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The Himalayas have from time immemorial constituted a subject of profound and unique interest for explorers and investigators. The hill region of Himachal Pradesh considered as Dev Bhoomi has remained a perennial source of attraction and inspiration. It seems paradoxical that not much study in the historical text has been done on the area and the people of Himachal Pradesh. Nevertheless, it is a fact there is hardly any regional study whether at macro or micro level which has been done in this area. It is with a view to filling this gap in our knowledge of a region, that present study was undertaken.

Kullu district is one of the 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh. In 1966, Kullu became a part of Himachal Pradesh. The present study aims at analyzing the factors that have been responsible for its overall development since it has merged with Himachal Pradesh and also the aspects of development and change. The study of a district can not be done in isolation as the developmental plans and strategies that are executed and implemented in the district are planned and made at the state level. Therefore, the present study of Kullu district has been done in relation with Himachal Pradesh.

The researcher focuses on the following. First of all, an overall study of the region in relation with its topography, climatic conditions, factors supporting vegetation cover and its political history. Secondly, various factors that are responsible for the political, demographic, social and economic development. In this study various aspects like education, health sector, horticulture, various industries and power would be studied.

The study is by no means exhaustive to cover all the dimensions of development, yet it is a first micro level study of Kullu district which deals with various dimensions of development and change. It is hoped that this modest attempt brings in to focus the regional realities more
meaningfully and would stimulate interest of the academic community for further research of the region in various other aspects.

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