



Harela Festival 2024

Why in News?

[Harela](#) is a Hindu festival **celebrated in Uttarakhand and some regions of Himachal Pradesh**, particularly in the [Kumaun region](#) with great enthusiasm.

Key Points

- Harela falls on the **first day of Shravan-Maas**, according to the **Hindu Luni-Solar calendar**, marking the **start of the monsoon season and the planting of new crops**.
 - This is an **important time for the state's agriculture** as it marks the "Harela," derived from the Kumaoni word "Hariyala," meaning "**Day of Green**," believed to have originated in the Kumaon region.
- The festival **Hariyali or Rihyali is celebrated in Kangra, Shimla, Sirmour, and Dakhra in the Jubbal and Kinnaur regions** of Himachal Pradesh, where people pray for a good harvest and prosperity.
 - The festival is associated with the **ceremonial celebration of the marriage between Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati**.
 - This event is considered auspicious for farmers, as it **signifies the start of the planting season in their fields**.

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