Materials and Methodology
THE STUDY AREA

Etymology, Location and Extent

The word Himachal Pradesh literally means ‘Land of snowy mountains’, which sprawls in the northwestern lap of the Himalaya between 30°22' to 33°12' north latitude and 75°47' to 79°04' east longitude. To the east, it forms India’s border with Tibet, to the north lies State of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal in the southeast, Haryana in the south and Punjab in the west (Fig. 1). The entire territory of H.P. is mountainous with altitude varying from 350 to 7,000m above the mean sea level. Topographically, Himachal’s territory from south to north can be divided into three zones—The Shivaliks or outer Himalaya, inner Himalaya or Mid-mountains and Alpine Zone or the greater Himalaya. The most prominent landmark of the State is the perennial white snowline on various peaks. The Dhauladhar overlooks the Kangra valley in supreme grandeur, while the Pir Panjal, the great Himalayan and the Zanskar ranges stand guard over Chamba, Lahul-Spiti, Kullu and Kinnaur. Of the twelve districts delineated for the State, area wise, Hamirpur with 1,118 sq kms (2.01%) is the smallest and Lahul-Spiti covers the largest area of 13,835 sq kms (24.85%). The entire population of the State is estimated to be around 60,77,900 in number according to 2001 census.

Historical Perspectives

Historical evidence indicates that after the Aryan invasion and the Khasa incursion, Himachal was dotted with tribal kingdoms or republics, chief among were the Audambaras (descendants of Vishwamitra, and in existence in the 5th century B.C.), the Trigarta (Susharma, the founder of Trigarta was an ally of the ‘Kaurvas’ and attacked Virata - the King of the Matsya with whom Pandavas had sought refuge), the Kulut [the territory mentioned to be located in upper Beas valley (now Kullu valley) as per holy scriptures Mahabharata, Ramayana, and Vishnu Purana] and the Kulindas (hilly areas between Beas and Yamuna, which were probably analogous to Shimla and Sirmaur areas). The present day Kanets are probably the descendants of the Kulindas. From the genealogical records and from other evidence, it appears that most of the hill states were already formed before the twelfth century. Some of them as Brahmapura (Brahmaur), Trigarta (Kangra), Kuluta (Kulu), Spiti and Srughna (probably Sirmaur area) were, however, in existence for quite some centuries and also mentioned by Hiuen Tsang. The evidence of Kols having settled in
Himalaya is also found from the sculptures on the rocks of Chandeshwar, Sameshwar and Chattis of Kumaon, and Kangra district. In Himachal, the present-day Kolis, Halis, Doms and Dhagis (scheduled castes) are probably their descendants.

After independence, the Chief Commissioner’s Province of H.P. came into being on April 15, 1948 with the integration of 31 hill States and received additional regions added to it in 1966; and it acquired full fledged statehood on January 25, 1971 as the eighteenth State of Indian Union.

Climate and Biogeography

Due to variation in elevation and aspect, there is great diversification in the climatic conditions of H.P. It varies from hot and subhumid tropical (450-900m) in the southern low tracts, warm and temperate (900-1,800m), cool and temperate (1,900-2,400m), and cold alpine and glacial (2,400-4,800m) in the northern and eastern mountain ranges. The climate in Lahul-Spiti and Kinnaur is of the semi-arid highland type.

The year in H.P. is divided into three seasons-cold (October-February), hot (March-June) and rainy (July-September). By October the skies are clear and mornings and evenings are bracingly cold. Humidity is low. Snowfalls usually occur in the higher hills in December and January and occasionally it may be experienced earlier or later. At elevations of about 3,000m, the average snowfall is about three metres and lasts from December-March. Above 4,500m there is perpetual snow. The severity of winter is generally over by the end of February. Temperature begins to rise gradually. Spring, from mid-February to March-April, is shortlived but extremely delightful. After this, the weather becomes hot and dusty in the areas adjoining the plains, but remains pleasant and comfortable in the places located on higher altitudes. The monsoon arrives generally towards the end of June or early July. Rainfall tapers off by the end of September which ushers in autumn. The average rainfall in the state is 152 cms (60 inches). The highest rainfall is in Kangra district at Dharamshala and lowest in Lahul-Spiti at place Spiti.

Himachal has rich flora and fauna. Legally defined forest areas constitute about 66.52% of the area of H.P. The southern part of the State which is at lower elevation has both tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf forests and tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests with vegetation dominated by sal, shisham, chir pine, etc. The temperate region grows oaks, deodar, blue pine, fir and spruce. Alders, birches, rhododendrons and moist alpine scrubs form the regional vegetation in the uppermost region.
Fig. 1. Map of Himachal Pradesh showing location of the various temples (For details of location codes see Table I).
The soil of Himachal varies according to aspect, altitude and climate. On the whole, the soil is thin. Depth occurs in the valley or on hill slopes.

**Communities and Dialects**

About 95.4% of the population of H.P. consists of Hindus, Muslims 2.0%, Sikhs 1.2% and Buddhists 1.2%. Amongst Hindus, the main communities are Brahmins, Rajputs, Kannets, Rathis and Kolis. Mahajans and Soods, the business communities, are sprinkled all over. Lahulis of Lahul and Spiti region are mainly Buddhists. The other communities are Julahas, Chamars, Lohars, Tarkhans, Kumhars, etc. The population of H.P. consists of a medley of tribes, each with its own language and dialect. The tribal population of the State comprise of the Gaddis (traditional shepherds who migrate from the alpine pastures to the lower regions during the winters), Kinnars (inhabitants of the Kinnaur region and traditionally practiced polyandry and polygamy). Gujjars (nomads who rear buffalo herds), Pangawals, Lahulis and Spitians. Himachal also has a sizeable population of Tibetans. The people are simple, straightforward, hard-working and honest. Hindi is the State language but people mostly converse among themselves in Pahari. The major spoken languages include Hindi, Punjabi, Mahasui, Kulluyi, Lahuli, Kinnauri, Chambyali, Sirmauri, Bilaspuri, Pahari, Dogri, Kangri.

**Occupation and Livelihood**

Agriculture being the main occupation of the people of H.P. has an important role in the economy of the State. It provides direct employment to about 71 per cent of the main working population. Rice, wheat and maize are important cereal crops of the State. Groundnut, soyabean and sunflower in kharif and rapeseed/mustard and toria are important oilseed crops in the rabi season. Urd, bean, moong, rajmash in kharif season and gram in rabi are the important pulse crops of the State. Under the diversification approach, major emphasis is being laid on the production of off-season vegetables, quality vegetable seeds, potato and ginger besides soybean, oilseeds and pulses.

**Faith and Worship**

The State of H.P. is popularly known as 'Devabhoomi' or the land of Gods. The people of Himachal are deeply religious, God-fearing and worship different deities with all reverence. Early inhabitants of Himachal professed some form of Shaivism. Shiva is the most popular God and is called by different names, such as Mahasu, Mani Mahesh, Bajnath and others. The Vishnu or Krishna cult is confined mostly to the towns. Buddhism has taken
the shape of Lamaism here and is mostly practiced in the districts of Lahul-Spiti and Kinnaur. The important Gurudwaras situated at Paonta Sahib and Rewalsar are connected with the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh. Besides, the people also worship the Godlings or the village deities, the Deotas, the Rishies, the Munies, the Siddhas, the Pandavas, the Hill Tops, the trees, the Joginis or Wood Fairies, the Kali, the Shakti, the Nagas and even a host of devils and deities of the aborigines.

The temples and the other religious places are built in the traditional (Shikhara type, Pagoda-like, Dome-shaped or Pentroof type) style. Most of these have fascinating legends attached to them. There are innumerable temples of Shikhara type spread all over the State but the ones that deserve mention are Baijnath temple, Bajreshwari Devi temple, Masrur temple of Kangra, Bharmour temples, Lakshmi Narayan temple of Chamba, Trilokinath temple of Lahul, Bashiwar Mahadev temple of Bajaura (Kullu), Hatkoti temple of Shimla district and Trilokinath temple of Mandi. Pentroof type of temples include Shakti temple of Chamba, Naga temple of Khajiar (Chamba), Chandika Devi temple of Kinnaur, Bhekhali Devi temple of Kullu, etc. Dome-shaped temples include Naina Devi temple of Bilaspur. Pagoda-like temples are common in Kinnaur and Kullu districts.

Fairs and Festivals

The fairs and festivals in H.P. are associated with many folklores and give valuable insight into the rural lives, customs and beliefs. Every district in H.P. has its own cycle of annual fairs related to the history and sociological background of that area. All the seasonal and religious festivals and fairs are celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. On the day of festival, people generally cook special food, wear neat and clean clothes and worship at the temple. The tribal festivals in H.P. are quite unique in their celebrations. The different fairs and festivals of the region include the Halda festival, Diwali, Dussehra, Fulaich, Holi, Bishu, Rakhar Puniya, Gugga Navmi, Losar, Sajo, Lohadi, Faguli, and Shivratri.

The Methodology

Collection of Data

For collecting first hand information on the plants in the courtyards of temples of H.P., intensive and extensive surveys (Table I) were conducted in all the twelve districts over a period of five years (2002-2007).
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Lakshmi Narayan Temple KG13 Lakshmi Narayan Chunar
Machhial Mahadev Temple KG14 Shiva Andreta
Mahakal Temple KG15 Shiva Mahakal
Mangla Mata Temple KG16 Mangla Mata Tilokpur
Mukut Nath Temple KG17 Mukut Nath (Shiva) Sanaa
Nag Devta Temple KG18 Nag Devta Chelan
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Kinnair
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Usha Dev Temple KN10 Usha Dev Nainital

Kullu
Ambika Mata Temple KL1 Ambika (Durga) Nirmund
Bhekhali Mata Temple KL2 Bhuuneshwari Mata Bekhal
Biij Mahadev Temple KL3 Biij Mahadev (Lord Shiva) Muthan
Chandi Temple KL4 Durga Nirmund
Dakshini Mahadev Temple KL5 Shiv-lingam Nirmund
Dhankeshwar Mahadev Temple KL6 Shiva Bial
Gurudwara Sahib Manikaran KL7 Guru Nanak Dev Manikaran
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Naina Devi Temple KL13 Naina Devi Manikaran
Parshuram Temple KL14 Parshuram Nirmund
Raghnath Temple KL15 Sita-Ram Kullu
Raghnath Temple KL16 Raghnath Manikaran
Rama Temple KL17 Lord Rama Manikaran
Shitala Mata Temple KL18 Shitala Mata Kullu
Shiva Temple KL19 Shiva Manikaran
Shiva Temple KL20 Shiva Nirmund
Siyali Mahadev Temple KL21 Shiva Manali
Vachhoo Devi Temple KL22 Vachhoo Devi Vashing
Vishveshvar Mahadev Temple KL23 Shilingam Bjaureka

Lahul-Spiti
Kee Gompa LS1 Gautam Buddha Kee
Labrang Monastery LS2 Gautam Buddha, Padam Sambhav, Kali
Losar Gompa LS3 Jabru Devta Losar
Mnkula Devi Temple LS4 Kali Udaipur
Oihang Gompa LS5 Gautam Budh Oihang
Raja Ghepan Temple LS6 Raja Ghepan Shashun
Sakya Monastery LS7 Gautam Budh Kaza

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<td>Rewalsar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchvakra Mahadev Temple</td>
<td>M13</td>
<td>Shiva</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikari Devi Temple</td>
<td>M14</td>
<td>Shikari Devi</td>
<td>Shikari Devi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Lomash Rishi Temple</td>
<td>M15</td>
<td>Lomash Rishi</td>
<td>Rewalsar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidh Baba Kamlahiya Temple</td>
<td>M16</td>
<td>Baba Kamlahiya</td>
<td>Kamlah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tama Devi Temple</td>
<td>M17</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trilokinath Temple</td>
<td>M18</td>
<td>Shiva</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shimla</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhimakali Temple</td>
<td>SH1</td>
<td>Bhimakali</td>
<td>Sarahan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhuteshwar Mahadev Temple</td>
<td>SH2</td>
<td>Shiva</td>
<td>Rampur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bijjat Maharaj Temple</td>
<td>SH3</td>
<td>Bijjat Maharaj</td>
<td>Saranh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dingu Durga Temple</td>
<td>SH4</td>
<td>Durga</td>
<td>Sanjauli (Shimla)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Durga Temple</td>
<td>SH5</td>
<td>Durga</td>
<td>Jatog Can (Shimla)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutasrey Temple</td>
<td>SH6</td>
<td>Dutasrey, Ati, Anusuya Mata</td>
<td>Duti Nagar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gadeshwar Durga Mata Temple</td>
<td>SH7</td>
<td>Durga</td>
<td>Hatkoti</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jakhoo Hanuman Temple</td>
<td>SH8</td>
<td>Hanuman</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jathiya Devi Temple</td>
<td>SH9</td>
<td>Jathiya Devi</td>
<td>Dhonkhrri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalibari Temple</td>
<td>SH10</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>Kalibari (Shimla)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kali Mata Temple</td>
<td>SH11</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>Padhri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kamna Devi Temple</td>
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<td>Durga</td>
<td>Karnataka Devi (Shimla)</td>
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<td>Lankadvir Temple</td>
<td>SH13</td>
<td>Lankadvir, Brijeshwari</td>
<td>Chopal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahasu Devta Temple</td>
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<td>Mahasu Devta</td>
<td>Gajedri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahish Mardini Mahalakshmi</td>
<td>SH15</td>
<td>Maha Lakshmi</td>
<td>Rampur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temple</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Narsingh Temple</td>
<td>SH16</td>
<td>Narsingh</td>
<td>Shingla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shikdu Devta Temple</td>
<td>SH17</td>
<td>Shikhu Devta</td>
<td>Rohru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shri Ayodhya Nath Temple</td>
<td>SH18</td>
<td>Ram-Sita-Lakshman</td>
<td>Rampur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shri Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple</td>
<td>SH19</td>
<td>Ram-Sita-Hanuman</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shri Sat Narayan Temple</td>
<td>SH20</td>
<td>Vishnu</td>
<td>Rampur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surya Temple</td>
<td>SH21</td>
<td>Surya Devta</td>
<td>Nirth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tara Devi Temple</td>
<td>SH22</td>
<td>Tara Devi</td>
<td>Patyusd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sirmaur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balasundari Temple</td>
<td>SR1</td>
<td>Balasundari</td>
<td>Trilokpur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahmchari Ashram</td>
<td>SR2</td>
<td>Gaytri Mata</td>
<td>Renuka ji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurudwara Shri Paonta Sahib</td>
<td>SR3</td>
<td>Guru Gobind Singh</td>
<td>Paonta Sahib</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jagan Nath Temple</td>
<td>SR4</td>
<td>Jagan Nath</td>
<td>Nahan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalisthan Temple</td>
<td>SR5</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>Nahan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katasan Devi Temple</td>
<td>SR6</td>
<td>Katasan Devi</td>
<td>Bada Van</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narsingh Temple</td>
<td>SR7</td>
<td>Narsingh</td>
<td>Nahan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nirvan Ashram</td>
<td>SR8</td>
<td>Guru Sunder Muni Nirvan</td>
<td>Renuka ji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pujari Ghat Rana Temple</td>
<td>SR9</td>
<td>Ram. Sita. Lakshman</td>
<td>Paonta Sahib</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radha Krishan Temple</td>
<td>SR10</td>
<td>Radha Krishan</td>
<td>Nana Tikker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renuka Mata Temple</td>
<td>SR11</td>
<td>Renuka Mata</td>
<td>Renuka ji</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rishi Markanda Dham</td>
<td>SR12</td>
<td>Markanda Rishi</td>
<td>Jogivan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahibji Mahanj Gurdwara</td>
<td>SR13</td>
<td>Sahibji Mahanj</td>
<td>Shambhuwala</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanyas Ashram</td>
<td>SR14</td>
<td>Shiva</td>
<td>Renuka ji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shigul Devta Temple</td>
<td>SR15</td>
<td>Shigul Devta</td>
<td>Churdhar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiva Temple</td>
<td>SR16</td>
<td>Shiva</td>
<td>Rukhdi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiva Temple</td>
<td>SR17</td>
<td>Shiva</td>
<td>Trilokpur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Viswakamanna Temple  SR18  Viswakamanna  Paonta Sahib
Yamuna Temple  SR19  Radha Krishan  Paonta Sahib
Solan
Badwuwa Temple  SL1  Sehdev  Dadlughat
Bhadrakali Temple  SL2  Bhadrakali  Jakhri
Dev Dhar Temple  SL3  Dev Dhar Devta  Arki
Lutru Mahadev Temple  SL4  Shiva  Arki
Muru Mahadev Temple  SL5  Shiva  Arki
Sai Baba Temple  SL6  Shirdi Sai Baba  Garkhal
Shakani Ganga Temple  SL7  Goddess Shakani  Arki
Shiva Temple  SL8  Shiva  Dadlughat
Shiva Temple  SL9  Shiva  Jatoli
Shiva Temple  SL10  Shiva  Jatoli
Shri Siddh Baba Balak Nath Temple  SL11  Baba Balak Nath  Garkhal
Shulu Mata Temple  SL12  Shulu Mata  Solan
Sudheshwari Temple  SL13  Sudheshwan Devi  Solan
Una
Baba Achutanand Thakurdwara  U1  Swami Achutanand  Amlehad
Baba Babirhag Singh Gurudwara  U2  Baba Babirhag Singh  Maida
Bagula Mukhi Temple  U3  Bagula Mukhi  Kaloh
Bhadrakali Temple  U4  Bhadrakali  Bhadrakali
Dera Baba Rudranand  U5  Baba Rudranand  Lakshmi  Nari
Narayan
Dron Shiv Temple (Shiv Badi)  U6  Shiva  Ambota
Gugga Jhar Pir Temple  U7  Gugga Pir  Chak Sarai
Lakshmi Narayan Temple  U8  Lakshmi Narayan  Chowki Maniar
Lohara Temple  U9  Nag Devta, Bajrangbali, Baba  Lohara
Balak Nath, Jathar Mata
Mata Chintpurni Temple  U10  Chintpurni  Chhapoh
Rama Temple  U11  Ram-Sita-Lakshman  Anura
Sadasiv Temple  U12  Shiveringam  Baih
Santoshi Mata Temple  U13  Santoshi Mata  Khud
Sapdevi Sidh Peeth Ashram  U14  Vaishno Devi, Jwalaji, Naina
Kinnu Devi, Chamunda, Bajreshwari, Kali, Chintpurni
Shila Mata Temple  U15  Shila Mata  Bareh
Shri Hanuman Temple  U16  Hanuman  Thathal

*Arranged District-wise

Field tours to these temples were planned in such a way as to collect plant species either in flowering or fruiting stage. For future reference and study, the information pertaining to flowering and fruiting season of courtyard plants had been enumerated in Table II.

Table II
Flowering and Fruiting Season of the Temple-Courtyard Plants of H.P.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Plant</th>
<th>Flowering &amp; Fruiting Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Acacia catechu</em> (Linn.f.) Willd.</td>
<td>May-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acacia dealbata</em> Link.</td>
<td>Winter, early spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acacia nilotica</em> (L.) Willd. <em>ex Delile subsp. indica</em> (Benth.) Brenan</td>
<td>July-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acalypha wilkesiana</em> M. Arg.</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer oblongum</em> Wall.</td>
<td>February-April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Achyranthes capillaris</em> Linn.</td>
<td>December-January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aegle marmelos</em> (L.) Correa <em>ex Delile subsp.</em> <em>indicata</em> (Benth.) Brenan</td>
<td>April-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aesculus indica</em> Colebr.</td>
<td>May-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Albizia lebbeck</em> (L.) Benth.</td>
<td>April-August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Albizia stipulata</em> (Roxb.) Boiv.</td>
<td>September-October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Alnus nitida</em> (Spach) Endl.</td>
<td>September-October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aloe vera</em> (Linn.) Burm.f.</td>
<td>March-April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Alpinia tonkinensis</em> Roxb.</td>
<td>May-August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*contd.*
Alstonia scholaris (L.) R. Br.
Althea rosea (L.) Cav.
Amaryllis reginae Linn.
Anirrhinum majus Linn.
Araucaria columnaris (Forster) Hooker
Aristolochia elegans Mast.
Artemisia moorcroftiana Wall. ex DC.
Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam.
Artocarpus lakoocha Roxb.
Asclepias curassavica Linn.
Asclepias physocarpa Schlecht.
Asparagus adscendens Roxb.
Asparagus densijlorus (Kunth) Jessop
Asparagus racemosus Willd.
Bauhinia vahlii Wight & Arn.
Bauhinia variegate Linn.
Beloperone gutiaia Brand.
Berberis lycium Royle
Bergenia ciliala (Haw.) Stemb. forma ligulata Yeo
5eru/utilis D. Don
Bischoffia javanica Blume
Boerhaavia diffusa Linn.
Bombax ceiba Linn.
Bougainvillea glabra Clioisy
Bougainvillea speciobilis Willd.
Brassica oleracea var. capitata Linn.
Broussonelia papyri/era (L.) L'Herit. « Vent.
Bryophyllum calycinum Salisb.
Buxus sempervirens Linn.
Calendula officinalis Linn.
Callislephus chinensis (L.) Nees
Calolropis procero R. Br.
Cannabis saliva Linn.
Cnnna indica Linn.
Capsicum annuum Linn.
Carica papaya Linn.
Carissa carandas Linn.
Carissa spinarum Linn.
Caryoia urens Linn.
Cassia fistula Linn.
Cassia glauca Lam.
Cassia equisetifolia Linn.
Cassia obtusifolia (Linn.) G. Don
Cedrela loona Roxb. ex Rottl.
Cedrus deodora (Roxb.) Loudon
Centaurea cyanus Linn.
Cedrela toona Roxb. ex Rottl.
Cedrus deodora (Roxb.) Loudon
Celosia argentea var. cristata Haines
Celtis australis Linn.
Cesirum diurnum Linn.
Cesirum nocturnum Linn.
Chamaerops humilis Linn.
Chlorophyllum capense Kunze
Chrysanthemum indicum Linn.
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum Linn.
Cinnamonum camphora (L.) Nees & Ebesm.
Citerus aurantifolia (Christin) Sw.
Citerus jambhiri Lush.
Citerus limon (Linn.) Burm. f.
Citerus maxima (Burm. f.) Merrill
Citerus reticulate Blanco
Clematis graea Wall.
Clerodendrum inerme (Linn.) Gaertn.
Clerodendrum philippinum Schauer
Clerodendrum splendens G. Don.
December-March
August-September
Spring or early Summer
June-October
September-October
Bloom throughout the Summer
August-October
Flowers during the winter (December-March)
and fruits during the rainy season (July-August)
February-September
Flowers throughout the year
April-July
March-June
May-June
April-August
April-June
March-August
Flowers almost throughout the year
April-June
March-July
June-September
March-April
Major part of the year
February-May
Flowering in late summer and early autumn
Almost throughout the year
Summer
April-May
May-June
April-November
February-Early December
May-September
August-October
February-May
June-September
Usually in the rainy season (June-September)
August-September
Greater part of the year
April-June
May-June
November-February
May-August
March-July
April-August
February-May
During the rainy season
May-June
June-July
May-October
April-October
June-October
May-November
Flowers appear in Summer and continue till the
end of the rainy season
July-October
February-March
July-September
April-October
May-October
April-August
March-June
April-June
April-June
November-March
August-September
July-September
March-June
August-October
Flowers during winter months
contd.
Cleodendrum thomsonioides Balf.
Coix lacryma-jobi Linn.
Coleus blumei Benth.
Colocasia esculenta (Linn.) Schott.
Commelina arvensis Linn.
Corda dichotoma Forsk.
Cosmos bipinnatus Cav.
Cosmos sulphureus Cav.
Cupressia semprevirens Linn.
Cupressus torulosa D. Don
Cvca argophyta Thunb.
Cvca argophyta (Linn.) Pers.
Cyperus flabelliformis Rothb.
Dahlia rosea Cav.
Dalbergia sissoo Roxb.
Datura fastuosa Linn.
Datura innoxia Mill.
Datura stramonium Linn.
Daucus carota Linn.
Debregeasia hypoleuca Wall. ex Hook.
Deeringia anisanthoides (Lan.) Merr.
Delphinium ajacis Linn.
Dendrophthoe falcata (Linn. f.) Eltingh.
Dianthus barbatus Linn.
Diospyros lotus Linn.
Diospyros montana Roxb. var. cordifolia (Roxb.) Hiern.
Dodonea viscosa (Linn.) Jacq.
Dolichos lablab Linn.
Duranta repens Linn.
Ebrima acuminata R. Br.
Elaeocarpus ganitrus Roxb.
Emblica officinalis Gaertn.
Erigeron alpinus Linn.
Eriobotrya japonica (Thunb.) Lindl.
Eucalyptus tereticornis Sm.
Euphorbia milii Des Moul.
Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd. ex Klotzsch.
Euphorbia royleana Boiss.
Eucalyptus benghalensis Linn.
Ficus benghalensis Linn.
Ficus carica Linn.
Ficus elastica Roxb.
Ficus glomerata Roxb.
Ficus palmata Forsk.
Ficus religiosa Linn.
Ficus raciborskii Wall. ex Miq.
Ficus rumphi Blume.
Ficus virens Ait.
Frasinus santaloides (Wall. ex G. Don) DC.
Gaillardia pulchella Fouq.
Gomphrena globosa Linn.
Grevillea robusta A. Cunn. ex R. Br.
Grewia oppositifolia Roxb.
Hamelia patens Jacq.
Hebecherium coronarium Koenig.
Helianthus annuus Linn.
Hemerocallis fulva Linn. (Linn.)
Hibiscus mutabilis Linn.
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Linn.
Hibiscus syriacus Linn.
Holoptelea integrifolia (Roxb.) Planch.
Humulus lupulus Linn.
Hydrangea macrophylla (Thunb.) DC.
Hymenocallis litoralis Jacq. Salisb.
Hvscum album Linn.
Hypericum cernuum Roxb.
Impatiens balsamina Linn.
Ipomoea carica (L.) Sweet.
Ipomoea purpurea (L.) Roth.

Flowers during Rainy and cold seasons in India
March-July
April-June
August-September
May-July
July-September
May-June
September-December
February-October
July-September
February-May
June-July
June-July
July-August
April-September
April-October
July-September
June-November
April-October
Ipomoea quamoclit Linn.
Iris germanica Linn.
Ixia chinensis Linn.
Jacaranda acutifloria Hurnb. & Bonpl.
Jasminum grandiflorum Linn.
Jasminum humile Linn.
Jasminum primulinum Hensl. ex Baker
Jasminum sambac (L.) Aiton
Jatropha panduraefolia Andr.
Juglans regia Linn.
Juniperus chinensis Linn.
Juniperus macropoda Boiss.
Justicia gendarussa Linn. f.
Kochia iridophylla Voss.
Lagerstroemia indica Linn.
Lannea coromandelica (Houtt.) Merrill.
Lawsonia alba Lam.
Lespedeza sericea (Thunb.) Miq.
Lespedeza leucocephala (Lam.) de Wit.
Ligustrum lucidum Aiton
Lichi chinensis Sonner.
Lilaea polyaniha Juss.
Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.) de Wilt.
Ligustrum lucidum Aiton
Malva sylvestris Linn.
Malva verticillata Linn.
Malvaviscus consolati Greene.
Mangifera indica Linn.
Melia azedarach Linn.
Melia azedarach Linn.
Mentha longifolia (Linn.) Huds.
Mentha piperita Linn.
Mentha piperita Linn.
Mentha piperita Linn.
Michelia champaca Linn.
Mimosa pudica Linn.
Mimosa glongiflora (Lam.) Muell.-Arg.
Musa damarensis Roxb.
Murraya koenigii (Linn.) Spreng.
Murraya paniculata (Linn.) Jack.
Musa paradisiaca Linn.
Narcissus tazetta Linn.
Nerium odorum Soland.
Nicandra physaloides (Linn.) Gaertn.
Nyctanthem arbor-tristris Linn.
Ocimum basilicum Linn.
Ocimum gratissimum Linn.
Ocimum kilimandscharicum Gurke
Ocimum sanctum Linn.
Oenothera drummondii Hook f.
Olea glandulifera Wall.
Papaver roesas L. var. lajofolia Prain
Passiflora caerulea Linn.
Pedilanthus tithymaloides (L.) Poit.
Pelargonium hortorum Bailey
Pethonia hibrida Viln.
Phaseolus vulgaris Linn.
Phoenix sylvestris (L.) Roxb.
Peyuelacca ocimosa Roxb.
Pinus gerardiana Wall. ex D. Don
Pinus roxburghii Sarg.
Pinus wallichiana A. B. Jackson
Pistacia integerrima J. L. Stewart ex Brand.

August-October
June-July
July-October
March-June
April-September
May-September
March-May
Summer-rainy seasons
Summer
April-October
March-April
September-March
January-March
Flowering after the rainy seasons
June-October
February-June
April-July
July-August
September-November
July-November
April-June
March-May
May-July
May-August
May-June
March-June
May-August
April-October
May-October
May-September
Major part of the year
March-July
February-April
May-October
November-February
July-September
April-September
Flowers and fruits throughout the year
March-May
June-September
July-October
March-May
April-June
March-June
March-September
Throughout the year
January-February
April-November
May-October
July-October
June-September
September-October
August-September
July-October
August-September
March-May
Summer
June-September
Flowers mainly in summer, but intermittently throughout the year
Summer season
Summer
June-September
May-June
June-September
June-July
March-May
April-June
March-May

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contd.
A list of plant species with their flowering and fruiting periods:

- *I'isum sativum* Linn.
- *Platanus orientalis* Linn.
- *Plumeria acutifolia* Poiret
- *Iolianlhes luberosa* Linn.
- *Polyalihia longifolia* (Sonn.) Tiegh.
- *Polygamiapiniicilii* (Linn.) I'errc
- *Populus ciliaia* Wall.
- *Populus nigra* Linn.
- *Prinsepia ulilis* Royle
- *Prunus amygdalus* Batsch.
- *Prunus armeniaca* Linn.
- *Prunus domestica* Linn.
- *Prunus persica* (Linn.) Balscli
- *Psidium guajaciva* Linn.
- *Pierospermum acerifolium* \illd.
- *Punicagranaium* Linn.
- *Putranjiva roxburghii* Wall.
- *Pyrostegia venusta* (Ker.-Gawl.) Miers
- *Pyrus communis* Linn.
- *Pyrus malus* Linn.
- *Pyrus pashia* Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don
- *Quercus dilatata* Lindl. ex A. DC.
- *Quercus incoua* Roxb.
- *Quisqualis indica* Linn.
- *Rabes orientito* Desf.
- *Ricinus communis* Linn.
- *Rosa alba* Linn.
- *Rosa banksiae* Br.
- *Rosa foetida* Herrn.
- *Rosa indica* Linn.
- *Rosa jacquemontii* Crep. ex Hook. f.
- *Rosa moschato* Herrn.
- *Rosa multiflora* Thunb.
- *Rosa webbia* Wall. ex Royle
- *Roylea coorea* (D. Don) Baill.
- *Ruellia luberosa* Linn.
- *Russelia equisetiformis* Cham. & Schl.
- *Saccharum officinarum* Linn.
- *Salix alba* Linn.
- *Salix baileyana* Linn.
- *Salix fragilis* Linn.
- *Salix oxycarpa* Anders.
- *Salix tatarica* Rosh.
- *Salvia coccina* Juss.
- *Salvia splendens* Sellow ex Roemer & J.A. Schultes
- *Sambucas nigra* Linn.
- *Sansevieria trifasciata* Prain
- *Santalum album* Linn.
- *Sapindus mukorossi* Gaertn.
- *Sapium insigne* (Royele) Benth
- *Sapium sebiferum* (L.) Ruxb.
- *Schefflera arboricola* (Hayata) Merr.
- *Sempervivum arboresum* Linn.
- *Sesamum orientale* Linn.
- *Shorea robusta* Gaertn. f.
- *Solania tuberosa* Linn.
- *Scygiurn cumini* (Linn.) Skeels
- *Scygiurn jambos* (Linn.) Alston
- *Tabernaemontana coronaria* (Jacq.) Wild.
- *Togetes erecta* Linn.
- *Tomarindus indica* Linn.
- *Teocoma radicans* Juss.
- *Teocoma capensis* (Thunberg) Spach.
- *Teocoma stans* (Linn.) Juss ex H.B.K.
- *Teocoma grandis* Linn. f.
- *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.

Flowering and fruiting periods:

- June-July
- April-May
- June-September
- Throughout the greater part of the year
- February-May
- June-September
- March-June
- April-July
- April-July
- February-March
- May-September
- May-August
- February-March
- February-May
- November-May
- July-September
- April-June
- May-September
- March-April
- January-April
- June-August
- May-October
- March-May
- April-May
- April-October
- May-September
- July-October
- March-May
- April-May
- June-August
- May-June
- June-September
- June-September
- April-October
- June-July
- June-September
- March-November
- March-September
- Summer
- January-April
- March-May
- February-May
- April-June
- June-July
- April-July
- July-August
- Summer onwards
- May-September
- June-July
- February-May
- April-September
- May-August
- June-August
- August-September
- January-March
- August-September
- March-June
- May-September
- April-August
- February-June
- May-December
- October-April
- June-July
- August-September
- May-September
- Flowers and fruits throughout the year
- August-December
- May-September
Besides, first hand information on ethnobotanical aspects was collected through interviews from knowledgeable people (temple priests, members of temple committee, old experienced informants, medicinemen, village head, etc.) for which the proforma designed by Jain & Goel (1995) was modified to gather data for this purpose. Uses of plants narrated by a person were cross-checked and considered notable only if the author observed actual application, or similar application was reported by at least three informants. For the medicinal uses, information pertaining to method of preparation (powder, aq extr., infusion or decoction), dosage and combination with other plant, if any was also recorded. Status of courtyard plants in the surrounding areas was also noted in the field note book. Information pertaining to the nativity of the species was obtained from all possible sources (Bailey, 1949; Bentley & Trimen, 2008; Hajra & Das, 1982; Khuroo et al., 2004; Maheshwari & Paul, 1975; Matthew, 1969; Murthy et al., 2007; Nayar, 1977; Pandey & Parmar, 1994; Reddy, 2008; Reddy & Raju, 2002; Reddy & Reddy, 2004; Reddy et al., 2000; Saxena, 1991; Sharma, 1984; Wasson, 2003; Weber, 2003).

**Methodology of Study**

The herbarium sheets of all the collected temple plants were dried, preserved and mounted as per standard herborizing practices outlined by Jain & Rao (1977). The specimens were identified using regional floras and various revisionary and monographic works (Bose & Chowdhury, 1991; Chauhan, 1999; Chowdhery & Wadhwa, 1984; Collett, 1902; Dhiman, 1976; Hooker, 1872-1897; Nair, 1977; Polunin & Stainton, 1984; Stainton, 1988; Warman, 1999) and later got authenticated by carefully matching with the specimens at the herbaria of Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Northern Circle and Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehra Dun. Nomenclature of these taxa was confirmed from Bennet (1986).
and Wielgorskaya (1995). Photographs of temples and plants in their natural habitats were also clicked. The voucher specimens of all the presently studied taxa were deposited in the herbarium section of Ethnobotanical Laboratory, Department of Biosciences, H.P. University, Shimla.

Enumeration of Data

The collected information on temple plants of H.P. had been arranged district-wise. For each temple in a district, the compiled information pertains to the name of temple, main deity, other deities, total area of temple-courtyard, location (including place, approach and altitude), management, historical background, temple architect, offerings to God, offerings to people ('prasadam'), fairs and festivals, observations related to courtyard plants (protected as well as for landscaping), predominant plants of the courtyard, maintenance, ethnobotanical informations regarding sacred uses and associated myth, medicinal, edible, ornamental, material uses, status of courtyard plants in the surrounding areas, etc. Systematic enumeration of the plants is in alphabetical order of their botanical names, followed by synonyms (wherever available), family, vernaculars, English, Hindi and Sanskrit Names, distribution, habitat ecology, reproductive cycle, material examined and systematic account. Appendices include information regarding the families, local names and glossary of words.