

# Daily Current Affairs 16 March 2025



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## Daily Current Affairs: 16 March 2026

**Q1.** Which of the following is an "irrational number" frequently approximated as  $22/7$ ?

- (a) Golden Ratio
- (b) Euler's number  $\{e\}$
- (c) Pi  $\{\pi\}$
- (d) Square root of 2

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (c) Pi  $\{\pi\}$

Explanation:

- Pi  $\{\pi\}$  is an irrational number, which means it cannot be written as a ratio of two integers (a/b).
- Although  $22/7$  is often used in schools as a value for Pi, it is only an approximation. The actual value of  $22/7$  is approximately 3.142857..., while  $\pi$  is 3.141592....
- The use of  $22/7$  as an approximation is popular because it is easy to use in manual calculations and is accurate to two decimal places.
- In ancient times, different cultures had various approximations; for instance, the Babylonians used 3.125, and the Egyptians (Rhind Papyrus) used roughly 3.16.
- The Indian mathematician Aryabhata (5th Century CE) gave a very accurate approximation of 3.1416.

Information Booster:

- Pi is also a transcendental number, a discovery made by Ferdinand von Lindemann in 1882, proving that it is impossible to "square the circle" using a compass and straightedge.
- The symbol  $\pi$  was first used for this purpose by William Jones in 1706 and later popularized by Leonhard Euler.

Additional Knowledge:

- Golden Ratio (Option a): Denoted by  $\phi$  (phi), it is approximately 1.618 and is used in art and architecture.
- Euler's number (Option b): Denoted by 'e', it is approximately 2.718 and is the base of natural logarithms.
- Square root of 2 (Option d): Approximately 1.414; it was the first number proved to be irrational by the Pythagoreans.

**Q2.** Who was the physicist responsible for starting the first official celebration of Pi Day in 1988?

- (a) Albert Einstein
- (b) Stephen Hawking
- (c) Larry Shaw
- (d) Isaac Newton

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (c) Larry Shaw

Explanation:

- Larry Shaw, a physicist working at the San Francisco Exploratorium, founded Pi Day in 1988.
- During the inaugural event, Shaw led staff and the public in a circular parade around one of the museum's exhibition spaces.
- The tradition of eating fruit pies during the celebration was also initiated by him because "Pi" and "Pie" are homophones in English.
- The event was designed to make mathematics more accessible and fun for the general public and museum visitors.
- His contribution led to a global movement, eventually resulting in the U.S. House of Representatives officially recognizing the day in 2009.

Information Booster:

- Pi Day 2026 marks the 38th anniversary of the original celebration held at the Exploratorium.
- The Exploratorium continues to host annual events, often featuring a "Pi Procession" where participants walk 3.14 times around a "Pi Shrine."

Additional Knowledge:

- Albert Einstein (Option a): Born on 14 March 1879; his birthday coincides with Pi Day, adding to the date's scientific significance.
- Stephen Hawking (Option b): A renowned theoretical physicist who passed away on 14 March 2018, coincidentally on Pi Day.
- Isaac Newton (Option d): Famous for his laws of motion and universal gravitation; he was born on 25 December (Old Style) or 4 January (New Style).

**Q3.** In mathematics, what does the constant Pi ( $\pi$ ) represent?

- (a) The ratio of a circle's diameter to its radius
- (b) The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
- (c) The square of a circle's area
- (d) The total degrees in a sphere

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (b) The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter

Explanation:

- The number  $\pi$  ( $\pi$ ) is a mathematical constant defined as the ratio of a circle's circumference ( $C$ ) to its diameter ( $d$ ).
- The formula is expressed as:  
$$\pi = \frac{C}{d}$$
- This ratio remains constant regardless of the size of the circle; whether it is a tiny ring or a massive planet, the ratio of its boundary to its width is always  $\pi$ .
- $\pi$  is an irrational number, meaning it cannot be expressed as a simple fraction and its decimal representation never ends or settles into a permanent repeating pattern.
- It is also a transcendental number, which means it is not the root of any non-zero polynomial equation with rational coefficients.

Information Booster:

- Commonly used approximations for  $\pi$  include the decimal 3.14 and the fraction  $\frac{22}{7}$ .
- Modern supercomputers have calculated  $\pi$  to more than 100 trillion digits, yet only about 39-40 digits are needed to calculate the observable universe's volume with precision to the size of a hydrogen atom.

Additional Knowledge:

- Ratio of diameter to radius (Option a): This is always 2, as the diameter is twice the length of the radius ( $d = 2r$ ).
- Square of a circle's area (Option c): The area of a circle is calculated as  $A = \pi r^2$ ; squaring this value does not represent  $\pi$ .
- Degrees in a sphere (Option d): A circle contains 360 degrees; a sphere is measured in steradians ( $\pi$  steradians for a full sphere).

**Q4.** Which international organization officially declared 14 March as the "International Day of Mathematics" in 2019?

- (a) WHO
- (b) UNESCO
- (c) UNICEF
- (d) World Bank

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (b) UNESCO

Explanation:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially proclaimed 14 March as the International Day of Mathematics (IDM) during its 40th General Conference in November 2019.
- The first official global celebration of IDM took place on 14 March 2020 under the theme "Mathematics is Everywhere."
- The goal of this designation is to highlight the fundamental role mathematical sciences play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It aims to improve the understanding among the general public and decision-makers of the importance of mathematics in education and modern life.
- While "Pi Day" was already a popular celebration, the UNESCO designation provided it with formal intergovernmental status.

Information Booster:

- Each year, the International Day of Mathematics has a specific theme; for example, "Mathematics for a Better World" or "Mathematics Unites."
- The project is led by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) with support from numerous international and regional organizations.

Additional Knowledge:

- WHO (Option a): The World Health Organization focuses on international public health.
- UNICEF (Option b): Focuses on providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- World Bank (Option d): An international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries.

**Q5.** On which date is Pi Day celebrated annually across the world?

- (a) 22 July
- (b) 14 March
- (c) 14 April
- (d) 1 June

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct answer is (b) 14 March

Explanation:

- Pi Day is observed globally on 14 March every year to celebrate the mathematical constant  $\pi$  ( $\pi$ ).
- The choice of the date 3/14 (in Month/Day format) directly corresponds to the first three significant digits of the mathematical constant  $\pi$ , which is approximately 3.14.
- The celebration highlights the critical role of mathematics in various fields such as physics, engineering, and astronomy.
- Many enthusiasts take the celebration further by observing it at exactly 1:59 p.m. to represent the subsequent digits of the value (3.14159).
- The day is used as a platform to encourage interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects among students.

Information Booster:

- The first official celebration of Pi Day was organized in 1988 by Larry Shaw, a physicist at the San Francisco Exploratorium.
- In 2019, UNESCO's 40th General Conference proclaimed 14 March as the International Day of Mathematics.

Additional Knowledge:

- 22 July (Option a): This is known as Pi Approximation Day, as the fraction  $22/7$  is a common approximation of  $\pi$ .
- 14 April (Option c): Not associated with Pi; however, it is the birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar in India.
- 1 June (Option d): Often celebrated as World Milk Day or International Children's Day in some regions.



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