

Hatti community of Himachal Pradesh

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In news- The Union government is planning to include the Hatti community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

A brief note on the community-

- The Hattis are a **close-knit community who got their name from their tradition of selling homegrown vegetables, crops, meat and wool etc. at small markets called 'haat' in towns.**
- The Hatti community, whose **men generally don a distinctive white headgear during ceremonies, is cut off from Sirmour** (the southernmost district of Himachal Pradesh) **by two rivers called Giri and Tons.**
- **Giri is a tributary of the Yamuna** river that flows in the state of **Himachal Pradesh.**
- **The Tons** is also a **tributary of the Yamuna** and flows through Garhwal region in **Uttarakhand, touching Himachal Pradesh.**
- Tons divides it from the Jaunsar Bawar area of Uttarakhand.
- There is a **fairly rigid caste system among the Hattis** – the **Bhat and Khash** are the upper castes, while the Badhois are below them. **Inter-caste marriages have traditionally remained a strict no-no.**
- The **Hattis are governed by a traditional council called Khumbli**, which like the khaps of Haryana, decide community matters.
- **The Khumbli's power has remained unchallenged** despite the establishment of the panchayati raj system.
- The community has been making the **demand for Tribal status since 1967**, when this **status was accorded to people living in the Jaunsar Bawar area of Uttarakhand**, which shares a border with Sirmour district.