theory and infinite series**

8. Who was honoured with the 'Transformational Leader of the Year' award at the NDTV Indian of the Year 2025?

- A. Mukesh Ambani
- B. Ratan Tata
- C. Jay Shah
- D. Sundar Pichai

 **Answer: C. Jay Shah**

9. Which country transferred the BRICS presidency to India on December 12, 2025?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. South Africa
- D. Brazil

 **Answer: D. Brazil**

10. Who became the first individual in the world to surpass a net worth of \$700 billion?

- A. Jeff Bezos
- B. Bernard Arnault
- C. Elon Musk
- D. Bill Gates

 **Answer: C. Elon Musk**