

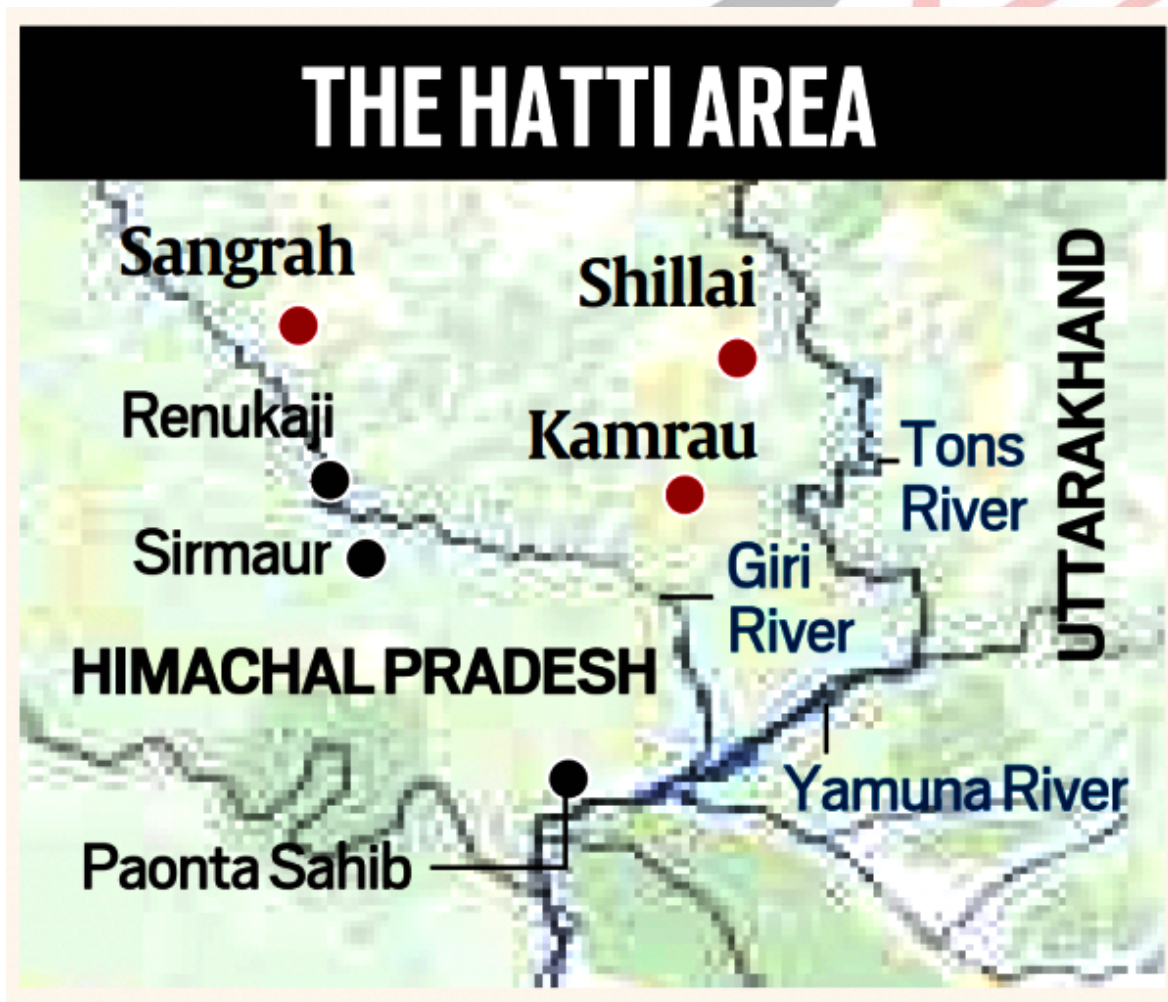


Hattis of Himachal Pradesh

Why in News?

Centre is considering the Himachal Pradesh' government's request for **inclusion of the Hatti community in the list of [Scheduled Tribes](#)** in the state.

- The community has been making the **demand since 1967, when tribal status was accorded to people living in the Jaunsar Bawar area of Uttarakhand, which shares a border with Sirmaur district.**
- Their demand for tribal status gained strength because of **resolutions passed at various maha Khumblis over the years.**



Who are the Hattis?

- 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 Sirmaur by two rivers called Giri and Tons.**
 - Tons divides it from the Jaunsar Bawar area of Uttarakhand.
- The Hattis who live in the trans-Giri area and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand **were once part of the royal estate of Sirmaur until Jaunsar Bawar's separation in 1815.**
 - The two clans have **similar traditions, and inter-marriages are commonplace.**
- There is a 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.**
- Due to topographical disadvantages, **the Hattis living in the Kamrau, Sangrah, and Shilliai areas lag in education and employment.**
- 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](#).

What is a Scheduled Tribe?

- **Article 366 (25)** of the Constitution refers to **Scheduled Tribes** as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.
- **Article 342** says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be Scheduled Tribes.
- The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific, and a **community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in one State need not be so in another State.**
- The **Constitution is silent about the criteria for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe.**
 - Primitiveness, geographical isolation, shyness and social, educational & economic backwardness are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribe communities from other communities.
- There are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#), who are characterized by:
 - Pre-agriculture level of technology.
 - Stagnant or declining population.
 - Extremely low literacy.
 - Subsistence level of economy.
- **Government Initiatives for STs:**
 - The [Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers \(Recognition of Forest Rights\) Act, 2006 \(FRA\)](#).
 - The [Provision of the Panchayats \(Extension to the Scheduled Areas\) Act, 1996](#).
 - Minor Forest Produce Act 2005.
 - [SC And ST \(Prevention Of Atrocities\) Act](#).
 - Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy are focused on the socio-economic empowerment of STs.

Source: IE