

Apatani tribe

March 30, 2021

About Apatani tribe

- The Apatanis, one of the major ethnic groups of eastern Himalayas
 - **Location/state:** they live in the Ziro valley in the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh
 - **Languages:** The Apatanis speak a local language called Tani, including Apatani, English and Hindi.
 - **Culture:** They worship the sun and the moon
 - The tribe has extensive knowledge of herbal remedies to cure most of their ailments. Local ritual specialists also take part in chanting, blood-letting and animal sacrifices in a bid to keep the inhabitants healthy.
 - They are known for their effective traditional **village council called bulyañ**, which supervises, guides and have legal oversight over the activities of individuals that affect the community as a whole.
 - Unlike the other tribes, they are non-nomadic in nature.
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- **The Apatanis are among the few tribes in the world who continue to worship nature**
 - **Agriculture & recognition:**
 - Their wet rice cultivation system and their agriculture system are extensive even without the use of any farm animals or machines.
 - So is their sustainable social forestry system.
 - UNESCO has proposed the Apatani valley for inclusion as a World Heritage Site for its “extremely high productivity” and “unique” way of preserving the

ecology.

- They practice permanent wetland cultivation in hilly terrain by slicing the hills, whereas other tribes practice cultivation in dry land by cutting down forests.
- The most captivating members are the older women of the tribe, who wear facial tattoos and massive nose rings.
- Festivals: They have two major festivals – Dree and Myoko.
 - Dree is the agricultural festival is celebrated with prayers for a bumper harvest and prosperity of all humankind
 - Myoko is a festival to celebrate friendship similar to modern friendship day but unlike the latter which lasts only for a day, it is celebrated for almost a month-long, from the end of March to the end of April.