

Harela festival

July 22, 2021

In news- Harela festival is celebrated across Uttarakhand.

About Harela festival-

- Harela means '**day of green**' and it is a **festival of greenery, peace, prosperity** and environmental conservation.
- It is **celebrated as the monsoon starts** and is considered one of the most important festivals in the entire Kumaon region.
- The festival is celebrated in the month of Shravan (the fifth month of the Hindu lunar calendar) to **worship Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati**.
- The **seeds of five to seven types of crops** such as maize, til (sesame), urad (black gram), mustard, oats are sown in donas (bowl made of leaves) or ringalare (hill bamboo baskets) nine days before the festival.
- These crops are harvested on the ninth day and distributed to neighbours, friends and relatives.
- The flourish of the crops symbolises prosperity in the year ahead.
- A day before the festival, **people make clay statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, known as Dikare**, and worship them.
- Harela is also linked to the **Barahnaza system** (12 types of crops), a crop diversification technique followed in the region of Garhwal.
- During the festival, people also sing songs in the kumaoni language.
- **It is called Hariyali/Rihyali in the Kangra**, Shimla and Sirmour region, Dakhrain in Jubbal and Kinnaur regions of Himachal Pradesh.
- In Garhwal region, the festival is celebrated as **Mol-Sankranti or as Rai-Sagrān**.