

Phool Dei festival of Uttarakhand

March 18, 2022

In news– The festival of *Phool Dei* is celebrated in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions of Uttarakhand every year in the flowering season (March-April) for about a month to teach children to cherish & nurture nature.

About the festival-

- **Known as the harvest festival of the state Uttarakhand**, Phool Dei is an auspicious folk festival which welcomes the spring season in the state.
- The festival is celebrated on the first day of the Hindu month, Chaitra.
- During this festival, children would wake up at the break of dawn with the onset of spring to collect different kinds of flowers.
- They would place these fresh blossoms at the doorstep of every house in the neighborhood.
- The local belief is that placing flowers at the doorsteps of houses for the gods will bring prosperity and blessings.
- The groups of children, known as *Phoolyari*, bring flowers daily to the households and receive money and sweets in return from each family on the last day of spring.
- The *red rhododendron* flowers, locally called *buransh* (the state tree of Uttarakhand), is a spectacle in the season.
- The yellow flowers of pheonly, scientifically known as ***Reinwardtia indica***, is also common and used widely during the occasion, as are mustard flowers.
- The celebration of ***Phool Dei*** indirectly rooted a sense of affection and protection towards nature, especially

local flowers and trees, in our minds.

- On the last day of spring, the *Phoolyari* place flowers of at least five different colours at every doorstep.