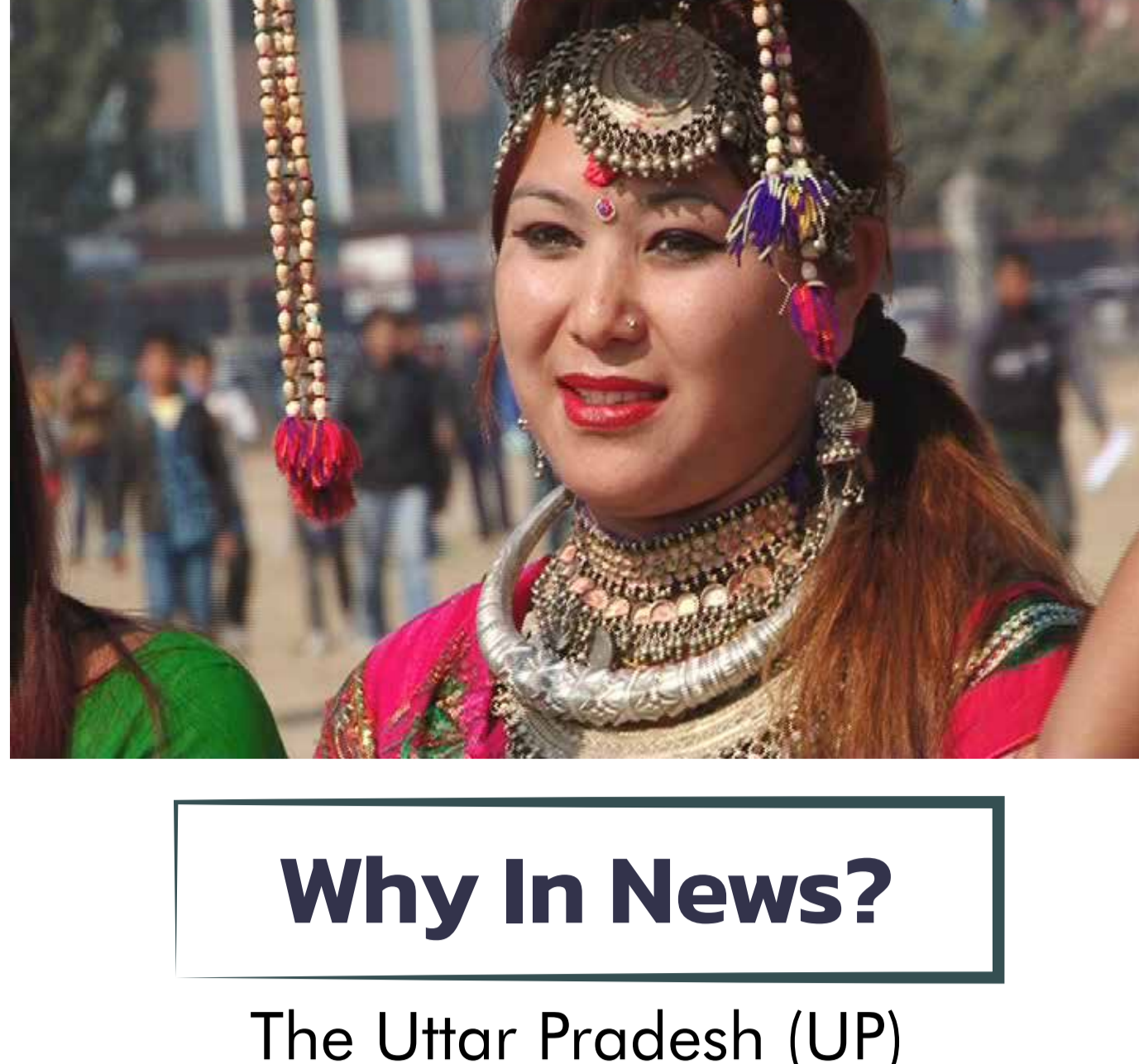


# Tharu *tribe*



## Why In News?

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government is working to connect Tharu villages in the districts of Balrampur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur and Pilibhit bordering Nepal, with the home stay scheme of the UP Forest Department.

## Aim

The idea is to offer tourists an experience of living in the natural Tharu habitat, in traditional huts made of grass collected mainly from the forests.

This is expected to create jobs and bring economic independence for the tribal population.

## Meaning of 'Tharu':

The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthavir, meaning followers of Theravada Buddhism.

## About Tharu Tribe

The Tharu community belongs to the Terai lowlands, amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas.

Terai is a region of northern India and southern Nepal running parallel to the lower ranges of the Himalayas.

The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

## Scheduled Tribe:

Tharu is a scheduled tribe in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

## Occupation

Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.

## Culture

- ✓ They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.
- ✓ Tharus worship Lord Shiva as Mahadev, and call their supreme being "Narayan", who they believe is the provider of sunshine, rain, and harvests.
- ✓ Tharu women have stronger property rights than is allowed to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu custom.
- ✓ Standard items on the Tharu plate are bagiya or dhikri – which is a steamed dish of rice flour that is eaten with chutney or curry – and ghonghi, an edible snail that is cooked in a curry made of coriander, chili, garlic, and onion.