ALTERNATE TOURIST RESOURCES, EXISTING FACILITIES AND ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM
CHAPTER 4

ALTERNATIVE TOURIST RESOURCES, EXISTING FACILITIES AND ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN THE STUDY AREA

About the chapter:

This chapter studies the brief historical, geographical, and economic features of Himachal Pradesh. The chapter further discusses the major tourism attractions and other features of Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh is a beautiful land, inhabited by people of various caste, creed and religious groups. In spite of its heterogeneous social and cultural agglomeration, there is a common feeling among all of them i.e. The Pride of being Himachali. The wonderland located in the lap of Western Himalayas. The state is landlocked with the Tibetan plateau to the east, Jammu and Kashmir to the north, and the Punjab to the west. From the vast tracts of high altitude trans Himalayan desert to dense green deodar forests, from apple orchards to cultivated lands, from snow capped high Himalayan mountain ranges to fresh water lakes and perennial rivers originating from Himalayas. This chapter studies the tourism in general in Himachal Pradesh and specifically in the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh which is also the study area. The various products of three districts, their potential and current tourist arrivals to Himachal Pradesh in general and in tribal areas are also analysed.

This chapter explains the various tourism facilities provide by the government as well as private stakeholders who are registered with the Department of tourism, government of Himachal Pradesh. The chapter also discusses the latest trends in the accommodation sector especially home stay scheme which has been started by the government of Himachal Pradesh to develop and promote Alternative tourism like rural tourism in the state.
Tourism as an industry acts as a social and cultural linkage by providing a number of amenities whose range extends from hotels, motels, best transport network, guides etc. All those activities, which cater to the demands of the tourists with available resources, can be termed as tourism system. The use of the term tourism has led to a range of complex meaning which have become associated with; the movement of people; a sector of the economy; Services which need to be provided for the travellers. Tourism does not exist in isolation. It has certain basic components without which it cannot operate. Although tourism consists of various components, three of these may be, however, be considered to be basic. These three components of tourism are transport, locale and accommodation. Along with these three components some other important components are guides, restaurant, etc. So the success of tourism is determined by the availability of these basic facilities. This chapter discussed the tourism facilities in the tribal areas of the State.

The development of the tourism projects especially in the tribal areas depends on the government because it is the government which makes policies for the development of tourism in the concerned state especially in tribal areas because the development of tourism related projects require huge amount which may be private sector in Himachal cannot afford. Therefore it becomes very basic to discuss the tourism policies of the Department of tourism. The Department of tourism has recently introduced tourism policy 2013 and before that the important policy was tourism policy 2005. This chapter has discussed tourism policy 2005 and 2013 in detail and systematic manner.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Popularly known as the Devbhumi— "Land of the Gods", Himachal Pradesh is a beautiful hill state in India, nestles in north-west region of western Himalayas. The state is
landlocked with the Tibetan plateau to the east, Jammu and Kashmir to the north, and the Punjab to the west. However, the state stands apart from its neighbors in terms of its sheer topographic diversity and breathtaking pristine natural beauty. From vast tracts of high-altitude Trans-Himalayan desert to dense green deodar forests, from apple orchards to cultivated terraces, from snow capped high Himalayan mountain ranges to snow fed lakes and gushing rivers.

Nestled in the Himalayas, the world's mightiest mountain ranges, Himachal is blessed with some of the most spectacular landscapes anywhere. Truly a traveller's paradise with mighty snow peaks, deep gorges, lush green and golden valleys, and flower filled with meadows, misty woods and fast flowing rivers etc. While the picturesque valleys of Kullu, Kinnaur and Kangra are a riot of colours, in marked contrast the barren terrain of Lahaul Spiti have a stunning lunar landscape like beauty. Tourism has been recognized as one of the most significant sectors of the economy in Himachal Pradesh and as a major engine of growth for future. The state has a natural advantage for the development of tourism as an industry. The state has a rich treasure of places of pilgrimages and anthropological value. It is endowed with geographical and cultural diversity, clean, peaceful and beautiful environment. The tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh are known for natural beauty and have recently been opened to foreign tourists.
4.1.1 Location

Himachal Pradesh is bound between 30 degree 22’ to 33 degree 12’ North latitude and 75 degree 47’ to 79 degree 4’ east longitude. To the East, it forms India’s border with Tibet, to the North lies state of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttrakhand in the South-East, Haryana in the South and Punjab in the West. The entire territory of Himachal Pradesh is mountainous with altitude varying from 350 to 7000 meters above the mean sea level. Himachal Pradesh is a hilly tract and it forms part of Punjab Himalayas, and thus presents an intricate pattern of mountain ranges.

4.1.2 Climate

The climate of Himachal Pradesh varies at different altitudes from semi-tropical to the semi-arctic. The average rainfall is 152 cm. The highest rainfall is in Kangra district at Dharamshala and lowest in Lahaul-Spiti.
at a place Spiti. The climate of Kangra valley, shivalik hills and kiarda valley is very severe in summer, while winter is pleasant and there is moderate variation in day and night temperatures. The climate in the mid-Himalayan ranges, which cover Shimla ranges and ravi valley, is pleasant in summer and very cold in winter. In Chandra- Bhaga and Kinnaur valleys climate is temperate in summer and semi-arctic in winter. In the alpine zone, snowfall normally begins in october and after December the whole valley is under snow till March-April.

4.1.3 History of Himachal Pradesh

Prehistory

Some evidences have been found that nearly 2 million years ago man lived in the foothills of Himachal Pradesh. Bangana valley of Kangra, Sirsa valley of Nalagarh and Markanda valley of Sirmour are found to be the places where prehistoric man used to live. The foothills of the state were inhabited by people from Indus valley civilization which flourished between the time period of 2250 and 1750 BC.

Medieval history

In about 883 AD Shankar Verma, the ruler of Kashmir exercised his influence over Himachal Pradesh. The region also witnessed the invasion of Mahmud Ghazni in 1009 AD, who during that period looted the wealth from the temples in the North India. In 1043 AD the Rajputs ruled over the territory.

In 1773 AD the Rajputs under Katoch Maharaja Sansar Chand-II possessed the region, until the attack by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1804 which crushed the Rajput power. The small kingdom enjoyed a large degree of independence till the eve of the Muslim invasions in northern India. The states of the foothills were devastated by Muslim invaders a number of times. Mahmud Ghaznavi conquered Kangra at the beginning of the 10th century. Timur and Sikander Lodi also marched through the lower hills of the state and captured a number of forts and fought many battles.
The Gorkhas, a martial tribe came to power in Nepal in 1768. They consolidated their military power and began to expand their territory. The Gurkhas marched in from Nepal and captured the area. Gradually the Gorkhas annexed Sirmour and Shimla. Under the leadership of Bada Kaji (equivalent to General) Amar Singh Thapa, Gorkhas laid siege to Kangra. They managed to defeat Sansar Chand, the ruler of Kangra, in 1806. However Gorkhas could not capture Kangra fort which came under Maharaja Ranjit Singh katoch in 1809. However, Raja Ram Singh, Raja of Siba State re-capture the Siba fort after defeating the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. After the defeat, the Gorkhas also began to expand towards the south of the state.

**British Period**

This led to the Anglo-Gorkha war. They came into direct conflict with the British along the tarai belt after which the British expelled them from the provinces of the Satluj. Thus British gradually emerged as the paramount powers. In early 19th century the British annexed the areas of Shimla after the Gurkha War of 1815–16. Himachal became a centrally administered territory in 1948 with the integration of 31 hill provinces and received additional regions in 1966.

The revolt of 1857 or the first Indian war of independence resulted due to the building up of political, social, economic, religious and military grievances against the British government. People of the hill states were not politically alive as the people in other parts of the country. They remained more or less inactive and so did their rulers with the exception of Bushahr.

Some of them even rendered help to the British government during the revolt. Among them were the rulers of Chamba, Bilaspur, Bhagal and Dhami. The rulers of Bushars rather acted in a manner hostile to the interests of British.
The British territories in the hill came under British Crown after Queen Victoria's proclamation of 1858. The states of Chamba, Mandi and Bilaspur made good progress in many fields during the British rule. During World War I, virtually all rulers of the hill states remained loyal and contributed to the British war effort both in the form of men and materials. Amongst these were the states of Kangra, Nurpur, Chamba, Suket, Mandi and Bilaspur.

**Post Independence History**

After the independence the Chief Commissioner's province of H.P. came into being on 15 April 1948. Himachal became a part C state on Sept. 1951 with the implementation of the Constitution of India. Himachal Pradesh became Union Territory on 1 November 1956. On 18 December 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and the new state came into being on 25 January 1971. Thus H.P. emerged as the eighteenth state of Indian Union.

Under the name of Greater Nepal, some in Nepal have asked for the return of states previously usurped by Nepal that were annexed by the British East India Company. However, little support for this motion exists in these regions.

**4.1.4 Economy of Himachal Pradesh**

The economy of Himachal Pradesh is in the phase of big changes. It has already shed off some elements of backwardness. It has also acquired quite a few characteristics of developed economies. The natural and human resources of the Pradesh are the foundation of its economic development. The economy of Himachal Pradesh today is based on agriculture, animal husbandry, industrial development, forests, wildlife, hydel power generation, mineral wealth, road and transport, horticulture and tourism.

Today tourism has become a major economic driver in the development of Himachal Pradesh. Himachal has a huge potential for tourism.
development. To ensure the balanced development of tourism industry, government has been shifting its priorities from plan to plan. “Snow peaked, pine scented, flower-spranglled Himachal Pradesh, a heaven in the heart of the Himalayas. Himachal is clustered with picturesque hill resorts, where you can breathe pure mountain air, you can fish, trek, explore the country side or just gaze at the breathtaking mountains”. This is how Himachal has been painted by Ram Acharya.

The development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh began with the starting of second five years plan (1956-61). Since then there has been a steady increase in the plan allocation in favour of tourism industry, to explore more and more avenues to the tourists of varied interests. The state government in Himachal Pradesh, at present making serious efforts to give tourism a new direction and for that, has adopted a new policy for its promotion in 2005 and 2013, keeping in view the immediate and future needs of the various categories of tourists.

In the year 2005, the state had come with the Tourism Policy with the purpose of analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to lay a strategy for development of Alternative forms of tourism in the state. A short and medium term action plan had also been laid down in the policy.

From a figure of 65.49 lakh tourists in 2004, the number of tourists visiting the state has now gone up to 161.46 lakh in 2012 and in 2013. The need of hour, given our fragile ecosystem, is to ensure that this growth continues in a sustainable manner. The Sustainable Tourism Development Policy, 2013 was an attempt in this regard.
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Source: Department of Tourism, Govt. of H.P.
4.2 TOURIST CIRCUITS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

There are four tourist circuits in Himachal Pradesh namely, Beas Circuit, Satluj circuit, Dhauladhar circuit, and tribal circuit. Each of the tourist circuit is described below-

**FIGURE 4.2**

Tourist circuits of Himachal Pradesh

Beas Circuit: The Beas circuit derives its name from the ancient river Beas. It passes through the picturesque Kullu- Mandi regions. The main attractions are the flower meadows, terraced fields of paddy, maize, apple orchards and line sparking Beas river. This circuit covers Delhi – Swarghat- Bilaspur-Mandi—Rewalsar-Kullu-Manali— Rohtlang-Naggar- Manikaran- Delhi (1350 km)
The Satluj Circuit: The Satluj circuit derives its name from the river satluj. It passes through snow covered majestic Himalayas, forests of pine, oak, and deodar. This circuit covers Delhi-Parwanoo-Kasauli-Barog-Solan-Chail-Hatkoti-Rampur-Sarahan-Narkanda-Naldera-Tattapani-Shimla-Kiarighat-Delhi. This circuit also includes Ranuka, Paonta sahib, and Nahan.


Dhaladhar Circuit: The Dhauladhar circuit derives its name from the Dhauladhar range of Western Himalaya. It lies in the shadow of the mighty and majestic snow clad Dhailadhar ranges, which dominate the beautiful Kangra valley, dotted by flower filled meadows, temples, tea gardens and flock of sheep. This circuit covers Delhi - Chintpurni-Jawalamukhi- Kangra- Dalhousie- Khajiar- Chamba- Dharamshala-Chamunda- Palampur- Jogindernagar- Delhi.

4.3 TOURIST RESOURCES OF STUDY AREA

The study has been conducted in the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh. There are three tribal districts in Himachal Pradesh namely Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba. Therefore, it becomes imperative to study the potential resources of these three districts which attract large number of tourists from different corners of the world as well from India.

The following table gives the estimate of foreign and domestic tourist arrivals in the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh.
TABLE: 4.2

ESTIMATE OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TOURIST ARRIVALS IN THE
STUDY AREA IN 2013

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Source: Department of Tourism, Govt. Of H.P

4.3.1 LAHAUL SPITI - DISTRICT

If you could drop a slice of the moon on the earth and give it some of the finest of our own world, you could just find yourself with Lahaul. Narrow valleys give way to miles of flat lands and under high peaks that scrap the sky, huge glaciers cradle the origins of several rivers. Sudden surprises spring forth in patches of verdant green, the dozen of half budhist monasteries, a few secluded Hindu temples, in mountain passes that carry on for miles, some high lakes and two large rivers – The Chandra and The Bhaga, that combine to form the Chandrabhaga. And then there is more than a touch of mystery over the origins of the place-name.
THE LAND:

Some call Lahaul the ‘Himalayan Scotland’, and the locals say that the origin of the world ‘lahaul’ is Lho – Yul, the Tibetan for country of the South or Lhahi-Yul, Country of Gods. Another possibility comes from the world ‘la’ or mountain pass and this may well mean the Land with many passes, interestingly, the original name given to the area by its neighbours in Tibet and Ladakh was Garza. The Locals call their home Swangla. One of the highest highway in the world passes through Lahaul, and connects Manali with Leh. This cross four high passes – The Rohtang la, the Baralacha la, the Lachalang la and the Tanglang la. The main mountain ranges of the area are sub-systems of the Himalayas. Some of these are – the Pir Panjal that forms high wings on either side of the Rohtang Pass, the Shigri range towards Spiti, and the Drilbu mountains that rise on the lower section where the rivers Chandra and Bhaga move towards their confluence, named in the honour of the patron deity of the area, the Gyephang peak is one of the most visible ones of Lahaul. Many of Lahaul’s speaks are still unclimbed and unnamed.

FIGURE 4.3

Lahaul- Spiti- Tourist Map

Source: http://hplahaulspiti.nic.in/touristmap.htm
There are five broad physical zones in Lahaul. The valley of the river Chandra is called Rangoli in its lower section and has the four kothis of Khoksar, Sissu, Gondhla and Gushal— with Khoksar as the first village of the valley. The valley of the river Bhaga starts from the south-western tip of the Baralacha pass; Keylong the district headquarters; lies on the right bank of the river. When both of these rivers merge at Tandi, the river is called Chaandraabhaga and the valley is popularly known as the pattan valley— this has the six kothis of Tandi, Warpa, Ranika, Shansha, Jalma and Jobrang. In the large triangle formed between the rivers Chandra and Bahaga, there is a huge mass of mountains— and includes the Gyephang pesak— which is visible from as far as Shimla. North of the Baralacha La lie the vast uninhabited Lingti plains that have their lowest elevation at 4,270 m.

In recent recorded history, Lahaul passed between the kingdoms of Ladakh and Kullu till it was taken over by the Sikhs along with Kullu in 1840-41. With the end of Anglo Sikh wars a few years later, both Lahaul and Kullu passed under the hands of the British east India company, Lahaul was administered by the British through its appointees till the coming of India’s independence.

DESTINATION AND ATTRACTIONS

With the natural and cultural richness that belongs to Lahaul, practically every stone is an attraction and every cranny, a destination.

KEYLONG

The little town of Keylong is the headquarters of teh administrative district of Lahaul & Spiti. It has a marketplace, filling stations and medical facilities. Keylong lies above the river Bhaga and is 6 km from its confluence with the waters of the Chandra at Tandi. Keylong was also the base of the Moravian missionaries— and the poplar trees still growing there, were planted by them.
This lies high over the confluence of the rivers Chandra and Bhaga and is regarded as the oldest monastery in Lahaul. Two great figures of trans-Himalayan Buddhism were associated with it – Padmasambhava and Richensang-po. The monastery enshrines an image of the goddess Vajreshwari Devi, a wooden image of the Buddha and a marble head of Avalokitesvara – legend that this head was seen emerging out of the sandbank where the rivers Chandra and Bhaga meet and without waiting for the rest of the body to appear, someone lopped this off. The faithful also believe that in the Guru Ghantal monastery, and sealed in a dark airless room, is the visage of the demon Tshedak who once ravaged that area till he was captured.

KARDANG

Visible from Keylong the monastery and village of Kardang lie across Bhaga. With a backdrop of bare mountains, the monastery is believed to date back to 12th century and is one of the most revered places of the Drug-pa sect and has large library of the sacred Kangyur and Tangyur
texts – and is also the repository of some exquisite thangka paintings, musical instruments and old weapons. For a long time the monastery was in a state of disrepair till it was revitalized by Lama Norbu in 1912. At Kardang, there are dozens of resident monks and nuns- and many more who are there for short periods. Several monks are believed to have undertaken marathon meditations.- with the session lasting for the traditional period of three years, three months and three days. The village of Kardang was once the capital of Lahaul.

**SHASHUR**

On the same slope as Keylong, thi monastery is surrounded by a rare patch of woodland and was founded in the 17th century by Deva Gyasto – and the name Shashur means in the blue pines. The festival of Shashur Tseshe is held every June/ July when monks dressed in masks and colourful costumes perform dances. This monastery is known for the images and paintings it houses.

**TAYUL**

Tayul means the “place that is chosen”, and so it must be for local legend maintains that the main prayer wheel rotates on its own accord on certain occasions. It has a huge statue Padamasabhava and its library houses the one hundred and one volumes of the sacred Kangyur text

**GEMUR**

This is a small monastery, but is held in great sanctity and is well known for its dance – drama enacted every July.

**SISSU**

The monastery houses an image of Lahauk’s patron deity, hyephang, while its marshy pians act as a stopover for migratory birds.
JISPA

Attractively sited near the confluence of two side streams of the river Bhaga, this a small village which also has religious significance.

SACRCHU

After the Tanglang La, this is the last point in Himachal on the route to Leh.

Gondhla

On the right bank of the river Chandra, this is en route from Manali to Keylong. Gondhla has level stretches of cultivated land and its most distinctive feature is the eight-storeyed timber and stone tower that was the residence of the local thakur, chief. The monastery has historical importance and every July, this is the site of a large fair where masked dances commemorate the victory over Tibetan King, Langdarma, an enemy of Budhism. Opposite Gondhla, a sheer cliff rises over 1500 m and forms a spectacular sight.

Tandi

This has the confluence of rivers Chandra and Bhaga. A folktale about the place specks of Chandra, the daughter of the moon and Bhaga, son of the sun. Both fell in love and decided to have a marriage that would last forever and to sanctify this, they decided to circle of all Lahaul and then meet. After great difficulty, they managed to reach Tandi where they were united.

Shansha

The deity Gyephang is regarded to have been born here and a shrine is dedicated to him.
Jalma

Located in the Pattan valley by the waters of the Chandrabhaga, this is considered to be the legendary abode of many of Lahaul's deities.

Triloknath

Its shrine is revered by both Hindus and Budhists and both pay homage to a single image. The Hindus regards triloknath as Bhawan Shiva, while the Budhists regard the image to be ethat of Avalokiteshwara, the personification of compassion and infinite light. It is the site of an important fair called Pori held in August.

Udaipur

This has an ancient temple dedicated to Devi Durga and has some fine carvings.

Baralacha la

This means the pass with the crossroads on the summit. And here meet the paths from Zanskar, Ladakh, Spiti and Lahaul. It is 8 kms long and is on the manali – leh route. This is also the watershed for the Chandra, Bhaga and Yunam rivers.

Kunzam La

This pass connects Lahaul with Spiti over the Kunzam range and the majestic Shigri peak is visible from its crest.

Chandra Tal

It is located only 6 kms from the Kunzam pass, this lake is surrounded by snows and acres of scree and its deep blue – waters have a circumference of 2.5 km. The lake is planned for incorporation in the Ramsar Convention of International wetlands.
FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Many of Lahaul’s festivals are family or community based ones and by and large, visitors are welcome to join in. revelry and dancing mark practically every one of these events and their joyous celebration of life.

Bhumskor

It is religious – agrarian festival where the fields are blessed by the lamas.

Halda

In January – February comes haldu, the new year celebration. Along the valleys of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers, a few members of every household step out with lit cedar twigs to a west oriented place selected by the lamas. These slender branches form the first flames of a bonfire which is then dispersed. The goddess of wealth, Shiskar Apa is worshipped, flowers are offered by the ways of greeting and the festivities continue for a couple of days.
**Phagli**

On a mid–night towards the end of the month of Paush (Dec–Jan), Phagli begins in the Pattan valley, with the snow being packed in a conical basket – Kilta. This is upturned on a roof and resembles a Shivalinga. Shiva, Naga and the goddess Hidimba are worshipped, and the younger generation also marks the moment by venerating village elders. Chhang and Lugari, locally brewed liquors flow freely and ritual dishes are eaten.

**Gochi**

It is celebrated in the Chandra and Bhaga valleys in the houses where a son has been born in the preceding year.

**Losar**

Ritual dances and an unbelievably rich imagery mark Losar in February. Lahaul's monasteries have some of the most spectacular dances- and the stylized chhaam dance, with elaborate costumes and masks, commemorates the assassination of the cruel Tibetan king, lang Drama in the 9th century.

**SPITI VALLEY**

Loosely translated, Spiti means the middle country – a name obviously given as a result of its location and a traditional ties with both India and Tibet. Fed by several fast- flowing streams, the river spiti flows through the area and joins with the other large rivcr of the region, the Satluj, at Khab. With freckles of green over a dry weather – beaten face, spiti is a cold desert where the monsoon rain never comes. It is characterized by a stark almost relentless beauty, narrow valleys and high mountains. A century ago, Rudyard Kipling in Kim called Spiti, a world within a world and a place where the gods live – and this is a description that holds true to the present day. Spiti’s lunar like landscape is spotted with Buddhist
monasteries, small villages and rare examples of natural beauty including some high altitude lakes.

THE LAND

A part of the district of Lahaul & Spiti, Spiti has its sub-divisional headquarters at Kaza. With mountains that form a part of the middle and greater Himalayas- several peaks cross 6000 m- the mean elevation of the area is 4570 m. Spiti’s people have divided in into four units – Sham, the lower region, pin, which lies by the Pin river, bhar, the middle tract and tud, the high territories.

The river Spiti that flow with cold snow belt through the region is formed at the base of the Kunzam range. It flows eastward to meet the Satluj at Khab in Kinnaur. En route it is fed by several streams- Pin, Chiomo, Gyundi, Rahtang, Ullah, Lungze, Mane, Surahi, Hanze, tagling etc. The area’s valleys are narrow except for portions of the Spiti which at places has a width of up to three kilometers. Arable land is marginal and there are no trees except for a few patches of poplar and willow.

In practical isolation for centuries, Spiti has had introvertive culture and life has remained focused around its several monasteries. It was loosely ruled by a hereditary wazir, styled Nono and in between, for brief periods, this also came under the sway of various invaders.

The people of Spiti are largely Buddhists and followers of the Geluk -pa sect. Religion plays a major role in everyday life as piles of mani stones, prayer flags and chortens testify. The repetition of the mantra “Om mani padme hum” is said to bring good fortune and wash away all sins.

Spiti is connected to Lahaul by the Kunzam Pass and to the state capital Shimla, through the district of Kinnaur.
DESTINATIONS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

TABO

At first glance, Tabo seems nothing more than a cluster of large mud huts. But inside, a series of amazing galleries of wall paintings and stucco statues emerge. Founded in 996 A.D, it is often called Ajanta of Himalayas. After the almost legendary art-treasure site in Maharashtra. In terms of area, this is the largest monastic complex in Spiti and the old section has nine temples, 23 chortens, a monks chamber and a nuns chamber. There are several caves and contemporary structure that forms a part of the Tabo complex. In Trans Himalayan Buddhism, Tabo’s sanctity is next only to Tibet’s Tholing monastery.

Dhankar (24 km from Kaza and 7 km from the turn-off at Schichling on the highway, 3370): Driving between Tbo and kaza, on a side road lies the monastery of Dhankar. In local parlance, a Dhankar is a fort- and that is what this monastery once was. Perched high over the valley, this is a superb example of Spiti’s traditional architectural skills. This was once the castle of the ruler of Spiti, the Nono – and today. Dhaankar is a repository of Buddhist scriptures in the Bhoti script. Above the monastery lies the Dhankar lake.

Kaza

This is the administrative headquarters of Spiti. It has a marketplace, medical facilities, a filling station, a rest houses and hotels. Kaza serves as the base for excursions in the area and among others, the ki, Hikkim, Komik and Langja monasteries are at hand.

Ki Monastery

This lies high above the left bank of the river Spiti. It is a collection of rooms and a labyrinth of corridors that do not follow any defined plans, but seem to have grown over the years. Portions of the structure are three stories high, while others are are lower. No definite date can be ascribed to the construction of the gompa that acted both as monastery
and as a fort. Some scholars believe this to have been built by Dromton. Others differ and place its origins in later centuries, but by and large, most concur that it was built before the fifteenth century.

**Kee Monastery**

Ki is the repository of are thangka paintings, and several ancient musical instruments – trumpletts, cymbals and drums. Its library holds the manuscripts of the sacred Tangyur texts. Apart from the cells occupied by the monks, the gompa has a large du-khang, assembly chamber lined by religious paintings and other chambers for worship and gathering. The chamber of the incarnate abbot, the zim-chung is the highest point in the building. The village of Ki is just short of the monastery.

**Kibber**

Till recently this was the highest permanently inhabited village of the region connected by a motorable road. It also acts as the base for several high altitude treks. The Kibber Sactuary that lies past the village has blue sheep and ibex and covers an area of 1400 square km.

**Pin Valley**

At Atrangpo, 10 km from Schichling village, a side road leads to this valley formed by the Pin river, a tributary of the Spiti. The valleys lies below the Kungri glacier and has several monasteries. The most important one is at Gungri, and has three blocks; it houses old relics and paintings. The Pin valley has good trek, the main route connects the Kullu valley over the Pin Parbati pass while another leads to Kinnaur through the Bhaba valley.

The Pin valley is a National park and has a core area of 675 sqkm and a buffer zones of another 1159 square km. This is home to over twenty species of animals and birds. The highly endangered snow leopard is one among them. And other species include the Ibex, Bharal, Red Fox, Marten, Weasel, Snow Cock, Bearded Vulture etc.
Lingti Valley

Through a deep gorge, the Lingti stream, another one of the Spiti’s tributaries, flows down from the north. The valley offers some strenuous treks.

Other Buddhist Monasteries and Temples in Spiti

Losar, Hansa, Rangrik, Kuang, Langia, Lara, Lidang, Domal, Sanglung, Rama, Lha lun, Mane Yogma, mane Gogma, Giu and Kaurik.

Fairs and Festivals

Dechhang

A community celebration and a moment of getting together, this is celebrated at the height of winter in December – January.

Lossar

Celebrated in February, ritual dances and a rich imagery mark Lossar. This marks the start of new year and is celebrated in all the monasteries. The rituals include the stylized chaam dance, with elaborate costumes and masks. Lossar also commemorates the assassination of the cruel Tibetan king, Lang Darma in the ninth century.

4.3.2 Chamba District

Chamba valley perhaps the loveliest in Himachal, is known for its scenic attractions, sparkling streams, lakes, meadows and lush deodar forests. Crowned with high mountain ranges, Chamba rich in wildlife is home to animals like the elusive snow leopard, ibex, brown bear, leopard and the musk deer.

A splendid artistic heritage includes fine temple architecture, beautiful miniature paintings, and exquisite embroidered Chamba Rumals. Chamba’s scenic beauty makes it ideal holiday retreat.
**HISTORY**

Resplendent with historically and architecturally important buildings, Chamba town in its temples and palaces preserves much of its rich medieval past. Perched on a plateau overhanging the river Ravi, the town is named after Champavati, a daughter of Raja Sahil Verma of the Bharmour royal house who shifted his capital here in 920 A.D. Isolated by high mountains in its beautiful valley, Chamba over the centuries was allowed to develop its own style of Pahari art and architecture. Till intact a fine group of six ancient Shikhara style stone temples are dedicated to Lord Shiva, Vishnu and other deities. Among them the richly covered Lakshmi- Narayan temple is the oldest structure. Other evidence of Chamba’s heritage can be seen in the famous collection of miniature paintings from the Kangra, Basholi and Chamba schools at the Bhuri
Singh Museum, as well in the murals and other artifacts at the Rang Mahal Palace.

Chaugan, the grassy meadow at the heart of the town, is also the center of its cultural activities. In July / August every year, the MInjar fair is held here. Valley Gods and Goddess in their majestic palanquins are brought down from the mountains to pay homage to Lord Raghuvira, the presiding deity of the valley. During the week long harvest fair, the ground comes alive as villagers in colourful dresses celebrates with sport, song, dance and music.

The Hari Rai temple near the Chaugan known for the four armed bronze statue of Lord Vishnu is a masterpiece in metal craft. Overlooking the town a little distance away, the temple of goddess Chamunda Devi has some of the finest wood carvings that adorn its exterior and interiors.

**Places of Interest around Chamba**

**Katason Devi Temple:** A popular place of pilgrimage (30 Kms ) with the temple premises being an excellent vantage point for a view of Chamba valley.

**Sarol:** Ladscape gardens, a breeding center and an apiary make Sarol an interesting place for pincics.

**Chamera lake:** In Chamba district, The Chamera lake is formed by Chamera Dam on the Ravi River at Chourah. The site is easily accessible from the Chamba- Pathankot highway. Water Sports activities are available at Chamera Lake.

**Jhumbar:** In the vicinity of thick alpine forest lands, Jhumbar is famous for its apple orchards.

**Saho:** Perched on a scenic plateau along the bank of river Sal, Saho is famous for Lord Shiva Chandrashekhra temple, which has the moon for a crown. Shivlingam made up of copper mined locally at the location where Lord Chandrashekhra guided the local sage. On striking the stone bell in
the neck of the revered statue of bull in the temple premises, a metal sound is heard.

**TOURISM IN TRIBAL AREAS OF CHAMBA**

The tribal areas in Chamba include the places such as Bharmour, Holi and Pangi valley, all are very famous for scenic beauty, religious and adventure tourists activities. All these places have a great potential for the development of Alternative tourism in the district. The famous tourism resources of these places are as follows-

**Bharmour**

Bharmour remained capital of the princely state of Chamba for over 400 years. About 65 kilometers from Chamba, this fascinating little town (2130 m) surrounded by high ranges was then known as Bharmpur. Its ancient temples endow Bharmour with an aura of a hallowed place. The abundant alpine postures in the region are home to the nomadic Gaddi tribesmen. Life in Bharmour centers around the Chaurasia- a temple square which owes its name to the 84 shrines built within its periphery. With varying architectural designs these temples were built between the 7th and 10th century. The towering Shikara of manimahesh temple dominates the square and a life size bull idol of Nandi, in polished brass guards the entrance. The lakshna Devi temple’s sanctum sanctorum house’s the meter-high goddess idol cost in exquisite brass.

**Places around Bharmour**

Manimahesh, an important place of pilgrimage is 34 km away, the beauty of the solitary Manimahesh Kailash peak (5656 m) reflected in the quiet waters of a turquoise mountain lake evokes a spontaneous prayer among pilgrims who visit the spot annually. Singing devotional songs they wind their way up an arduous track to bathe in the icywaters of Manimahesh Lake and worship at the little lakeside temple. Each year thousands converge for the manimahesh Yatra in August – September to pay
abeisance to Lord Shiva. Belief holds that the Hindu God Resides on the holy mountain.

**PICTURE 4.3**

Chairasi temple, Bharnour

**Bharmani Devi:** The temple of Bharmani Devi, the patron Goddess of Bharmour, is 4 km from Bharmour on a steep gradient, located on a ridge among the forest and has a fascinating view of Budhal valley. According to a legend Goddess was residing among in the Bharmour Chaurasi before the advent of Pilgrims. When Lord Shiva first appeared in Bharmour, the Goddess shifted her seat to the hill top known as Bharmani, it is said that goddess passed a command to Lord Shiva that the journey to sacred Manimahesh peak would be incomplete unless the devotees visit her place. Since then it is a ritual to visit Bharmani Devi, before the journey to Manimahesh.

**Salooni**

This place has some of the most awesome views of the Greater Himalayas snow ranges.

**Bhandal valley**

The beautiful valley of Bhandal is rich in Himalayan flora and fauna, and makes for an ideal retreat.
Chhatrari

This Shakti Devi temple, 40 km from Chamba is of great archaeological importance. Every year, traditional fair known as Chhatrri Jatra is celebrated in the month of Aug/Sep.

PICTURE 4.4

People celebrating Chhatrari Jatra

Kugti

This place is not so far from the Kugti Pass (5040 m) on the challenging trail to Lahaul from Bharmour, this happens to bee the last inhabited village in the picturesque valley.

PICTURE 4.5

Kugti Village
Overlooking deep conifer forests Kugti, has a little forest rest house. The famous Keylong Wazir temple is just 2 kilometers away. It has also a wildlife sanctuary where brown bear is found. Kugti pass is very popular among the foreign trekkers.

**Devikothi**

It is situated north-east of Chamba at an altitude of 2350 meter which is 107 kilometer from Chamba. The village has a spectacular view of snow clad peaks. It has a famous temple dedicated to Chamunda Devi, locally called Chaunda built in 1754 AD. The temple also presents a splendid wood carving wall paintings work done in Mughal style.

**The Pangi Valley**

This valley is famous for rugged grandeur and austere beauty. Almost a century ago, Dr. Hutchinson, described Pangi in the following words -

"Pangi is remarkable in its rugged grandeur and austere beauty. The scenery is sublime and imposing and nature appears in her wildest and grandest moods. Everything is on a stupendous scale. The great river rolls along it in a deep and narrow gorge, lashing itself into fury, sandwiched between adamantine cliffs that confine it. Precipices spring from the brink in places almost perpendicular to a height of 1000 to 2000 feet.

Of the many secluded places that Himachal still holds, there has been no secret better known than the Pangi Valley, in the district of Chamba.

Placed between the middle and the greater Himalaya, for eight months of every twelve, Pangi remained locked within itself. The Pass was once its solitary connection with the rest of the world and this remained closed for the better part of year.

Speaking words for its seclusion, no matter what the turbulence, no matter what the physical ordeal, it is unlikely that the State foresaw the death of its functionaries and wished to provide financial assistance for
their final rites. But as a part of the former princely state of Chamba, officials posted to Pangi were given a funeral allowance. Today some of this isolation has now eroded, ut Pangi retains all of nature’s majesty and grandeur.

**The land**

Remote. Beautiful. Wild. All these are but small adjectives that can but try to explain also in tiny fragments the valley of Pangi.

Pangi lies in the northwestern extremity of Himachal Pradesh. This has an area of approximately 1600 square kilometers and is sandwiched between two sub-systems of the Himalaya the Zanskar and the Pir panjal. Slicing a deep gorge, the river Chandrabhaga flows in from Lahaul. Passing through the length, it divides Pangi into two unequal parts while the cliffs sometimes rise vertically to a height of a couple of thousand feet. The mountains surrounding the valley range between 5400 and 6700 metres. The tiny villages of this verdant pockets lie between 2100 and 3000 metres.

On the right bank of the river the growing settlement of Kilar is the administrative headquarters. The other side valleys of Pangi are Sural, Saichu, Kumar-Parmar and Hudan. Now almost all are connected by vehicular roads.

**The People**

The people of Pangi are often called the Pangwals and their population is 18000. Practically all the people live in small and fairly isolated villages. The origin of the Pangwals is still a mystery. Some believe that during an invasion, many women were escorted to safety to this pocket and as they were unable to return, this led to the settling of area. Another story is that the original people of Pangi were criminals and people banished from the Chamba durbar.
Almost everyone in Pangi is directly or indirectly connected with agriculture and livestock. Life is still dictated by the cycle of seasons and the acts of sowing and reaping. Due to the geographical isolation and the weather, the communities are expectedly inward looking.

Both Hinduism and Buddhism are practiced in the valley. As in the other mid-hills of Himachal, the role of the village deity is strong and presence of devis and devtas add powerful dimension to the main body of Hinduism.

The higher villages of Pangi are called Bhatories and their residents are referred to as bhots. These people are mostly Buddhists and have Tibbeto- Monglian features. The five Bhatories of Pangi are- Chask Bhatori, Hillu-Twan Bhatori, Parmar Bhatori, Hudon Bhatori and Sural Bhatori.

Music, dance and the locally brewed liquor 'patar' play a significant role in the life of the Pangwals. One of the major festivals celebrated towards the end of February is 'Jukaru.' Speaking worlds for both the hardship and the pastoral tradition of the part of the global, this is a celebration that thanks the gods for helping the people survive the bitter winter.

### The Praja System of Pangi

Tough living conditions, geographical isolation, extreme climate and need to cooperate led to community living and emergence of the unique Praja System. Praja, the village council, consisting of the eldest male member of each household became the supreme consultative, administrative and judicial body and plays a vital role in the social life even today.

### Places of interest around Pangi Valley

**Killar**

With no urban centres, Pangi is entirely rural. From a cluster of villages, Killar, the administrative is gradually taking the shape of a town there
there are several Government offices located here and the number of shops steadily increasing.

**The legend of Det Nag**

There is a shrine to the deity det nag at Killar and there hangs an interesting legend. It is believed that Det Nag was originally enshrined in Lahaul where he demanded human sacrifices. One day it the turn of a widow ro send her only son to Det Nag. A passing Gaddi, migrant grazier took pity on the widow and offered to take her son’s place. The Gaddi went to Det nag and told him that he was ready to be eaten, but on one condition. He had to be eaten alive and every part of his body shown to him before being eaten. Det nag was unable to do this and a fierce fight ensued. Det nag was thrown into Chandrabhaga where he got out of river at Killar and was found by a coward. The cowards carried him on his back till he fell off with his face down. At the spot where he fell, a temple was built to him with the image facing inwards.

**Dharwas**

This place is located 9 km from Killar. This is the largest village of Pangi. Its large natural spring, called Tilmili, is well known for its mineral qualities. It is believed that water from this spring was sent regularly to the raja of Chamba.

**The Sural Valley**

12 kms from Dharwas, this is one of the side valley of Pangi. This has the villages of Kanwas, Ganwas, Rusums, Sural Tai, and Sural Bhatori.

**Hudan valley**

Eight kilometers east of Killar, this valley has the villages of Seri Bhatwas, Tundrow, Icchwas and Hudan Bhatori. There is a famous Nagni spring near Bhatori and a magnificent view is also to be obtained.
Parmar valley

The Parmar valley has the villages of Kumar Parmar and Parmar Bhatori. There is a small gompa here.

Sidh Ka Dera

With a challenging vehicular road, this has a temple dedicated to the Sidh Devta. The temple is covered with carvings and the exterior is adorned with bells and the horns of various animals.

Cherry Bugalow

14 km from Killar built on the right bank of the Chandrabhaga, this has a small and charmingly placed rest house.

Fairs and Festivals

In a community as inward looking and as geographically isolated as Pangi, expectedly it has turned to itself for social interaction and entertainment. Many of the celebrations of other parts of the country have no meaning here.

Jukaru

This is perhaps the most important and distinctive of Pangi's festivals and the entire populace joins it. Celebrations begin in the first week of February and carry on for a month. A time of marry making, dancing and music this enlivens the last spell of winter.

The Phool Jatra held in October – November is in honour of the deity of Kupha, Dehant nag. A four day festival, this has men, women and children from all over the Pangi valley taking part.

Sheel in March- April celebrates the coming of spring. Spinning, an important winter activity, is suspended till the festival of Pareed, which comes two days later.
ACCOMODATION IN PANGI

It is very surprise to know that there are not hotels in Pangi valley. Accomodation is limited to guest houses of Department of Forests, Public works, Irrigation and Public Health. Presently the following accommodation facilities are found in Pangi Valley.

**TABLE 4.3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Booked By</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Rest House</td>
<td>Shour (54 kms from Udaipur)</td>
<td>DFO, Pangi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Rest House</td>
<td>Purthi (58km from Udaipur)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Inspection Hut</td>
<td>Sach Khas (40 km from Killar)</td>
<td>DFO, Pangi.</td>
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<td>Executive Engineer, Killar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Department of tourism, Govt. Of Himachal Pradesh*
4.3.3 KINNAUR

Location

The administrative district of Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh lies north east of the state capital, Shimla. This is an area that has long been renowned for its natural beauty and a local legend maintains that Kinnaur with all its charms fell from the heavens as gift from the gods.

FIGURE 4.5

Kinnaur- Road Map

Source: Tourism Department, H.P Government

The district is criss-crossed by several rivers and streams – the fast-following Satluj being the main one and the Spiti being the other. At a height of just over 3,000 metres, the Satluj enters India from Tibet near the village of Nagima and divides Kinnaur into roughly two equal parts. Kinnaur also has several beautiful side-valleys like the Sangla and the
Bhaba the rise along the banks of these courses of snowmelt and most of
the popular destination lie close to the valley floors. Backed by snow-
covered peaks whose height varies between 5,180 m and 6,770 m, here
lie two the world’s great woeld ranges, the Zasker and the Greater
Himalaya. These are thick forest of Himalayan cedar, the quit legendary
‘deodar’ and these woods are liberally garnished with tress of spruce,
alder and the unusualbrich, the ‘bhojpatra’, whose peeling bark served as
 parchment for ancient Indian texts. Picture perfect villages, orchards and
fields fill the valley floors.

There are only 85,000 people in the district and the density is a bare 12
persons per square kilometre. Most of the population is literate and
agriculture, horticulture and their allied industries, still employ most
people. Travilling from the direction of shimla, the town o Rampur and
the settlement of Saharan are the entry points to kinnaur. Kinnaur may
also be visited as part of a longer circuit that encompasses Spiti Lahaul.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Ancient Indian texts like the Puranas placed the people of Kinnaur as
halfway between men and gods. Other ancient traditions speck of the
exile of the Pandavas and the time they spent in Kinnaur, an episode
from the epic, Mahabharata.

In verifiable history, Kinnaur was a part orf the erstwhile princely state of
Bushahr. From their original seat in the village of Kamru, the rulers
moved out to Sarahan that lies lower down the Satluj, and then to
Rampur – which is built right on the banks of the river. In the early 19th
century, when the Gurkha’s spilled out of the borders of nearby Napal,
they captured large tracts of present – day Himachal Pradesh. Bushahr
also fell into their hands and the infant ruler was secured to safety in
Kinnaur. With their growing power, the British intervened, the Gurkhas
were expelled and the treaty of Sagauli was signed in 1815-16. Most of
the original rulers were restored their seats, and the British presence in
the area was firmly established.
Kinnaur relapsed into secluded splendour till the British Governor-General of India, Lord Dalhousie set about creating the ambitious Hindustan- Tibet Road in 1850. With the coming of India’s independence in 1947 and the creation of the state of Himachal Pradesh in 1972, geographic isolation steadily eroded. Hydro projects, the spread of education and economic growth with scientific horticultural practices began bringing their own changes. Relaxation of ‘inner line’ permits in the mid-nineties, opened the area to tourism.

Given the proximity to Tibet, it is not surprising that religious links with that cultural and religious links with that distinctive land. These have manifested themselves in dress, language, architecture, customs and most visibly, in religion- the main body of Hinduism has been embellished with several Buddhist practices. It is commonplace to find images of Buddha and other deities and saints of Trans Himalayan Buddhism like Avaloketeshwara and Padmasambhava, side by side with those of Hindu gods. And Chortens, the sacred obelisk – like structures of Vajrayana Buddhism may well mark the entry to a Hindu temple.

DESTINATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS

The Sangla valley:

Of all the side valleys of the river Satluj, the Sangla valley is perhaps the most beautiful. It is certainly the most famous. (Older books and travelogues refer to this curving valley as the ‘Baspa’ valley after the river; more recent ones call it the Sangla valley after the main village). Unlike most other major streams of the area that flow north to south, the river Baspa rises in the mountains of adjoining Uttrakhand and flows northwest to meet the churning torrents of the river Satluj at Karcham.

The 95 km long valley gets off to a fairly unimpressive start and it is along this stretch that one sees the determination of the ‘chil’ pine that grows out of sheer rock faces- and whose cones yield the tasty kernel, the rare ‘ dry fruit’, the Chilgoza. And after this corridor, like curtains tossed
aside to reveal the setting of a grand stage, the valley bursts open at Kupa. From this point on, every turn and every angle reveals a valley that is strikingly beautiful.

Like the rest of Kinnaur, there are no urban centres in the valley and like most other parts of the administrative district, the people of the valley practise an unusual mix of Trans Himalayan Buddhism and Hinduism.

Between Kupa and Chitkul, roughly halfway up the valley- the area is fairly populous and cultivated. Human habitation ends at Chitkul and from then on to the lofty Chung Saghgo Pass, it is a trek through raw rocks and snow that leads to the hills of Uttrakhand.

PICTURE 4.6

Sangla Valley

Places in the Sangla valley

Sangla village: Set above the right bank of the Baspa, this village has the main market of the valley where essentials are available. Some hotels and rest houses are based here.
KAMRU: A kilometere or so above Sangla village stands the tower- like fort of Kamru. This wood and stone structure was the original seat of the rulers of Bushahr. With a population of about a thousand people, Kamru is a dense cluster of houses and is surrounded by fields and orchards and incidently, some of finest apples of Himachal Pradesh come from here. The main gate of Kamru has an image of Buddha whose blessings are sought before entering the confines of the village. Local belief has it that this is there as a safeguard against theieves and to prevent the smuggling – in of ghosts and demons. A series of low gates through the hamlet leads to the tower that rises five stories high. It serves as an example of an architectural style that is unique to this part of the world. The stronghold has an image of the Hindu deity, Kamakhya (Kamakshi Devi) installed in the upper storey. This image is said to have brought here several centuries ago from Assam. The village also has a 15th century temple of Badtinath and once every three years, amidst great fanfare, his image is carried to Gangotri, near the source of river Ganga.

PICTURE 4.7

Apple Orchard at Kamru

Batseri: Located on the left bank of the Baspa, the village is approached on foot for about a kilometre. The path leading down to it crosses the stream with a traditional bridge of cantilevered logs set in a mesh of stone and wood along the banks. The village has some interesting architecture,
cobbled paths and the superbly crafted temple of Badri Narayan. There is also a temple dedicated to the Buddha. An interesting little piece of sacred architecture is the large prayer wheel housed in a shelter high up the village that is turned by a stream’s waters.

**Raksham:** This is located before a mass of dark rock, the village of Raksham is at 3,115 m. The place-name is supposedly a derivative from ‘rak’, a rock and ‘sham’, bridge — local lore says that the Baspa’s waters eroded a stone dam leaving a span over the top and thereby created a natural bridge at the spot.

**Chitkul:** This is the last inhabited village in the valley and past this, come vast snow fields and high mountains and acres of rocky terrain. It also has temples dedicated to the local goddess, mathi.

**PICTURE 4.8**

![Chitkul village](image)

**Chitkul village**
Recong Peo, Kalpa and beyond

Recong Peo

From the Hindustan - Tibet Road, the turn - off for Recon Peo is at Powari and 7 kms at the end of a climbing side-road, thi is the district headquarters of Kinnaur. It faces the majesty of Jorkanden and the Kinner kailash mountain. The latter is regarded as one of the mythical homes of Lord Shiva and by its side is a 79 foot high rock formation that resembles a ‘shivalinga’ that changes colour as the day passes and is visible to the bare eye on a clear day. The ‘parikrama’circumbulation around the base of the mountain is a seven to eight day trek. Also visible on the stretch is the peak of Raldang where the spirits of the dead people of Kinnaur are regarded to live.

PICTURE 4.9

Recong Peo

Half an hour’s drive from Recon Peo, is located Kalpa which was once known as Chini. This still has a traditional ambience and much of the old architecture. The Narayan – Nagini temple is an exemplary example of local craftsmanship. There are a couple of Buddhist monasteries at kalpa
including the Hu-Bu-lan-Kar gompa said to have been founded by Rinchensang-po (950-1055 A.D).

**Ribba:** This beautiful village is situated on a side road, 16 km from Powari. This small village is well known for its local brews and scenic beauty.

**Moorang:** This beautiful village is situated on a side road, 26 km from Powari. This is an attractive village surrounded by apricot orchards.

**Kanam:** On a road side from Spillo. This is a complete monastic village and its Buddhist monastery is of considerable significance and dates back to time of Rinchensang-po. This is located at the base of the Nessang valley and is on one of the old trade routes that led to Tibet.

**Puh:** One of Kinnaur’s larger settlements, this also has an old Buddhist monastery. Another nearby place is Khab, this is the confluence of the rivers Satluj and Spiti.

**Nako.**

This is one of Kinnaur's most picturesque hamlets, Nako is slated to be declared a "heritage village". This is built around a small lake and has an important Buddhist monastery and a couple of small temples. A footprint like impression on a rock is ascribed to the base to reach the Tashigang monastery and the start for the trek to the pargial peaka.

Chango (3058 m): This is just before the start of Spiti and is surrounded by high hills. Chango is famous for the quality of its apples that grow in its aridity and low temperatures.

**Other valleys and Destinations**

Bhaba Valley: From Wantu, a road turns off to Kafnu. And here begins one the most beautiful trek routes in Himachal. To the east, the Bhaba
valley leads to the Pin valley in Spiti and to the west, the routes moves to Kullu through the Parbari valley.

**Hangrang valley:** With Chango and Nako as entry points, this has some strenuous treks.

**Charang Ghati:** With Chitkul and Thagi as the two end points, this is again a trek route.

**Harsil:** This is connected by a strenuous trek of 8 to 10 days from the Sangla valley.

**EVENTS AND FESTIVALS**

In an area where entertainment and recreation were confined to what could be created within the community and its geographic parameters and given the rich cultural and religious tradition of the area, Kinnaur has some fascinating fairs and festivals. There are some 360 that may be counted. Most are private community affairs but there are many that visitors can observe or even participate in. Often enough, these are enlivened by dances and folk music.

**Beesh:** Better known as “baisakhi” in the rest of north India, this festival comes in April/May every year on the first day of the month of Baisakhi. Special foods are prepared, the deities are taken out of their temples and a small fair is usually held in every village.

**Phulaich:** Perhaps the most unusual of Kinnaur’s festivals and certainly its most charming, this among other things, commemorates the end of summer and the onset of winters. While Kalpa has the most vibrant celebrations, the festival carries its colours to every part of the district including Sangla valley. Every village sends out its members to collect flowers from the hillsides and these are then gathered in the village square. It is a time of festivities and traditional dances. This is normally celebrated in September-October.
4.4. TOURISM FACILITIES IN TRIBAL AREAS

Himachal Pradesh, a state with diverse topography, is bestowed with natural charm and about 90% of the population resides in the rural areas. This beautiful hill state in India, nestles in the North-West region of Western Himalayas and spreads over an area of 55673 sq. kms. Although tourism is one of the major industry of the state government but a careful planning is required only than we can harness its full potential.

Today the success of tourism not only depends upon a single component but it involves linkages between a numbers of components. These components are like accommodation, transportation, local attractions and other tourism products and other stakeholders etc. Further, as we know that tourism industry is a service industry and it depends upon the different kinds of facilities provided at the destination. So if we conclude in the success of tourism industry anywhere around the world, then success of this industry is concentrated around the various facilities and services provided to the tourists either by government or other stakeholders, if these facilities are not adequate and tourists are not happy with those facilities and also if choices are less for the tourists then it becomes very difficult for tourism industry to succeed. Therefore, we can say that Services and facilities are the pillars of success in tourism industry. This condition is applicable everywhere in the global tourism. But as we have discussed in the introduction and also review of Literature about the negative impacts of tourism on the local community as well as on the environment nowadays tourists are looking for alternative destinations and also for alternative tourism activities. So keeping in mind these change in the selection of the tourists now the government is focusing on the development of Alternative Tourism in Himachal Pradesh, as popular tourist destination in Himachal Pradesh has reached their saturation stage. Himachal, being a state with diverse
topography, is bestowed with natural charm and about 90% of the population resides in the rural areas and also have some tribal areas which have immense potential for Alternative Tourism. Therefore, now State Government has made it clear in its Tourism Policy of 2005 as well as in Sustainable Tourism Development Policy 2013 that the aim of the Government of Himachal Pradesh is to make Himachal Pradesh a leading state in tourism industry especially to explore unexplored areas of the state directly its focus is to promote tourism in Tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh. But mere mentioning on the paper cannot be linked to the success, proper infrastructure is to be constructed and adequate facilities are to be provided in these areas so that a real Alternatives of Mass Tourism can be developed.

Hence it becomes very important to first of all study the existing facilities which are provided by the Government and other stakeholders in the tribal districts of Lahaul Spiti, Kinnaur and Chamba to develop and promote tourism.

Some of the facilities provided by the Government in the Tribal areas are as follows.

**4.4.1. HOME STAY**

This scheme has been introduced in Himachal Pradesh including Tribal districts to promote Alternative tourism in the state. When we think about tourist accommodation, what come to the mind are hotels. These have a defined image of multi-storied buildings with a number of rooms. As discussed in the above paragraph today these is a shift in the habit of the tourists. In today's context, a tourist prefers accommodation in the natural habitat and homely atmosphere which is comfortable and shows you the real picture.
Home stay accommodation provides local people an opportunity to showcase their customs and culture to the tourists and is a source of earning without any investment. It also acquaints them with the culture of the visitors. Some of the main features of Home Stay include-

I. Rural living accommodation with Himachali families.
II. Introducing visitors to the village life.
III. Home cooked local food and marketing of local handicraft and art.
IV. Visit to apple orchards, tea gardens and organic farms, trekking, camping etc.
V. Himachal traditions, costumes, village culture music, village fairs and dances.

**HOME STAY AREAS**

The home stay units are available in rural areas of the state and one can stay there in the vicinity of orchard, tea-gardens etc and experience rich rural culture, customs, traditions, and heritage, and taste Himachali cuisines. The tourists coming to prime tourist destinations of Himachal can now enjoy staying in the nearby villages under home stay scheme. Hence we can conclude that Home stay scheme has been introduced to promote Rural Tourisms in the state which is a type of Alternative Tourism. Hence, we can say that now policy of Government is directly focusing on the development of Alternative Tourism specifically in the Tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh.

The following table presents the Latest statistics of Home stays in Himachal Pradesh.
**TABLE 4.4**

**STATISTICS OF HOME STAY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>NO. OF HOME STAY UNITS</th>
<th>NO. OF ROOMS</th>
<th>TOTAL BED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SBR</td>
<td>DBR</td>
<td>DOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lahaul &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1392</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh*

Hence after analyzing the information from above table, it can be concluded that Government is promoting the concept of Home stays in all the districts of Himachal including tribal districts of the state. The total number of Homes stays in the tribal areas including Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Chamba are 116 with a total bed capacity of 818 which are providing alternate accommodation to the tourists.
4.4.2 TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN TRIBAL AREAS

Government has been provided a vast infrastructure in the state to attract more and more of tourists. The other facilities which are provided by the government include accommodation, transportation, travel agencies, tourist information centers, guides, photographers etc. The accommodation facilities include hotels, guest houses and home stays etc. Today besides providing accommodation in the hotels, guest house and home stays government is also working in collaboration with the other Departments of Government to provide accommodation and other facilities so that today tourists can have more choices for staying and other recreational activities. One of such examples is Forest Department of Himachal Government where Department of Tourism is working with Forest Department to develop Eco Tourism in Himachal Pradesh especially in rural areas of the state. Besides Eco Tourism activities, Department of Forest is also providing Rest House for staying in the tribal areas where hotels are available or only limited hotels are available.

The following table shows the various existing facilities provide by Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh to the tourists in the state including Tribal areas of the State.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>NO. OF HOTELS/ GUEST HOUSES &amp; HOME STAY UNITS</th>
<th>NO. OF RESTAURANTS</th>
<th>NO. OF ROOMS SBR</th>
<th>DBR</th>
<th>DOR</th>
<th>FS</th>
<th>TBR</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>BED</th>
<th>TRAVEL AGENCIES</th>
<th>PHOTOGRAPHERS</th>
<th>TOURIST GUIDES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>1292</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1547</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1667</td>
<td>3410</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>439</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>3602</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>4074</td>
<td>8347</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>1665</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>8551</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9656</td>
<td>20781</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Lahaul &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>1494</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1403</td>
<td>2960</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>3710</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>4562</td>
<td>9378</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>2985</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>132</td>
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<td>3264</td>
<td>8397</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>1088</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>2377</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1371</td>
<td>24708</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>1621</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>27766</td>
<td>61236</td>
<td>1662</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>HOME STAY UNITS</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1392</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1580</td>
<td>3133</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>2953</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1496</td>
<td>26100</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>1684</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>29346</td>
<td>64369</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* SHOWS THE TRIBAL DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh
Hence it can be concluded that tribal have enough accommodation facilities to accommodate tourists but these areas are still far behind in providing other services like professional guides, photographers, even in Lahaul Spiti no photographer is available where as in Kinnaur and Chamba their number is very less when we compare it with that of Kullu and other districts. Further, during Formal Group discussion, it was observed that though tribal areas have sufficient accommodation facilities available but most of the tourists had electricity and water problems which are not good signs for the promotion of tourism at global level. Further, the government is now focusing on the development of those areas and facilities in which either the state is lacking or which are not sufficient and also by promoting New or Alternative Tourism in the state including tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh. To achieve this objective and to minimize the impacts of mass tourism the Government of Himachal Pradesh had come with their policies in 1991, 2005 and latest one in 2013. The Tourism policy 2005 and 2013 were directly focussed on the development of Alternative Tourism in the state including tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh.

4.5 TOURISM POLICIES

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Thee number of tourists worldwide has been registering phenomenal growth and it is expected that this number would shortly touch 1.5 billion mark. Tourism contributes about 11% of the world workforce and 10.2% of the global GDP. The dynamic growth of this industry is evident from the fact that a new job is added to sector every 2.5 seconds. This pattern and dynamic character of the sector necessitates the policy to adapt to the changing environment. Policies are products of time and circumstances, available resources and technologies and most importantly, the need of stakeholders and local community. In Himachal first tourism policy was framed in 1991 in which certain issues prevailed during that time were taken up. Yet, tourism continued to be number – driven and was unable to contain the fallout that had led to a haphazard and damaging growth
of the existing destinations. A visible negative impacts on the environment has been seen. At the same time, there was the danger of eroding the base for future thrusts in tourism like adventure tourism, eco-tourism and heritage tourism.

The policy was revised in the year 2000 and it was declare was the government that we develop an appropriate regulatory framework to ensure that all tourism activity takes place in a safe and orderly manner and to make sure that all future development takes place in a manner that will increase and protect the natural and cultural environment, now government was looking for the development of alternative type of tourism which benefits everybody engaged in the industry with minimum cultural and environment impacts. It was realized that uncontrolled expansion and burdening of the existing destinations was leading to considerable ecological damage and an enhanced negative impacts on locals and environment. The local people were not receiving the benefits that tourism could provide. Therefore, to reach the goals and to explore the full potential of state tourism, a new policy was announced in the year 2005 which was total based on the development of Alternative tourism in the state. The thrust areas of the state tourism policy were the development of Alternative types of tourism like Rural tourism, health tourism, eco tourism and community based tourism etc and to implement such types of tourism in the state the government started schemes like “Home Stay Scheme” directly benefiting the local community. Further to boost Alternative tourism in the state government recently in 2013 announced its another tourism policy which directly focuses on the “Sustainable Tourism Development”. Therefore, it becomes mandatory to discuss both the tourism policies in detail as both of them focuses on the development of Alternative types of tourism in the state, a concept which was started during 2000 in the state and has become a future goal of the government.
4.5.1 TOURISM POLICY 2005- “A Shift from Conventional Tourism to Alternative Tourism in the State.”

MISSION STATEMENT

“TO MAKE TOURISM THE PRIME ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE STATE BY POSITIONING IT AS A LEADING GLOBAL DESTINATION BY THE YEAR 2020”

Tourism policy 2005 aims to provide clear direction for the development of tourism in the state. Himachal Pradesh is already a well-established and recognized tourist destination. It seeks to harness the fullest potential of the state for the development of tourism, which in turn can be a prime engine for economic growth and prosperity of state, besides effectively addressing the problems of unemployment and poverty. This policy was a result of wide range of consultations within and outside the government, including the industry, tourism unit operators, and other stakeholders. Besides outlining the policy, the document also lists out the strategy for implementation, as also specific action plans to implement the policy.

4.5.1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

Nature has bestowed Himachal Pradesh with unique beauty and splendor with its lush green valleys, snow covered peaks, a serene, peaceful, hospitable and comfortable environment and a rich cultural environment. Being in the lap or Himalayas this fact become its natural and unique USP with global appeal. On the basis of tourist arrivals in 2004, government mentioned as one of its policy objective as to attract quality tourists to the state and to increase their length of stay in the state. Further, by focusing on quality tourist the state government also aims at promoting sustainable tourism and encouraging the private sector to develop tourism related infrastructure in the state without disturbing the existing ecology and environment.
In order to increase the duration of the stay of the tourists, a special emphasis was placed on the development of activity-based tourism and opening up new alternative sub destinations. This objective was directly hinted for the development of Alternative tourism in the tribal districts of the state. To promote Alternative types of tourism in the countryside and lesser-known tribal areas, appropriate infrastructure will be developed within available resources. Himachal was earlier known only for the summer season. Provision were included in the policy to break the seasonality factor and tourism products have been diversified to attract the tourists in other seasons too. Now Himachal Pradesh is known as “A Destination for All Seasons and All Resorts”.

Some of the main objectives of tourism policy 2005 were as follows-

1. To establish Himachal Pradesh as a leading destination in the country and abroad.
2. To make tourism a prime engine for economic development and prosperity of the state and as a major means for providing employment.
3. To encourage a strong and sustainable private sector participation in creation of tourism infrastructure especially through public private partnerships.
4. To promote sustainable tourism this is not only environmentally compatible but also leads to economic betterment of the rural people.
5. To attract high end tourist and to increase their stay in the state.
6. To safeguard the state’s natural and manmade heritage.
7. To encourage civil societies and NGOs for promotion and the conducting of tourism related activities.
8. To promote Himachal Pradesh as a one stop destination for adventure tourism.

In order to achieve the policy objectives indicated above the department of tourism has identified thrust areas for action and follow up. All of
these thrust areas were the development of different forms of Alternative tourism in the state and in the unknown tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh.

4.5.1.2 THRUST AREAS

The following has been considered as the thrust areas in the Tourism Policy 2005.

1. **Rural Tourism**

   One of the key areas in the tourism policy 2005 was the development of rural tourism in the state. The fruits of tourism must percolate down to the rural areas in order that it is truly sustainable and responsible. For this the department of tourism proposed that rural tourism villages are identified and notified by the deptt. The precondition for declaring these as rural tourism villages would be that they must predominantly have traditional architecture and an MOU would be signed with the Panchayat that this would be maintained. The villagers may modify their houses internally but they must maintain their traditional outer façade. For the sake of easier marketing these villages must be nearer to the existing tourist centre which will also ensure dispersal of tourist to rural areas and promote decongestion. The example of such village in the tribal districts of Chamba is “Chatradi” village which is near to Bharmour which is a popular tourist centre in tribal district of Chamba.

These villages under rural tourism would be dovetailed with the govt. of India Ministry of Tourism Scheme under which funding is available up to 5 lacs. This fund would be used to create infrastructure like roads, streets, drainage, lighting, parking etc. Further, government announced that in such villages there would be no luxury tax or commercial rates for electricity up too 5 bed room home stays. This scheme is to be implemented in
collaboration with some other department of the government like Deptt. of Rural Development and nationalized banks in the state. The government proposed that in these home stays local food be served, linkages would be sought to promote local handicrafts and cultural troupes. The procedure for registration of village tourism guest houses would be simplified and adequate publicity given to the facilities available. The deptt of tourism concluded that Rural Tourism scheme would be further extended from rural to heritage and Orchard tourism.

The government added in the tourism policy 2005 that as the state has a number of old palaces, forts, Havelis and other beautiful buildings in rural areas which if properly developed could become important alternative tourism products themselves. The government has encouraged the development of such sites for use as tourist accommodation and such new heritage hotels located in rural areas would be exempted from the luxury tax for a period of five years. This facility has already been implemented which came into force from Jan 2013. Now in tribal and rural areas, all these properties are exempted from luxury tax. Further stressing on the promotion of Heritage sites in the rural and tribal areas the government would endeavor to associate the Archaeological Survey of India and private sector in the development of such sites.

Apple and Orchard tourism is also an area of focus as in the tribal regions Kinnaur and Chamba and also in Kullu, Shimla and other parts of Mandi district. In this type of tourism traditional farm houses could be converted into home steads wherein the tourists could enjoy the beauty right from apple blossom to harvesting.

In the conclusion on the promotion of Rural Tourism in the tribal areas and rural areas, the department of tourism is going to coordinate with the watershed/livelihood related projects like Mid
Himalaya Watershed Dev, project funded by World bank so that rural / eco tourism can be further promoted in these project areas.

2. **ECO TOURISM**

Himachal offers a new era of nature enjoyment and learning. It also provides visitors an excellent exposure to the temperate forests. This makes it an ideal for developing eco-tourism activities like jungle safaris, trekking, rock climbing, forest trails, nature walks, angling, camping etc. All these activities are to be conducted in a manner that promotes awareness about the environment and helps in maintaining the ecological balance.

The eco-tourism projects predominantly situated in forest lands are technically under forest department which has already formulated an Eco Tourism policy in consultation with the Tourism Department. Under this Eco – Tourism Societies have been established on CBET (Community Based Eco Tourism) to cover the Great Himalayan National Park (Kullu), Himalayan nature park (Shimla), Renuka Wildlife Sanctuary (Sirmour) and Potter's Hill Van Vihar (Shimla).

The government mentioned in its tourism policy that it will harness the tourism potential of forests in the state by developing camping sites with basic infrastructure facilities and other public convenience facilities. The private parties shall be encouraged for setting up of such camping sites on environment friendly basis. Further, the government will endeavour to open forest guest houses for the tourists through the society. These would be run on community based eco tourism tenets or through public private partnerships with companies with good track record of working in Eco-tourism.
3. **Wildlife Tourism**

Wildlife tourism is an integral part of Eco Tourism. Himachal Pradesh has a varied topography, climate and forest cover and is endowed with a vast variety of flora and fauna. At present there are 32 Sanctuaries, 2 national parks and 3 Game Reserves. The National park in tribal areas include Pin Valley National Park in Spiti. The Tourism Department proposed to work with the Wildlife wing of the Forest Department to further develop and improve wildlife parks/zoo, bird watching towers and other public utility services for the facility of the tourists.

4. **Development of lakes and Wetlands**

Development of Lakes and Wetlands is also an integral part of eco tourism. The state government has mentioned in the policy that it will make special efforts to make natural and man-made lakes as an important tourist destinations. Steps will be taken to maintain and enhance their beauty by undertaking development in an integrated manner. Facilities for water sports will be developed to international standard and national and international level events will also be organized to popularize these destinations.

5. **Pilgrimage Tourism**

Himachal has emerged as an important pilgrim destination. A large number of religious tourists visit sacred shrines of Himachal Pradesh. A large number of religious places for people of almost all religions are situated in the state. The government has special focus on the development of Buddhist circuit situated in the tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh. The Tourism Department will also work in coordination with the Department of Language Art and Culture and also temple trusts so that Tourist information centres are established in all the major temples and run by the temple trusts.
6. Adventure Tourism

The Tourism Department has made a comprehensive adventure tourism promotion plan for the state and has laid down the regulatory framework for enforcement of safety standards. For the promotion of adventure sports, the department has made a provision to impart training in different sports to the youth. International competitions in such sports will be organized for attracting participants not only from the country but also from abroad in coordination with the Department of Sports.

The tourism department /Board will support all efforts to promote and set up adventure sports schools at various location in order to train more youths in paragliding, Rafting, Water sports, Angling, skiing, Mountaineering, Motor sports etc. in coordination with the WHMI Manali and state level associations. The Department/Board will help the WHMI in setting up more sub centres in the state to take adventure tourism the hitherto unexplored places. It will assist in training the local youth in adventure tourism so that they also benefit through employment and other means. Similarly it will work at tandem with Forest department and the eco tourism societies to meet the above ends. The state was the first and continues to be the only state, which has heli-skiing in the country. This attracts foreigners and quality tourists with paying capacity to some of the best powder-snows that the world can offer. The experience in this venture has been very positive despite the initial apprehensions about possible disturbances to the environment and fauna. It is proposed to expand the concept of heli-skiing by introducing activities like heli trekking and cross country-skiing. Conventional skiing and setting up of more ski lifts and ski resorts in the public private partnership was the major thrust area. The Chansal range in Kinnaur beyond Rampur has great potential for such activities.
The state started promoting paragliding from 1984 onwards. Himachal is now the leading states in the country in this field. Bir Biling in Kangra, Solang in Manali, etc are continuing as important centre for the sport. Further, more areas will be explored and opened up with the objective of providing a source of livelihood to the local youth. It has been written in the policy that the Tourism Department in collaboration with WHMI and other adventure sports operators will encourage mountaineering expeditions internationally. Similarly adventure sports activities will be undertaken on large scale through WHMI on sustainable basis especially during the holiday season for school and college students. One of the main sub objective of the policy was to get the latest technology in the field of adventure sports in terms of equipments and knowhow be it skiing / ropeway projects, water sports or paragliding. All PPP projects in this field of adventure tourism will have this as a necessary precondition.

7. Promoting Unexplored Himachal

The other thrust areas of tourism policy 2005 was the discovery of unexplored areas of Himachal Pradesh. The main tourism circuits in Himachal are fairly well known and even remote districts like Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur are now becoming popular destinations to relax, adventure and unwind. Himachal also has many undiscovered spots with unspoiled charm that are worth a visit for a quiet rewarding holiday spent amidst the splendor of nature away from the crowds. Further, the state government will make special efforts to develop unexplored destinations with the assistance of Central Government, to improve the sanitation, roads, parking, toilets, accommodation, beautification, and landscaping of tourist interest places, wayside amenities etc. Efforts will be made to keep these new places neat and clean and only limited constructions will be allowed, so that these areas may
not become over saturated and the construction so allowed will
preserve the architecture and ecology of the state. Some of the
places in the tribal districts are lahoul, Spiti, Kinnaur, Jot Chamba
and Sarahan and Bashal Dhar etc. Ever since the opening of tribal
areas of Himachal Pradesh to foreigners, the number of domestic
and foreign tourists visiting these tribal areas has increased
manifold. Lahaul- Spiti and Kinnaur districts have emerged as
important destinations. Yet compared to the potential it is just a
trickle. These areas are enormously rich in culture the effort would
be to invite culturally conscious tourists who enjoy the quality and
difference of experience. Preservation of the cultural uniqueness of
these areas therefore will remain the prime concern of the
government. The government will only allow such construction,
which preserves the architecture and ecology of the area. The
private sector will continue to be encouraged to set up guest
houses for which subsidy will be provided from the state budget.
Tented accommodation will be encouraged with local participation
so that maximum benefits accrue to the local economy. The
centuries old monasteries are also being upgraded where foreign
tourists show lot of interest.
Tourism councils will be set up under the Tourism Act 2000 in
these areas so that some fee is charged from the trekkers / tourists
the proceeds of which will go to the local Panchayats for the
maintenance and upkeep of the tourism related infrastructure and
for regulating tourism on sustainable basis. Further, to boost
tourism in the tribal districts of the state Manali Leh route which
has already become favourite for both domestic and foreign tourists
will be improved in coordination with the govt. of J&K and efforts
would be made to link it to the Budhist circuits of Shimla
Kinnaur- Spiti Udaipur-Pangi and Palampur – Dharamshala-
Dalhousie.
8. **Health Tourism**

Another area of thrust in the tourism policy was the development of Health tourism in the state as an alternative to the conventional tourism. There is tremendous scope to set up spas, health resorts, recuperative centres etc. all over the state. Himachal Pradesh has an enormous wealth of medicinal plants. Herbal Gardens, herbal Trails will be developed as tourist attractions. The Tourism Department in collaboration with Department of Indian System of Medicine, Department of Ayurveda and Forests will organize such tours which will further develop awareness and interest about medicinal plants amongst the school children and tourists.

9. **Arts Crafts and Souviner**

Promotion of local art and culture and generation of income or employment through it is a major component of tourism policy. The state government shall endeavour to encourage the development of souvenir industry linked to local crafts, events, and places which would promote a distinctive image of the state. The private sector will also be encouraged to patronize and promote local folk, culture and crafts for the visiting tourists. Development of souvenir industry including standardised packaging is of utmost importance for which leading institutions and voluntary organizations in the country will be engaged.

**4.5.2 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2013**

Himachal Pradesh is a well recognized tourist destination in the country. The state offers a wide variety of options to the tourists having different interests and is popular for leisure, religious, adventure and cultural tourism.

In the year 2005, the state had come with the Tourism Policy with the purpose of analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
and to lay a strategy for development of Alternative forms of tourism in the state. A short and medium term action plan had also been laid down in the policy.

From a figure of 65.49 lakh tourists in 2004, the number of tourists visiting the state has now gone up to 161.46 lakh in 2012 and in 2013. The need of hour, given our fragile ecosystem, is to ensure that this growth continues in a sustainable manner. The Sustainable Tourism Development Policy, 2013 was an attempt in this regard. This policy has been framed for achieving sustainable tourism development based on global and national good practices, situation analyses, stakeholders engagements, rapid destination diagnostics, and participatory planning exercises. It shall act as a guide for the state to ensure sustainable development and inclusive green growth in the tourism sector in Himachal Pradesh.

4.5.2.1 VISION AND MISSION OF TOURISM POLICY 2013

**Vision:** To make sustainable tourism one of the prime engines of socioeconomic growth in the state by establishing it as a leading global sustainable tourism destination by 2029.

**Mission:** To use sustainable tourism as a means to provide better employment and greater business opportunities for residents, to contribute to the protection of state’s unique natural and cultural heritage and to ensure the long-term prosperity and good quality of life to future generation in Himachal Pradesh.

With the above mentioned mission and vision the government of Himachal Pradesh set the following goals to be implemented in the following years.
4.5.2.2 POLICY GOALS

The policy aimed at the following goals-

1. To establish Himachal Pradesh as a leading global sustainable tourism destination.
2. To ensure sustainable tourism which primarily benefits host communities and supports natural and cultural heritage preservation.
3. To ensure visitor's high quality experience and contribution to the safeguarding of the State's destination.
4. To create an enabling environment for investment and private sector development.
5. To build capacity and develop quality human resources in sustainable tourism and state-of-art hospitality.

4.5.2.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sustainability principles refer to the environmental, economic and social-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.

While tourism is an economic activity largely carried out by the private sector in most countries, governments have a crucial role to play in making policies and master plans for tourism development as part of national, state and local economic objectives. Sustainable tourism development, involves almost all aspects of life, in a way that the tourism sector is viewed as an integrated whole with an impact not only on the economy by ensuring more equitable and more widespread distribution of income, but also on society, cultures, and the environment. Given the relevance of tourism as an engine of growth for the state, the government of Himachal is committed to advance its contribution to sustainable development in the state by placing greater emphasis on tourism impacts on the environment and the quality of life of local community. Therefore,
keeping in mind these issues government has focused its tourism policy of 2005 as well as 2013 on the development of Alternative tourism in the state.

According to the united nations world Tourism organization, "Sustainable tourism takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities". Such definition emphasizes an integrated approach to tourism development in a way that improves the lives of residents, preserves the natural environment and cultural assets in destinations, and improves the enjoyment and attitude of the tourists; rather than the traditional focus on increasing tourist numbers and their spending.

Based on sustainable tourism initiatives worldwide, the Himachal Pradesh Sustainable Development Policy is guided by three principles:-

1. Ensure viable, long – term economic growth, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development of HP destinations.

2. Other guiding principles for the Sustainable tourism policy is to make optimal use of environment assets that constitute a key element in sustainable tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and help conserve natural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.

3. Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, ans contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
4.5.2.4 STRATEGY

To ensure a sustainable focus as well as positive impacts on the state destinations and their people, ecology and cultural assets, the HP Sustainable Tourism Development Policy proposes four areas of strategic action in alignment with its goals. Following strategies have been made by the Department of Tourism to achieve individual goals of the policy.

GOAL 1:

The government of Himachal Pradesh has formulated the following strategy to achieve first goal of tourism policy.

1. Destination Planning and Product Development:

This strategy involves the long-term outline of general goals, objectives and directions for sustainable tourism development at state and destinations levels.

A. Tourism Development Planning: Tourism Develop plans will be prepared on the basis of policy and these will include zoning Atlases for planned and non-planned areas at a state level based on the town and country planning department land – use plans, development and accessibility requirements, and the classification and hierarchy of tourism nodes.

B. Circuits will be developed linking hubs with lesser – known and unknown destinations as well as their products based on prioritized primary, secondary and tertiary destinations in a rational way to accrue maximum tourism benefits and minimum environmental and socio-cultural impacts.

C. Land banks will be attempted to be created within prioritized primary, secondary and tertiary destinations based on zoning Atlases by identifying viable land for development. Adherence to environmental regulations for land development will be required.
D. Private sector engagement: The government will work with the private sector to identify opportunities for diversifying and improving the mix of tourism products, festivals and events based on tourist profiles (agritourism, health and wellness, adventure etc. and tourism activities and product strategies. Further sustainable tourism standards shall be identified and sustainable tourism criteria will be adopted based on the needs of the state.

2. Destination marketing and branding

- **Branded Destinations:** Branded destinations will be established.

- **Sustainability Story:** The state’s accomplishment in sustainable tourism development will be promoted (reinvigorate promotion of rural tourism development)

- **Internet and Social Marketing:** The Himachaltourism.gov.in and hptdc.nic.in websites will be modernized, and social marketing tools will be used for more effective promotion of tourism.

- **Length of Stay:** Sustainable tourism in developing multi-day and multi- experience packages and products will be supported and promoted to increase the average length of stay.

- **Seasonality:** Products to target markets and enhanced product and service offering will be matched to extend seasonality in key destinations.

- **Quality Ratings:** Compulsory quality ratings will be adopted that include sustainable tourism standards to ensure accommodations, tour operators, and restaurants meet higher standards. Tourism Trade associations will be involved in the inspection work

3. Target markets

- **Existing Markets:** Market specific strategies will be formulated based on market research and tourism profiles to optimally use
resources to strengthen existing international and domestic markets.

- **Emerging Markets**: New and emerging markets will be identified and market specific strategies will be formulated to make destination brands more visible in these markets.

- **Business TO- Business**: Tourism body workshops, seminars and knowledge sharing events will be organized.

4. **Market Research**:

Data collection methodologies will be strengthened and institutionalized to develop more detailed tourist profiles for existing and potential target markets in key tourism destinations with the support of tourism businesses.

**GOAL 2**:

To achieve second goal following strategies have been included in the tourism policy.

1. **Community Benefits**:

   - The creation of locally owned Micro, Small & Medium Tourism Enterprises (MSMTEs) will be facilitated to increase the distribution of tourism revenues, thus generating employment and additional income for local communities; and provide an entrepreneurship development programme to develop local level entrepreneurs and attractions. Further secondary and tertiary destinations will be identified based not only on tourism potential, but also on communities receptivity to tourists as well as environmental and cultural sensitiveness.

   - Secondary and tertiary destinations will be identified based not only on tourism potential, but also on communities receptivity to tourists as well as environmental and cultural sensitiveness.
• **Home Stays:** The Home stay policy tax holiday will be extended and will be updated to ensure that the policy supports the preservation of Himachal Pradesh cultural assets and expressions by limiting registered home stays to homes with traditional architecture and those that demonstrate adherence to state approved sustainable tourism criteria. Promotional support will be improved and the owner – occupied homes requirements more strictly enforced. The number of related trainings will also be increased and made more accessible to rural communities.

2. **Inclusive Planning and Implementation:**
   • Key stakeholders, including local residents will be identified and actively involved in sustainable tourism development planning and implementation by creating and institutionalizing a mechanism by which they receive information and provide feedback, insights and suggestions.

3. **Natural Heritage Preservation:**
   • Ecolological systems in key destinations and the services they provide will be inventoried.
   • The department shall work in close collaboration with the State Pollution Control Board to establish environmental regulations for sustainable and legally sourced environment friendly construction materials and designs; and require developers to compete with environmental impact assessments and to implement environment management plans in ecologically sensitive areas within/ near destinations.
   • Coordination with relevant departments will be promoted to improve existing infrastructure on public lands; to strengthen sustainable tourism standards for concessionaires; and to close fragile ecosystems to tourism seasonality.
   • Panchayats and community- based organizations will be motivated to protect the environment.
4. **Cultural-Heritage Preservation**: The Department of Tourism, shall work in close collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Department of language, Art and Culture to undertake the following:

- Material and intangible cultural – heritage will be mapped and inventoried, including heritage that is endangered.
- Promotional mechanisms will be established to foster the revival and the protection of heritage authenticity.
- Local products and Himachali Cuisines will be promoted to tourists by working closely with local bodies, SHGs, NGOs, Farmer groups and other relevant departments.
- Panchayats as well as Community- based organizations will be motivated to protect cultural assets.

**GOAL 3:**

The government has made the following strategies to achieve this goal.

1. **Promotion of local Products and Services to Decrease Footprint:**
   - This strategy involves the promotion of Alternative Tourism in the destinations. To promote such type of tourism tours involving closer relations with host communities will be prioritized (e.g., tax break for home stays, promotion of seasonal menu in hotels, visit to local tea plantations.)
   - The Department of Tourism shall work in close collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Industries Department and Department of Language, Art and Culture to develop Centers of Excellence of handlooms and handicrafts and promote local industries as a priority with private sector participation.
2. **Tourist Information Centre:** Tourist information centers will be established and promoted at all major tourism destinations including tourist centers gateway cities, popular temples, and transport nodes in the state and borders.

3. **Visitor Interpretation:** Visitor interpretation will be improved by improving upon the existing signage system to better inform and educate tourists especially in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh.

4. **Provision of Quality Services:** Tourism services in prioritized destinations including but not limited to wayside facilities, potable drinking water, waste management, public toilets etc.

5. **Accessibility:**
   - Improve connectivity: Current tourist flow, transportation routes, and nodes will be mapped and problem areas, supply/ demand needs, and the transportation planning requirements identifies to improve connectivity and facilitate growth in tourism.
   - Improve transportation quality including transportation modes and hubs to meet international or the best national standards.
   - Sustainable urban mobility “traffic fee”/ pedestrian zones and seasonal one way traffic routing will be establish in highly traffic tourist hubs and places of tourist interest.
   - The development of new ropeways will be re-evaluated in highly visited tourist sites that attracts travelers interested in nature based, eco tourism and adventure activities.
GOAL 4:

Recognizing the importance of sustainable tourism in stimulating the economic development of the state, an enabling environment will be created to attract investments and to encourage the adoption of sustainable tourism practices by private sector.

I. Sustainable Financing:

- **Private – Public Partnership**: Commercially viable projects and the establishment of private public partnerships will be evaluated on an open competitive tender basis for select state-run tourism and related services, including accommodations, destination development and transportation etc.

- **Fee Collection**: A fee programme will be implemented based on willingness to pay measures and different rates for Indian and International travelers to establish sustainable financing for the maintenance and improvement of tourism related infrastructure and for regulating tourism in highly visited sites. Further a tax holiday will be offered for applicable taxes in sustainable tourism projects located in secondary and tertiary areas within the proposed circuits.

2. Green Tax benefits: This strategy involves the possibility of providing tax benefits on energy conservation, renewable energy and water saving/ recycling/ catchment technologies and equipment will be examined. Further in addition to thus incentive packages will be strengthened and fast track clearances provided for tourism projects of domestic investment and foreign investment. Markting incentives
will be provided for tourism businesses that receive quality ratings and meet baseline sustainable tourism criteria.

3. Promotion: This strategy involves eligibility requirements that will be enforced enable sustainable tourism businesses registered with the tourism department to receive the tax benefits, financial incentives, and other enabling mechanisms when offered at a state level (for example single window clearance for all sustainable tourism related investments).

GOAL 5:

Government has suggested following strategies for the achievement of the fifth goal of the sustainable tourism policy.

1. Integrated Tourism resource Management: This mechanism is focused to foster cooperation encourage the pooling of resources, and coordinate tourism development, management and promotion efforts among State, District, Municipal ward-level Government bodies as well as the private sector will be put in place.

2. HP Tourism Development Board: The HP Tourism Board will serve as an advisory and coordinative body for public sector actions related to tourism, approve and facilitate each District's annual action and investment plans, and coordinate policy, regulate, capacity development, marketing, participatory planning and monitoring.

3. Implementation Cells: A monitoring and Evaluation cell will be established at the State Level to track and report out on priority performance tourism-related matrix and detect issues in their early stages so that remedial measures can be taken.

4. Awareness Raising: A programme to raise awareness and educate key stakeholders at every level will be designed and promoted,
especially at implementation level, regarding rules, regulations, new policy relating to tourism development.

5. **University Curriculum:** Institutions such as state-run Universities and institutions as also private Universities and recognized institutions shall be encouraged to offer sustainable tourism curriculum and to expand existing ones.

6. **Guide Training:** Sustainable tourism will be integrated into guide training curriculum and specialized training will be provided in international target market languages and adventure sport instruction with increased number of trainings.

7. **Youth Development:** Funding from various department will be secured to offer skill oriented courses in sustainable tourism to unemployed youth.

### 4.5.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN TRIBAL CIRCUIT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Some of the recent development projects started and implemented by the government of Himachal Pradesh in the Tribal circuits are given in the following table. The table also shows the amount sanctioned by the Government of India against each project.
### TABLE 4.6

**SUMMARY OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO.</th>
<th>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT IN LACS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Sangla</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Village sanitation, Improvement &amp; illumination of internal path to Kamru Fort and other Temples, drainage along-side paths.</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Refurbishment of Sarai bawan at Chitkul</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Herbal park at Rukcham in sangla valley.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Dev. of Eco Park at Sangla</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Kinnaur</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) C/o. of toilets &amp; parking with provision for Tourist Reception centre/ Interpretation Centre at Nako Development of view points.</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Improvement &amp; Beautification of Chotkin Chhinma Monastery at Hango</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Improvement &amp; Beautification of Nako lake</td>
<td>58.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Ecological &amp; environment improvement in village Chaura in Tehsil Nichar including welcome gate.</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Spiti</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Herbal park near Kee Monastery</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lahaul</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Ecological and environment improvement near Dhankar, prevention of soil erosion, check dam</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Plantation, snow harvesting &amp; refurbishment of Dhankar Monastery</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Landscaping &amp; Beautification of places near Lama Mummy</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Refurbishment &amp; Beautification of Monastery Lanza (near Kaza)</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Improvement &amp; Beautification of Chandartal lake</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Refurbishment of Losar Monastery</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lahaul</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Herbal park near Keylong</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Refurbishment of Tayul Gompa</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Refurbishment of Othang Gompa</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pangi</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Refurbishment of five Gompa's in the five Bhatori's in Pangi valley</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Upgradation of Forest Rest House in Pangi Valley</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|  |
|--------|-----------------|
| a) Signages | 30.00 |

|  |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| GRAND TOTAL | 698.00 |

Source: Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Govt. of H.P
Besides the above mentioned development projects the Government has also implemented the following developmental projects in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh.

1. Buddhist circuit funded by Government of India, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 790.40 lacs for the development of Buddhist Destinations in tribal areas from tourism point of view.

2. Installation of touch screen Kiosks at all the Tourist Information Centres in the state. Touch screen Kiosks will provide required information to the tourists. They will also be installed at Railway stations and bus stands.

3. As mentioned in the Tourism policy, the government is working on the exploration of new tourism destinations and products in the state. New Trekking routes and programmes will be initiated to attract more adventure tourists to the state.

4. Special Skiing festivals will be hosted in the major tourism destinations like in Shimla, Kullu and Manali etc.

5. Dress code will be provided to the staff of all the Tourist Information Centers so that they can develop professional approach.

6. Websites of Tourism Department will be updated from time to time.

7. Toll Free number will be started. This has been implemented and now Himachal Tourism has its own Toll Free Number.

8. Online reservations of the hotels have already been started by the Department. Now tourists can book their hotels and programmes online through websites of tourism Department.

9. Home Stay scheme has been started by Department of Tourism in the state to provide alternative accommodation to the tourist which will promote Alternative Tourism in the state.
4.5.4 ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING TOURISM FACILITIES AND TOURISM POLICIES OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE STUDY AREAS

Himachal Pradesh is a well recognized tourist destination in the Country. The State offers a wide variety of optioned to the tourists having different interests and is popular for leisure, religious, adventure and cultural tourism.

In the year 2005, the state come up with the Tourism Policy with the purpose of analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to lay down a strategy for development of the tourism in the State. Short and medium term action plan had also been laid down in the policy. From a figure of 65.49 lakh tourist arrivals in 2004, the number of tourists visiting the State has now gone up to 161.46 lakhs in 2012. The need of the hour, given our fragile ecosystem, is to ensure that this growth continues in a sustainable manner without causing any negative impacts on the society as well as on local environment, directly speaking the Government has focused on the development of Alternative Tourism in the State. After analyzing the tourism policies of Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh following conclusion can be drawn-

> The tourism facilities are adequate in the Tribal areas but hotels are very few and mostly tourists are accommodated in guests houses, rest houses & Home stays. But the Home stay initiative by the Department of Tourism is a revolution in the field of tourism especially in Rural tourism. Rural tourism has become a source of income for the local people and government is promoting rural tourism because the major destinations have reached their saturation point and now rural tourism is promoting as an alternate to the conventional tourism.
The guides and photographers and facilities are also very less. Though photographers have little role to play in the promotion of tourism as today almost all the tourists carry their cameras with them but the scarcity of guides in the remote areas is a major obstacle in the tourism development.

The impacts of Conventional tourism have been seen more than the benefits and major tourists destinations like Shimla, Dharamshala and Manali have reached their saturation point and beyond their carrying capacity so now the need of the hour is to promote Alternative tourism in Himachal Pradesh and for this purpose Tribal areas of Himachal have huge potential.

To promote tourism in the State Government framed their tourism policies in 1991, 2005 and latest 2013. During 1991, the objective of the tourism policy was to develop and promote tourism in the State. Then government shifted their aim towards the development of Alternative types of tourism like Rural tourism, Health tourism, Adventure tourism and the exploration of hidden areas. These hidden areas the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh which are still unknown to the tourists. All these types of tourism became the thrust areas of the policy.

The analysis of Tourism Policy 2005 clearly accepted tourism a prime engine for economic development and prosperity of the State and a major means for providing employment. The government also stressed on the encouragement of private sector to play some role in achieving its objective.

Tourism Policy 2005 had also its provision for protecting the State's natural and manmade heritage and to promote Himachal as a one stop destination for adventure tourism especially in the tribal areas.
➢ To achieve objectives of the policy the Government’s strategy touched every section of stakeholders including local community, NGOs and other stakeholders.

➢ As it is clear from the Vision and title of the Tourism policy 2013 that the vision of the Government is to develop and promote sustainable tourism in the State especially in the tribal areas. To implement the vision of this policy it is a matter of great for proud for Himachal Pradesh that recently in September 2014 the World bank team came to Himachal to conducted a survey of tribal districts for the development of Sustainable tourism in tribal districts of the State. Their report is expected to come in Feb 2015.

➢ The Mission of Sustainable tourism development policy 2013 is directly affecting the local community. The government has made it clear it its 2013 policy that it use sustainable tourism as a means to provide better employment and greater business opportunities for residents, to contribute to the protection of the state’s unique natural and cultural heritage and to ensure long term prosperity and good quality of life to future generations in Himachal Pradesh.

➢ The last but not least the Department of Tourism has planned to work in collaboration with the other Departments like Forest, IPH and PWD to develop and promote tourism in the state including tribal areas of the State.

Conclusion of the Chapter:

Moments of paradise on Earth mean different things for different people. For some it is the thrill of adventure; for some it is the peace induces by meditation; for others it is an inner quest to visit places of pilgrimage. Whether it is the serenity of a forest, the majesty of snow peak or a piece of rare heritage, Himachal offers it all and much more. Here are the holidays for the family, the individual or groups.
Himachal, the abode of “Eternal Snow” may well be likened to an open welcoming palm where each figure holds a major mountain range, each furrow a valley and every line a river or stream. Located in the Western Himalayas, the state has several high mountains.

As we have seen from the tourist resources of Himachal Pradesh especially tribal districts, almost all types of tourism products are available in these areas. Most of these tourist resources come under one name that is Alternative tourism.

Tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh have huge potential for attracting tourists to these hidden areas of the state. Tribal districts are the home to some of the oldest legends of India and have some of the most fascinating fairs and festivals. It is here that the pine and cedar trees grow, where lithe deer, lumbering bears and elusive snow leopards are found (In Pin valley National Park). Its architectural and cultural heritage includes ancient forts and palaces, age-old temples, and Buddhist monasteries and finally some fine examples of colonial buildings that are set in the old world charm of the hill stations. Hence it can concluded from the discussion and identifying the tourist resources of tribal districts that these districts are the paradise for Alternative tourist activities.
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