

# Harela Utsav 2020

Harela is a Hindu festival celebrated basically in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand state of India and some regions of Himachal Pradesh. It is called Hariyali or Rihyali in the Kangra, Shimla, and Sirmour regions of Himachal Pradesh. It is called Dakhrain in the Jubbal and Kinnaur areas of Himachal Pradesh. In Himachal, people take their village deity to an open place, and sing and dance in front of the idol. It is celebrated thrice every year; the first two celebrations are during both the periods of Navrati – first during Chaitra Navrati in the month of Chaitra, and second during Sharad Navratri in the month of Ashwin. This is followed by Bhaitauli or Bhitauli wherein gifts are given to girls of the family. The Shravan Harela is celebrated as the first day (Kark-Sankranti) of the Hindu calendar month of Shravan (late July). It is also symbol for the onset of rainy season (Monsoon) as Harela literally means "Day of Green". Agriculture-based communities in the region consider it highly auspicious, as it marks the beginning on the sowing cycle in their fields. They pray for a good harvest and prosperity. Harela falls on 16 July. It was also celebrated in our college this year as a Harela Utsav (Harela week).





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