# **Hattees get tribal** status, could impact results in 9 HP seats

The Trans-Giri Hattees have been seeking reservation since 1967, BIP first recognised demand during 2009 polls

**AMIL BHATNAGAR** 

SHIMLA. SEPTEMBER 14

THE UNION Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, Wednesday approved a Constitution amendment Bill that seeks to grant tribal status to the Hattee community living in the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district. The nod for Hattees came along with tribal status to a community in Chhattisgarh and two in Tamil Nadu.

The Hattees form an electorally influential community in Himachal Pradesh, and the move might boost the ruling BIP's chances in the coming Assembly elections. The BJP had swept the 2017 Assembly elections, winning 44 of the 68 seats. The 2022 election, on the other hand, scheduled for November, is turning out to be a three-cornered fight between the BJP, Congress and new-entrant Aam Aadmi Party, which is fresh off the win in Punjab. In this backdrop, support of the three lakh members of the Hattee community can prove decisive. While they are concentrated in the four constituencies of Sirmaur district (Shillai, Paonta, Renuka, and Pachhad), they play a significant role in at least nine seats in Shimla and Sirmaur. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, who addressed the media after the Cabinet meeting, and belongs to Hiamchal, said people belonging to the community in the state had been asking for inclusion in the ST list for more than 50 years.

Pointing out that the Hattee community in the Jaunsar region of Uttrakhand had already been given tribal status, he said: "The Trans-Giri region of Sirmaur shares the border with Jaunsar, and the two have a cultural similarity. It is a historic decision. I thank PM Modi for this." The ST status will also impact 144 gram panchayats. Additionally, if the proposal for tribal status for Simaur is cleared, it will ensure reservation benefits for communities living in the area.

Himachal had earlier submitted a proposal for notifying Trans-Giri in Sirmour district, the Dodra Kwar sub-division of Shimla, areas of Shimla and Kullu as Scheduled Areas. The ministry examined the proposal but did not consider it due to "want of crietria". A closeknit community, the Hattis are spread across the Trans-Giri(nestled between the Giri and Tons rivers) and Jaunsar Bawar regions in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, respectively. The larger area was once part of the Sirmaur royal estate until the British conquered it in 1815. The Trans-Giri Hattees have been seeking reservation since 1967, when tribal status was accorded to members living in the Jaunsar Bawar area. Over the years, the demand kept gaining strength with resolutions passed at Khumblis,

which are traditional, powerful councils similar to the Khap pan-

chayats in Haryana. They remain

unchallenged by the panchayati

raj system. The BJP first recognised

the demand during the 2009

Assembly elections by incorporat-

ing it in its manifesto, the first party

to do so. The community then put

its weight behind the party, and

the promise kept reappearing in subsequent BJP manifestos. In 2014, then BJP national president Rajnath Singh promised the grant of ST status to Hattees during a rally at Nahan in Sirmaur. The BJP, in the recent past, benefited from the community's support in the form of gains in parliamentary elections especially in Shimla, which was once a Congress

### Police, Faridabad MC raze shops on land encroached by gangster's aide

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

IN A joint action initiated Wednesday, Haryana Police and the Faridabad civic body demolished "illegal shops" set up by gangster Manoj Mangaria's aide. Police said Manoj's aide, Javed, used the gangster's influence to

encroach land and charge high rents from shops built on it.

Manoj is currently lodged in Central jail in Ambala and faces 17 cases of murder, attempted murder, and possession of illegal arms among others. Manoj was arrested by the Faridabad crime branch in 2021. "Manoj Mangaria's aide laved was involved in criminal activities for about 14 years. Javed encroaches on land by his influence. He was also involved in criminal activities and was collecting huge rent from shops built on illegally acquired land. Illegal shops constructed by accused Javed were identified by Faridabad police and have been demolished by joint taking action of police and the municipal corporation", a spokesperson of Haryana Police said.

#### HARYANA'S NEW LAND-POOLING POLICY

### Landowners can now be partners in development process

**VARINDER BHATIA** 

CHANDIGARH. SEPTEMBER 14

HARYANA HAS come out with a land-pooling policy-2022, as part of its measures to make the land banks available for the purpose of major urbanisation and industrialisation. The state says that as per the land-pooling policy-2022, "the land owners shall be partners in the development process and the policy aims at offering maximum benefit to them [land owners] by linking the allotment of

"The policy prescribes a timeline to be followed at various stages so the interests of land owners are protected and the objective of land development is achieved. The policy aims to achieve planned development through voluntary participation of landowners interested to become partners in development process in adherence to provisions of Haryana Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963", a spokesperson said.

terming it a landmark and attractive policy in the interest of farmers and land owners, the Opposition is not impressed. Hitting at the BJP-JJP coalition government of Haryana, leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "This policy means nothing when people of the state are demanding the land acquisition policy that was introduced during our tenure. We had a fixed 33 per cent annuity, the floor-area rates were marked area-wise; for in-

than Karnal or for that matter any other district. The compensation given to the farmer or the land owner was far more transparent".

The policy, earlier approved by the state cabinet led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in July, was notified on August 22.

The objective of the policy is "to achieve the purpose of planned development including development of infrastructure and for the purpose obtain land through voluntary participation of land owners, interested to beopment" the notification reads.

The registered property dealers/ real estate agents have been designated as "aggregators" under the policy and the "development organisation" has been described as "state government in any department or any board, corporation, statutory authority or any other organisation owned and controlled by the state government intending to obtain land for a development purpose".

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

#### 'Orders on ex-cadre posts of IPS officers available with govt'

Chandigarh: In response to an RTI query, the Haryana police have informed a senior police officer that the orders related to creation of ex-cadre posts in the rank of DGP and ADGP are available with the state government.

 $Under\,the\,RTI\,Act, the\,officer$ from state police wanted photocopies of government orders regarding creation of 14 ex-cadre posts of DGP rank and eight posts in ADGP rank. Police department said, "The government has created 14 ex-cadre posts in rank of DGP at their own level... orders are available with state.' Similar reply was given in connection with the ADGPs.

The issue came into limelight after the state government in May promoted four IPS officers from IGP to ADGP rank. Critics objected to the promotions stating the same were done despite "non-availability of sufficient vacancies in rank of ADGP". The government has said there is nothing wrong in the decision and it was done to fill the gap. **ENS** 



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- UGC, New Delhi vide letter no. F 6.66/2004 (CPP-I) dated 04

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Chemical Engineering

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