



Important Facts For Prelims (22nd April 2019)

Easter

- The Prime Minister has greeted the people on the occasion of Easter.
- **Easter 2019 was observed on Sunday, April 21.** However, Easter falls on a **different date each year.**
- Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the **resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- The holiday **concludes the "Passion of Christ,"** a series of events and holidays that **begins with Lent (a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice)** and **ends with Holy Week, which includes Holy Thursday (the celebration of Jesus' Last Supper with his 12 Apostles), Good Friday (on which Jesus' crucifixion is observed), and Easter Sunday.**

Garia Puja Festival

- The Garia Puja is a major festival in **Tripura.**
- The festival is held from the **last day of the month of Chaitra** till the seventh day of the month of **Vaishakha according to Hindu calendar.**
- This festival is celebrated as a **harvest festival** by the **ethnic tribes Tripuris and Reangs.**
- In the festival, a **bamboo pole** is worshipped with flowers and garlands by the tribals which symbolize the **Lord Garia.**
- The ingredients used in the Puja are fowl chick, cotton thread, rice, eggs, etc. An important part of the Puja is sacrificing a fowl and offering the blood to the deity. After the sacrifice, the **Garia dance is performed.**

Agent Orange

- The US has launched a **clean-up project** at a former storage site for **Agent Orange in Vietnam.**
- Agent Orange was a **powerful herbicide used by U.S. military forces (Operation Ranch Hand)** during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.
- US forces sprayed **millions of liter of Agent Orange over South Vietnam between 1962 and 1971** in a bid to flush out Viet Cong communist guerrillas **by depriving them of tree cover and food.**
- The active ingredients in Agent Orange are a **combination of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T).**