Jodidara Tradition

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Why in News?

Recently, Jodidara tradition practiced in the Hatti tribes of Himachal Pradesh.

- **Jodidara –** It is a traditional form of ***polyandrous marriage*** practised among the Hatti tribe in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Polyandry —** Where a ***woman marries two or more men*** at the same time, usually brothers.
    - The term derives from Greek Polys, meaning "many," and Andros, meaning "man."
- Like any conventional wedding, the event was marked by vibrant folk music, dance, and community festivities.
- **Unique Ritual**
    - **Jajda -** The wedding is called Jajda, which begins with the bride arriving in a procession to the groom's village.
    - **Seenj -** A ritual known as Seenj is performed at the groom's home, where a priest chants mantras in the local dialect and sprinkles holy water.
- The ceremony ends with the couple being offered jaggery, with blessings from the *Kul Devta* for a sweet and harmonious life ahead.
- **Significance -** The polyandry system helped prevent the division of *ancestral land among multiple heirs.*
- Other reasons include fostering unity among brothers, preserving joint family systems, and ensuring a secure and stable environment in remote, hilly terrains.
- The tradition also helped manage scattered agricultural lands, which required collective, long-term attention.
- Under Indian law, *polyandry is not allowed*.

Hatti Tribal Community
• They reside in the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh and the Jaunsar Bawar region of Uttarakhand. • The Hatti tribe was recently granted ***Scheduled Tribe status.*** • The Hattis is 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. • They live in the *Giri and Tons River basins* near the Himachal-Uttarakhand border. • **Governed by -** Traditional council called 'khumbli' which handles community matters. • **Traditional Practices** - Hatti men wear distinctive white headgear on ceremonial occasions.

Reference

Hindustan Times| Jodidara, Traditional form of Polyandry among the Hatti tribe

