CHAPTER- 7

HERITAGE TOURISM PROFILE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
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7.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter Seven depicts the profile of Himachal Pradesh in terms of location, historical and cultural background, natural and cultural resources and explains the historic and pre-historical character of the state. It also deals with demography and morphology of the state. It has been observed from the study that the state is a historic ruled by multiple kings for many centuries and it has contributed significantly in the fields of art and crafts, culture and yoga to make the rich cultural aura and cultural centre. The study of architectural built form of Shimla, Kangra, Kullu and Chamba districts lead by other historic palaces as landmark and a focal point of state’s elements indicate that the state is meticulously planned and accompanied by distinctive monuments, royal buildings, rock inscriptions, Temples, Buddhist monasteries, Gompas, lakes, and other rich cultural attractions, along with distinct natural features like pleasant weather, snow covered peaks, biodiversity, etc. makes undoubtedly the most important heritage components for the state.

7.2 ORIGIN OF TOURISM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

According to Puranic legends Pandvas (five brothers) of Mahabharta explored the hills of Himachal Pradesh (HP) while in exile. It is reflected in Pabbar valley as it has number of dedicated temples to Pandvas (for example Pandya temple at Masale village on the bank of Pabbar river reflects five wooden images of Pandvas, Hadimba temple in Kullu dedicated to goddess Hadimba. It is also believed that during exile Pandva brothers travelled extensively in Kullu valley and remained undiscovered to the world in the remote Sangla valley of kinnaur. Similarly places along river satluj such as Tattapani, Nerath and Nirmand are associated with legendary saint Parshuram and his father Yagdambri. The famous tourism place Renuka ji, near Nahan is named after Parshuram’s mother Renuka. Manali is named after sage Manu and Bilaspur is named after sage Ved Vyas who is believed to have lived here in the remote past. The only sun temple of northern India is situated in state at Nerath village which witness the traditional history and ignorance of historic structures. The ancient trade route to Himachal include Hindustan Tibet road joining north Indian plains to Tibet via Satluj river and the route over Rohtang Pass joining kullu valley to Lahul Spiti, Ladakh
and Central Asia. Traders travelled with goods of daily needs since ancient times. The accounts of famous Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang who travelled Kullu and Spiti in 7th century AD through lights on extent and objects of Kullu trade of gold, copper and silver crystal along with medicinal plants with Indian plains and Tibet. The trade links of HP are reflected in Lavi fair of Rampur which falls on Hindustan Tibet route.

Historically the travelling for pleasure to Himalaya was started by Mughal court. The emperor Akbar is believed to have visited holy shrine of Shri Jwalamukhi while emperor Jahangir visited Kangra valley in 1622 along with his wife Nur Jahan. The emperor was so impressed with beauty of valley that he contemplated making it the summer residence of the court. The emperor laid the foundation of project but the supremacy of Kashmir valley attracted his attention towards Jammu and Kashmir. The town Nurpur in district Kangra is named after Nur Jahan. At later stage the tradition started by Mughals was followed by British.

However from historian’s point of view the information sources regarding history and culture of Himachal Pradesh can be divided into two categories viz. Archaeological and Literary. Archaeological sources suffer from the absence of reliable literary sources and are not that much authentic to for making declarations on the subject. The archeologically sources includes stone, tools, implements, coins, inscriptions, monuments and sculptures.

7.2.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCES

7.2.1.1 Coins: During British period many small principalities were scattered all over the region; none of them was interested in their heritage of the past. The history of state lies in Numismatics but no attempt was made to collect ancient coins or gather any kind of information. The Bhuri Singh Museum established in 1908 too remained indifferent towards numismatics. Only few coins of no consequence reached this museum. People melted the coins for their metal use. However some consciousness towards the collection of coins was awakened during the formation of Himachal Pradesh. With the establishment of Himachal State Museum Shimla in 1973-74 the coins attracted the attention of its curator Dr. V.C. Ohri. It was the time when both the museums at Shimla and Chamba started collecting coins. Today these museums have coins pertaining to the anicent tribal kingdoms of Trigarta, Adumbara, Kulutas and Kunindas dates back to 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD.
7.2.1.2 Inscriptions: The inscriptions available at Bhuri Singh Museum Chamba through light on early socio-economic and political history of state. Such inscriptions are found in Pathyar and Kanihara in Kangra district, Soopur from Hillock cave inscriptions of Hatkoti in Shimla district and Salanu near Manglore in Mandi district. The Nirmand copper plate of 7th century AD issued by Samudrasena is important historical document to note. The large no. of stone inscriptions viz., Rock inscriptions, Fountain inscriptions, Slab inscriptions and Sati stone inscriptions have been found (Blokhra, 2015). These are have been written in various scripts such as Sharda, Kharoshti, Brahm, Tankri, Kutilya, Nagari, Sankha, Bhotia or Tibetan and Sidhmatrika. These inscriptions may be classified broadly into Commemorative, Donative and Dedicated. Chamba is known for highest number of in scripts which have 36 to its account written in Sharda and Tankri Script available at Bhuri Singh Museum Chamba.

7.2.1.3 Fossils: Fossils are among the most valuable sources of information about the Earth’s history. They tell us about the organisms that lived on Earth from the time of the oldest fossils, about 3.8 billion years ago, to the present. Fossils reveal many fascinating facts about the past, but they do a lot more. Study of fossils has led to important new understanding about how life evolved on earth and about diseases, both ancient and modern. Fossils also help us understand past climates, including ice ages and periods that were warmer than our present climate. Knowledge from the study of fossils is helping geoscientists understand global warming and its effects. In the recent years geological structures, peculiar rocks that preserve plants and animal remains as paleontological sites coupled with those containing ancient archaeological relics of past human activities revealing human natural history has attracted the whole world (Sankhyan, 2013). Fossils have been found in Himachal Pradesh in whole Shivalic range, Haritlyangar Ghumarwin area, Langza village in Lahaul Spiti including some other places. In the Shivalik hills and interiors no systematic excavation has been made to excavate the historical sites. However, excavations have been made (Blokhra, 2009) in Guler, Dhaliara, Dehra, Masrur, Jwalmukhi, Dehra-Gopipur and Nurpur (all in Kangra district). Some other prospective sites are- Balh valley, Salanu near Manglore, Nawahi near Sarkaghat, Binaul in Siwa-Badar and Kao-mamel in Mandi district, Nirath, Dattanagar, Sohli, Sarahan, Nirmand, Hatkoti, Kamru, Sungra, Kothi, Chitkul, Kullu, Mandi, Naggar, Bajaura, Jagatsukh, Hari-Talyangar, Dashal and Khokan.
7.2.2 LITERARY SOURCES:

7.2.2.1 Persian Source: Many Persian chronicles speaks about Turkish penetration into the Shivalik Hills (Blokhra, 1999), for example Tarikh-i-Yamini or Kitabul-Yamini (11020 A.D.), ‘Habibus Siyar’ by Khawand Mir (1523 A.D.), Tarikh-i-Farishtha or Gulshan-i-Ibrahim by Farishta. The two contemporary chronicles namely the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri and Tarikh-i-Feruz Shai often mention about the rebels finding shelter in the lower parts of Himachal Pradesh. Also qusaid-i-Badr-i-Chach gives some verses of penetration of the Turkish forces in the kangra hills. Barani and Afif also made reference towards the siege and conquest of fort of Nagarkot by Sultan Feroz-Shah Tughlaq in their writings in Tarikh-i-Feruz Shahi. Other Persian sources of literature include Jahangir’s ‘Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri’ and Shahnwarz Khan’s ‘Muasir-ul-umra, Akabar Nama and Ain-i- Akbari by Abul Fazal, Munrakhab-ul-Twarikh by Abdul Qadir Badauni as well as autobiography of emperor Jahangir, the ‘ Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri. The autobiography of Mangol invader Amir Thakur (1369-1414 A.D.), the ‘Tezuk-i-Timuri’ refers to king Rattan Sen of Shivalik Hills. All of these are the important source of information related to Muslim period of Indian history.

7.2.2.2 Sanskrit Literature: The famous among Sanskrit books are the four Vedas – Rig Veda, Sam Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda. Rig Veda through light on various tribes of Himalyan foothills about 1800 B.C. Beside this, Puranas, Brahmins, Aranyakas, Ramayana and Mahabharata also have references about the Himalayan region in general. Among the secular Sanskrit literature Panini’s ‘Ashtadhyayi, Kalidasa’s ‘Raghuvarsam, Vishakhadutta’s ‘Devichandra Guptam’ and Kalhan’s ‘Rajtarangini are very useful work and source of information

7.2.2.3 Khalsa Literature: Major portion of Present Himachal Pradesh was under Punjab Hill states. Therefore sufficient information is present in Sikh historical and religious literature. The Adi Granth- ‘Guru Granth Sahib’, holy script of Sikhs-Bachitra Natak of Guru Gobind Singh, The ‘Janam Sakhis’ (biographies) of Sikh Gurus, ‘Gur Sobha’ of Sena Pat, ‘Gur Bila’ of Bhai Sukha Singh and Mohsin Fani’s ‘Dabistan-i-Mazahib’ all are important sources of information and describes penetration of Sikh religion in Himalayan foothills. The Himalaya has been the attraction to Sikh Gurus as mentioned in various books during 16th to 19th century
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Although British has come to India in 16th centuary but their influence in Himachal was felt after the Anglo-Gorkha war in 1814-1815. They defeated Gorkhas and under the treaty of Sangrauli annexed parts of present day Himachal east of the river Satluj. In 1846 British took the Kullu valley from Sikhs bringing the entire state under British Rule. They did several changes in the region like: introduction of cash crops (tea, fruits, potatoes), improved transportation and communication and establishment of Hill stations

7.2.2.4 Travelogues: Himalaya has always been inspiring people from all over the world. HP being the western Himalyan state has been explored by various ancient travellers. Among those, Hieun Tsang – the Chinese traveller left the reliable historical references about the Himalayan States who visited India in 630 A.D. and remained here till 648 A.D. He mentioned Kaluta, Jalandhara and Shrughna States. William Fich and Thomas Coryat were probably the 1st European traveller those visited the state in 1615 specially Nagarkot and Jwalmukhi during the time of Aurangzeb. Foster, a civil officer in East India company followed them in 1783. He travelled through the outer hills from Nahan to Jammu via Bilaspur, Haripur and Nurpur. James Baillie Frazer was the first European traveller who deeply travelled the hills after Anglo- Gorkha war in 1815. He started his journey from Dehli and reached Nahan with British Army. He travelled with the British troops from Nahan Jubbal, Rohru, Narkanda, Kumarsain and Satluj river. Alexander Gerard was the another important traveller during 1821. He started his journey from Sabbathu in June 1821 travelled across Pabbar river and Sangla valley of Kinnaur district and ended at Kotgarh in September 1821. He explored the bordered villages of Himachal with Tibetan boarder, He described Bhonda festival (a rope sliding ceremony). Thomas Thomson along with captain Henery and Major Cunningham of Bengal state started their journey from Shimla to explore the Himalayas and Tibetan Boarder in August 1847. However the credit to become the 1st English men to see the Kullu valley goes to the Moorcroft and Trebeck those reached central Asia via Knagra, Kullu and Lhaul. The account of these travellers highlights the information about politics, culture, economy and religion. This account significantly contributes to the geographical positioning, biological diversity and tourism history of the state.

7.2.2.5 Vamshavalis (Genealogical rolls): These rolls were prepared by Rajgurus or Kul purohits includes name of the ruler with tenure and activities performed. Some of
them have doubtful description but most of them are acknowledged for their accuracy. These are based on strong astrological estimates as per religion. In 2011, Himachal Pradesh Language, Art and Culture academy found 600 year old manuscript in Spitti valley. It is written in Bhoti language and deals with Ayurvedic system of medicine. Another manuscript written in golden words was found in Tholag village of Lahaul Valley.

As stated by Puranas, Himachal is the Jalandhara Khand of the Himalayas. The Himalaya is those tallest mountain range in the reality and seemingly home to the most dangerous too. Himachal takes its name from himalayas. Himachal truly implies “Land of snowy Mountains”. Etymologically, Himachal Pradesh (Hill State) stands for the region which lies in the slopes and foot-hills of snow i.e. The Himalayas (ASI). The Himalaya is a magic territory of the nature where the dignity of the world's highest mountains is reflected in the rugged beauty and distinctive culture of the people who live in their shadow.

7.3 THE HIMALAYAN SCENARIO- A BRIEF BACKGROUND:

Among the world’s mountain areas, Asia covers the largest, highest, and most populated mountain systems. The Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu-Kush range of mountains extend from Namcha Barwa in the east to the borders of Afghanistan in the west. This mountain system in Asia, comprising a series of parallel and converging ranges and forming the highest mountain region in the world.

The immense mountain range began to form between 40 and 50 million years ago, when two large landmasses, India and Eurasia, driven by plate movement, collided. (Kious & Tilling,1996). Himachal Pradesh, being a Himalayan State is a small world
in itself which is accessible through the plains of Punjab, or Shiwalik hills or through hills of Shimla. Himachal Pradesh forms an important segment of the Himalaya and has been the focus of study for over centuries. Himalayas, the great mountain system, youngest among the mountain system in India extends almost 2,500 Km., from North-West to South-East and width of Himalayas is between 250 to 300 Km. Himalaya, the ‘abode of snow’ and the ‘largest physical mass on earth’, is home to a geological, geographical, biological diversity and a multitude of human concerns and constructs from hunting, gathering communities to agrarian societies to the economies of modern trade and industry. According to Environment Information System (ENVIS) of government of India, the IHR (Indian Himalaya region) covers an area about 5 lakh km2 (about 16.2% of country’s total geographical area) and forms the northern boundary of the country.

Figure 7.3.1 B Himalayan system of India

The traditional definition of the Himalaya, “sensu stricto”, is that great range of mountains that separates India, along its north-central and north-eastern frontier, from China (Tibet), and extends between latitudes 26o20’ and 35o40’ North, and between longitudes 74o50’ and 95o40’ East (Verma, 2015). The IHR is spreading on 10 states (administrative regions) namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand,
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Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and hill regions of 2 states viz. Assam and West Bengal of Indian Republic (Sidhu et al. 2014).

Starting from foot-hills in the south (Siwaliks) the region extends to Tibetan plateau in the north (trans-Himalaya) comprising about 95 districts of the country. The region occupies the strategic position of entire northern boundary (North-West to North-East) of the nation and touches almost all the international borders (7 countries) with India. The IHR shows a thin and dispersed human population as compared to the national figures due to its physiographic condition and poor infrastructure development but the growth rate is much higher than the national average.

7.3.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH IN HIMALAYA

Himalaya has been divided into three zones named: Western Himalayas (Jammu-Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh), Central Himalayas (Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh) and Eastern Himalayas (Sangria Range and Brahmaputra Watershed).

Figure 7.3.1 Map of Study Area

Source:  http://cyberjournalist.org.in/india.html

There are marked differences between these zones in respect of climate, topography and vegetation. Himachal Pradesh extends from the latitudes 30°22’40” North to 33°12’40” North and longitudes 75°45’ 55” East to 79°04’ 20” East. Located in the northern part of India, the state stands bordered by Punjab in the west, Uttar Pradesh...
in the southeast, China in the east, Haryana in the southeast and Jammu and Kashmir in the north. The entire state of Himachal has a hilly and rugged terrain, with the altitude ranging from 350 meters to 7000 meters above sea level. Furthermore, Himachal can be divided into three zones: The outer Himalayas, The inner Himalayas and The greater Himalayas

7.3.2 The outer Himalayas

The altitude of outer Himalayas zone ranges from 350 meters (1050 feet) to 1500 meters (4500 feet) above mean sea level (MSL). This range of outer/lower Himalayas is well known as 'Shivalik Hills' in today’s era and ‘Manak Parbat’ in ancient times. Shivalik literally means 'tresses of the Shiva'. It covers the lower hills of district Kangra, Hamirpur, Una, Bilaspur and lower parts of Mandi, Solan and Sirmaur districts. The famous places in this zone are Paonta valley, Nahan tehsil, Pachhad and Renuka tehsils of Sirmaur districts, Balh valley and Jogindernagar area of Mandi district, Kangra, Dharamshala, Palampur and Dehra of district Kangra, Dalhousie, Bhattiyat, Churah and Chamba tehsil of Chamba district. The annual rainfall in this zone varies from 1500 mm to 1800 mm. The climate and soil of this zone is suitable for the cultivation of maize, wheat, sugarcane, ginger, citrus fruits and table potatoes.

7.3.3 The Inner Himalayas

The altitude of Inner Himalayas zone varies from 1500 meters (4500 feet) to 4500 meters (13,500 feet) above MSL. The Himalayas in this zone show a gradual elevation towards the Dhauladhar or White Peak and Pir Panjal Ranges. Areas in this zone are tehsil Pachad (upper areas), District Sirmour, Karsog and Chachiote tehsils of Mandi district, the upper areas of district Kangra and Palampur tehsil of Kangra district, upper hills of District Shimla (capital of Himachal Pradesh) and upper parts of tehsil Churah of Chamba district. There is a very high peak of Choordhar (3,647 meters or 10,941 feet) to the south of Shimla. The positional rise of the Himalayas is constant to the North of Satluj river. The longitudinal valleys in Himachal Pradesh divide the series of parallel ranges but there is also an exception as the Kullu valley runs transverse to the main alignment. The Himalayas continue to rise from plain areas to the Hilly areas. The climate and soil in this zone is suitable to temperature fruits and seed potatoes. Dhauladhar branch of the great Himalayas starts from the near Badrinath (in U.P.) and it is intercepted by the river Satluj at Rampur-Bushahar, by the river Beas at Larji and by the river Ravi at the south-west of Chamba. In
Bara-Banghal, the northern side of Dhauladhar strikes against the southern side of the Pir-Panjal range at twisty mountain of Bara-Banghal. In Dhauladhar range fall the breathtakingly beautiful landscapes. Dhauladhar is like a sweet twist of the great Himalayas. There is a sudden rise in Dhauladhar mountains of 3,600 meters or 10,800 feet above the Kangra valley. Pir-Panjal is the largest range of the lower Himalayas and it separates itself from the Himalayas near the bank of Satluj river, so it makes a water-divide between the rivers Beas and Ravi on the one side and the river Chenab on the other side. Pir-Panjal range makes a turn towards the Dhauladhar range near Bara-Banghal that is the source of the river Ravi.

7.3.4 The Greater Himalayas

The altitude of Greater Himalayas zone ranges from 4500 meters (13,500 feet) to the highest points of the great Himalayas in different areas. The Satluj river divides it and separates the Spiti’s (Lahaul-Spiti district) drainage from Beas. Area in this zone are district Kinnaur, tehsil Pangi of Chamba district and some areas of Lahaul and Spiti. The normal rainfall in this zone is low but snowfall is heavy. The climate in this zone is not cold in summer and of semi-arctic nature in winter. The soil is thick and supports variable fertility. The climate in this zone is very suitable for cultivation of dry fruits. Snowfall in this zone starts in the mid of October-November to March-April. Snowfall is so heavy and geographical conditions are so odd that during the period of snowfall, the whole region remains cut off from the rest of the world. Loss of not having any kind of underground tunnel is clearly visible. During the period of snowfall in this zone, the quality of life suffers and life looks very isolated. The famous Zanskar Range is also found in this part of the Himalayas which is Eastern most range. This range acts like a big wall by separating Spity and Kinnaur from Tibet. Zanskar Range has a number of very high peak points rising over 6,500 meters (19,500 feet). The highest among its peaks is Shilla which is 7,025 meters (21,075 feet) high. The second one is Riwo-Phargyul which is 6,791 meters (20,373 feet) high.

7.4 Tourism Development in Himachal Pradesh:

Tourism received recognition in the State when the British established their chain of hill stations and declared Shimla “The Summer Capital of India” in 1864. The biggest boost to tourism occurred in the mid-80s and 90s. Traditionally Himachal was known as a summer destination but with the efforts of state government today Himachal is
known as a destination of all seasons and all reasons. A Special emphasis on the development of activity-based tourism and opening up of new sub destinations has helped the tourism department to break the seasonality factor and develop a diversified tourism product. Infrastructure is being developed within available resources to promote tourism in the countryside and to unexplored areas. The major focus of tourism department is on quality tourists, sustainable tourism development and encouraging private sector to develop tourism related infrastructure without disturbing the existing ecology and environment.

In HP, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa and Kerala tourism was much more consistently incorporated into state (five year) plans than in other states, even relatively early on - in the 1970s. At that time, these states already attracted a relatively large share of India's international tourists and were to become India's main tourist states and 'models for tourism development' (Singh, 2001). Still, even in these states, tourism was largely left to the private sector and to a comparatively unrestricted market. While there have been slight modifications in policy, this basic condition hasn't changed much until the present day.

The active participation of government for tourism development in Himachal Pradesh dates back to 1955, when the tourist information centre of Government of India was established in Shimla which was the head quarter of Himachal Pradesh union territory. Similar information centres were established at Bilaspur, Mandi, Chamba and Nahan. During 1958-59 the golf club at Naldehra and sports club at kufri were also established. At the beginning of the 1st five year plan Deputy Director headed the tourism cell under Public Relation department.

In 1972 HPTDC (Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation) was formed by converting the part of directorate of tourism to a limited company. During 1985 the activities of civil aviation were also brought under Department of Tourism and tourism was declared as an Industry in 1987(Jreat, 2004). From the five year plan outlay for tourism, it is strange to note that there was no mention of tourism in the 1st five year plan and there is no large scale public sector investments in the tourism industry refer table no.7.4.

Himachal Pradesh has come all the way long way since those times. It has certainly seen a quantity of full-grown governments. After India attained Independence in the
year 1947, Himachal Pradesh was formed as a Chief Commissioner's Province in Indian Union in the year 1948. The province was formed by the several Hill districts situated around Shimla and some of the Hilly regions of Punjab State. Then it was converted into a part C state on 26 January 1950, with the formation of Indian constitution and emerging as a Sovereign, Socialist Republic on 26th Jan 1950.

The region was further converted into a Union Territory on 1st November 1956. This was followed by passing of an Act for the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a state in Indian Union on 18th December 1970.

Finally on 25 January 1971 it emerged as the 18th state in the Indian Union with Shimla as its capital.

Table 7.4. H.P. State Plan Outlay for Tourism (in Lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plans</th>
<th>Tourism Allocation</th>
<th>Total Public Sector Outlay</th>
<th>% share of tourism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Plan (1951-56)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>527.25</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Plan (1956-61)</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>1,602.00</td>
<td>0.13</td>
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<td>3rd Plan (1961-66)</td>
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<td>0.35</td>
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<td>Annual Plan (1966-69)</td>
<td>12.52</td>
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<td>0.31</td>
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<td>4th Plan (1969-74)</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
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<td>6th Plan (1979-83)</td>
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<td>7th Plan (1985-90)</td>
<td>800.00</td>
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<td>9th Plan (1997-2002)</td>
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<td>10th Plan (2002- 2007)</td>
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<td>11th Plan (2007- 2012)</td>
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</table>


Being a hill State, Himachal Pradesh is endowed with rich eco-system and cultural heritage. It has a rich and varied history which can be divided into several distinct eras. The history of Himachal Pradesh dates back to the time when human civilization began. Himachal Pradesh, as the name suggests, is situated in the western
Himalayas is a recent creation, but history of the land comprised in it goes back to remote. Some of the ruling dynasties now extinct, claim ancestry from the heroes of the great epic ‘Mahabharata’ and even to pre Mahabharata age. The state was the prominent trade route for numerous travellers due to the presence of many passes in mountains. Large parts of northern regions of the state were under Tibet during the tenth century. This has made the Buddhist culture to develop in the state, which is still found in areas like Lahaul, Mcleodganj and Spiti. The other areas in southern region were dominated by Ranas, Thakurs and Raja clans. This made the state to be divided into smaller regions under different rulers. The divisions resulted in different regions like Chamba, Kangra and Kullu. However, in early 19th century, the state was conquered by Sikh kings after a treaty was signed with the British rulers. The state is inhabited by several Aryan tribes till date; the best example is the Kinnauris of eastern Himachal who follow mixed traditions of both Buddhism and Hinduism.

**7.4.1 Pre and proto History**

About 2 million years ago man lived in the foothills of Himachal Pradesh, in the Bangana valley of Kangra, Sirsa valley of Nalagarh and Markanda valley of Sirmour (Balokhra, 2009). The foothills of the state were inhabited by people from Indus valley civilization which flourished between 2250 and 1750 B.C. People of Indus valley civilization pushed the original inhabitants of Ganga plains who were known as Kolorian people towards north. They moved to the hills of Himachal Pradesh where they could live peacefully and preserve their way of life. In the Vedas they have been referred to as Dasas, Dasyus and Nishadas while in later works they have been called Kinnars, Nagas and Yakshas. The Kols or Mundas are believed to be the original migrants to the hills of present day Himachal. The second phase of migrants came in the form of Mongoloid people known as Bhotas and Kiratas. Later on came the third and most important wave of migrants in the form of the Aryans who left their Central Asian home. These laid the base of history and culture of Himachal Pradesh.

**7.4.2 Early History**

According to the Mahabharta the tract which forms the present day Himachal Pradesh was made up of number of small republics known as Janpadas each of which constituted both a state and cultural unit.
Audumbras: The were the most prominent ancient tribes of Himachal who lived in the lower hills between Pathankot and Jwalamukhi. They formed a separate state in 2 B.C.

Trigarta: The state lay in the foothills drained by three rivers, i.e. Ravi, Beas and Satluj and hence the name. It is believed to have been an independent republic.

Kuluta: The kingdom of Kilita was situated in the upper Beas valley which is also known as the Kully valley. Its capital was Naggar.

Kulindas: This kingdom covered the area lying between the Beas, Satluj and Yamuna rivers, i.e. the Shimla and Sirmour hills. Their administration resembled a republic with members of a central assembly sharing the powers of the king.

Gupta Empire: Chandragupta slowly subdued most of the republics of Himachal by show of strength or use of force though he usually did not rule them directly. Ashoka, the grandson of Chandragupta extended his boundaries to the Himalayan region. He introduced Buddhism to this tract. He built many stupas one of which is in the Kullu valley.

Harsha: After the collapse of Gupta empire and before the rise of Harsha, this area was again ruled by petty chiefs known as Thakurs and Ranas. With the rise of Harsha in the early 7th century, most of these small states acknowledged his overall supremacy though many local powers remained with the petty chiefs.

Rajput Period: A few decades after Harsha’s death (647 A.D.) many Rajput states ascended in Rajsthan and Indus plains. They fought amongst themselves and the vanquished moved to the hills with their followers, where they set up small states or principalities. These states were Kangra, Nurpur, Suket, Mandi, Kutlehar, Baghal, Bilaspur, Nalagarh, Keonthal, Dhami, Kunihar, Bushahar, Sirmour.

Mughal Rule: The small hill kingdom enjoyed a large degree of independence till the eve of Muslim invasions in northern India. States of the foothills were devastated by Muslim invaders from time to time. Mahmud Ghaznavi conquered Kangra at the begining of the 10th century. Timur and Sikander Lodi also marched through the lower hills and captured several forts and fought many battles. Later on as the Mughal dynasty began to break up; the rulers of the hill states took full advantage. The Katoch rulers of Kangra availed of this opportunity and Kangra regained independence status under Maharaja Sansar Chand who ruled for nearly half a centuary. He was one of the ablest administrators of the region. After he took formal possession of Kangra fort, Sansar Chand began to expand his territory. The states of
Chamba, Suket, Mandi, Bilaspur, Guler, Jaswan, Siwan and Datapur came under the direct or indirect control of Sansar Chand.

**Gorkha & Sikh War:** The Gorkhas, a martial tribe came to power in Nepal in the year 1768. They consolidated their military power and began to expand their territory. Gradually the Gorkhas annexed Sirmour and Shimla hill states. With the leadership of Amar Singh Thapa, Gorkhas laid siege to Kangra. They managed to defeat Sansar Chand, the ruler of Kangra, in 1806 with the help of many hill chiefs. However Gorkhas could not capture Kangra fort which came under Maharaja Ranjeet Singh in 1809. After this defeat the Gorkhas began to expand towards south. This resulted in the Anglo-Gorkha war.

They came into direct conflict with the English along the tarai belt after which the English expelled them from the hill states east of the Satluj. Thus British slowly emerged as the paramount powers in this tract. After the Anglo-Gorkha war the common border of the British domain and Punjab became very sensitive. Both the Sikh and English wanted to avoid a direct conflict, but after the death of Ranjit Singh, the Khalsa army fought a number of wars with the British. In 1845 when the Sikhs invaded the British territory by crossing the Satluj, the rulers of many hill states sided with the English as they were looking for an opportunity to settle scores with the former. Many of these rulers entered into secret communication with the English. After the first Anglo-Sikh war, the British did not restore the hill territory vacated by Sikhs to their original owners.

**Revolt of 1857:** The revolt or first Indian war of independence resulted due to the building up of political, social, economic, religious and military grievances against the British. People of the hill states were not politically alive as the people in other parts of the country. They remained more or less aloof and so did their rulers with the exception of Bushahr. Some of them even rendered help to the Britishers during the revolt. Among them were the rulers of Chamba, Bilaspur, Bhagal and Dhami. The rulers of Bushars acted in a manner hostile to the interests of British. However it is not clear whether they actually aided the rebels or not.

**British Rule:** 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 the first World War, 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, Siba, Nurpur, Chamba, Suket, Mandi and Bilaspur.

**Freedom Struggle:** The people of the hill also participated in the freedom struggle. The highlights of the freedom movement in this tract are listed below:

- Praja Mandal launched agitations against the British yoke in areas under direct British Rule.
- In other princely states agitations were launched for social and political reforms. However these were directed more against the princes than against the British and as such were mere extensions of freedom movement.
- The Mandi conspiracy was carried out in 1914-15 under the influence of the Gadhr party. Meetings were held in Mandi and Suket states in December 1914 and January 1915 and it was decided to murder the Superintendent and Wazir of Mandi and Suket, to loot the treasury, blow up the bridge over Beas river. However conspirators were caught and sentenced to long terms in prison.
- The Pajhota agitation in which the people of a part of Sirmour state revolted is regarded as an extension of the Quit India Movement of 1942.
- Important freedom fighters of this state during this period included Dr. Y.S. Parmar, Padam Dev, Shivanand Ramaul, Purnanand, Satya Dev, Sada Ram Chandel, Daulat Ram, Thakur Hazara Singh and Pahari Gandhi Baba Kanshi Ram.
- The Congress party was also active in the freedom movement in the hill state particularly in Kangra.

**7.4.3 Post-Independence Period:**

The history of present day Himachal Pradesh in the post-independence era has been outlined below:

- The Chief Commissioner’s province of H.P. came into being on 15th April, 1948.
- H.P. became a part C state on 26th January, 1950 with the implementation of the Constitution of India.
- Bilaspur was merged with Himachal Pradesh on 1st July, 1954.
- Himachal Pradesh became Union Territory on 1st November, 1956.
Kangra and most of the other hill areas of Punjab were merged with H.P. on 1st November, 1966 though its status remained that of a Union Territory.

On 18th December, 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and the new state came into being on 25th January, 1971. Thus H.P. emerged as the eighteenth state of Indian Union.

25th January 1971 – Himachal Pradesh becomes the 18th state of the Indian Union.

7.5 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM POLICY FRAMEWORK IN HP

As per recent estimates, 20% of the tourists travel to the mountain areas in the world and it is increasing rapidly (PHDC-MoT report, 2014). Himachal Pradesh being a hilly state has strategic geographical position in Himalaya and It has focused on its assets and has developed tourism products which are: Nature Based Tourism, Pilgrimage Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Eco Tourism and Rural Tourism. Along with aggressive tourism campaigning the state government is developing three new airports at Ranital, Nadong and Kandaghat (PHD chamber knowledge report, 2014). The state is also looking out for private investors to develop tourism projects. State government has visualized the tourism as multidimensional industry which has major implications on the economic development. As it do not only promotes tourism but at the same time preserve cultural values and heritage. A comprehensive tourism policy was formulated in 1991 which is the baseline for the current policy. It seeks to promote tourism to increase the income, bring employment opportunities, correct regional imbalances and preserving cultural heritage of the state. In the year 2000 state government announced new tourism policy to crate prosperity for people of Himachal Pradesh. This policy was aimed at the objectives viz. to promote economically, culturally and ecologically sustainable tourism in state:, to promote responsible tourism:, to use tourism as employment provider:, to increase private sector participation:, to develop activity based tourism to increase the length of tourist stay, to develop adventure tourism and religious tourism, to develop time share concept of tourism. This policy tried to break down the seasonality factor after diversifying the tourism product and dispersed tourism to the rural areas. It stressed on improvement of sanitation standards, accessibility and other facilities at tourist
Heritage Tourism and Its Determinants: An Empirical Study in Himachal Pradesh

This Policy further stressed the plan of action in five key area viz. Basic Infrastructure, Tourism Specific Infrastructure, Entertainment Infrastructure, Accommodation, Transport and Catering, and policy legislations. Till 19th century, Tourism in Himachal Pradesh was restricted only to a limited movement of pilgrims to a few spiritual destinations in around the hills. Only when the British established their chain of hill stations did tourism receive recognition in the State. Tourism activity received a shot in the arm when British declared Shimla “The Summer Capital of India” in 1864. Post-independence, more investment in the infrastructure sector led to opening up of Tourism in the State. However the biggest boost to tourism occurred in the mid-80s and 90s. The State is divided into 12 districts, 75 tehsils, 52 subdivisions, 75 blocks and almost more than 20000 villages and 57 towns. Being a post-Independence creation, the legislative assembly of Himachal Pradesh doesn’t have any pre-constitution. However, the unicameral legislature of the state has 68 seats with almost 14 house committee at the assembly. It has 4 Lok Sabha constituencies and for Rajya Sabha, there are 3 constituencies. Among political parties, only the Indian National Congress (INC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have alternately been able to establish their respective governments in Himachal Pradesh. Like all other Indian states, the Chief Minister has the ultimate powers in the state, and controls all the major operations of the government. Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) is a pioneer in the development of tourism infrastructure in Himachal. Having the largest chain of finest hotels and restaurants in the State with nearly 57 hotels, having 950 rooms and 2050 beds. HPTDC also runs 62 restaurants and cefes, serving a varied cuisine, including Himachali delicacies. All these properties are set in superb locations in the lap of nature. Its luxurious transport network makes this mountain State easily accessible with a fleet of coaches, vans and jeeps. The HPTDC arranges sports activities like skiing, para-gliding, river-rafting, trekking, ice-skating and golf. Besides camping and tenting facilities in far flung tribal areas. Tourist information centres are being run all over India and Himachal by HPTDC. Besides disseminating information's, they provide reservation, accommodation and transport facilities. HPTDC also carrying out promotional activities on behalf of the State Government by opening and developing unexplored areas of Himachal, including the tribal belt.
Table 7.5  Total Tourist Arrival In Himachal Pradesh (2005 to 2014)

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<th>Indian Tourist</th>
<th>Foreign Tourist</th>
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</thead>
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<td>389699</td>
<td>16314400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14715586</td>
<td>414249</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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</table>

Source: www.hptdc.nic.in/

7.5.1 Tourism Circuits in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation has identified and divided the State into four interesting circuits as shown in figure below. These circuits pass through different terrains making one feel as if one is trekking through ages at different times.

1. **Beas Circuit**: The Beas river, with its clear water gurgles and sloshes through the famous tourist destination, Manali. One sees well-defined snow capped peaks, deodar and pine trees, tiny alpine fields, rocky slopes amid grassy meadows carpeted with wild flowers and fruit orchards across Kullu Valley.

2. **Dhaulandhar Circuit**: Also known as the Outer Himalaya, Dhaulandhar range begins from near Dalhousie of Himachal and extends as a necklace through the state near the bank of the beas river in the Kullu before ending near Badrinath. Its distinctive profile is best seen from Kangra valley as it seem to shoot up vertically.

3. **Satluj Circuit**: starts from the foot hills of Shivalik Mountains, the southernmost and geologically youngest foothills, and extends towards the higher hills. The stone and apple fruit orchards, pine forests, deodars, majestic
mountains, snow covered ski slopes and the furious Satluj river make this region a must see for visitors.

4. **Tribal Circuit:** The cold mountains, mighty glaciers, icy frozen lakes, high passes, snow-capped peaks, spectacular monasteries, lamas and yaks – this region is marked by rich cultural traditions. The breath taking adventurous terrain remains the prime destination for all nature and adventure lovers all over the world.

**Figure 7.6.1 Tourism Circuits in Himachal Pradesh**

![Image of Tourism Circuits in Himachal Pradesh](http://hptdc.nic.in/circuit.htm)

**Source:** http://hptdc.nic.in/circuit.htm

### 7.6 HERITAGE RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

The state tourism administration has broadly classified the heritage of Himachal Pradesh in two types: Architectural Heritage: (Museums, Fossil parks, War memorial, Forts, palaces, cassettes, residences and world heritage sites) and Ethnic Heritage: (Art, Attire, fairs & festivals, songs & dances.)
7.6.1 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH:

7.6.1.1 Museums: The museum remains opened from 10AM – 1:30 PM and again from 2 PM – 5 PM on all days of the week except Mondays. The museum remains closed on 2nd Saturday of every month and on the public holidays. The main museums of the state are as described below;

Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba: It was formally opened on 14-09-1908, it is named after Raja Bhuri Singh who ruled Chamba from 1904 to 1919. It has old inscriptions collection in Sarda script shed important light on the mediaeval history of Chamba. The parasites of Sarahan, Devi-ri-kothi and mul Kihar are preserved I the museum. Paintings of Bhagwat Purana and Ramayana are in peculiar style are inspired by Basohli idiom of painting whereas Krishna, Sudama, RuKmini vivah and Usha-Anirudh and portraits in prime Guler-Kangra style. The embroidered Chamba-Rumals are related in style since their drawings were made by pahari painters

State Museum Shimla: It was established in 1974, in a house called 'Inverarm' at Chaura Maidan Shimla. It has a rich display of the state's cultural, artistic and archaeological heritage, ancient historical sculptors and paintings of Himachal Pradesh. It has numerous miniature paintings of Pahari style and many anthropological items. Beautifully carved sculptures made of stones, bronze statues, weapons of yesteryear and varieties of dolls make the collection of this museum very attractive to the visitors. Bronze idols that are exhibited here have been collected from various temples of the Himalayan Region. Many oil paintings and masks of deities from various parts of Himachal Pradesh are also kept here. There is a separate room dedicated to our “Father of the Nation” Mahatma Gandhi ji. The library of this state museum houses many historical books and ancient manuscripts.

Army Heritage Museum, Annandale, Shimla: It has numerous types of collectibles associated with Indian Army. Visitors of this heritage museum feel motivated when they get to know about the great leaders of pre-independence and post-independence era of India. This is a good place to know about development and evolution of weapons and arms in one of the sections of this museum located in Shimla.

Divine Himalayan Art & Craft Museum, Mundaghat, Shimla: This museum is situated at Mundaghat, 07 Km from Kufri, district Shimla. The museum is in 2000 square feet area and contains rare drift wood pieces, fungus items, Mushroom items,
natural material of earth, traditional and other things of 100 to 200 years old from Himachal Pradesh.

**Baba Bhalku Museum, Shimla:** It is an exclusive rail museum and has been established in the memory of Sage Bhalku, a local sage of Shimla. He had helped the engineers in finding out the right alignment of railway line between Shimla and Kalka which is now (UNESCO heritage site) during its construction. This museum is located near old Inter State Bus Terminus of Shimla.

**Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS), Shimla:** IIAS is housed in the former Visceral Lodge. Built in 1988 this is a spectacular English renaissance-inspired grey-stone structure with superb Burma teak woodwork on the interiors. It is surrounded by magnificent grounds and also has a small museum.

**Rashtrapati Niwas, Shimla:** It is a palatial building built near Summer Hill. Outside, it has sprawling lawns, a well laid out garden, ancient trees and exotic flowers, inside it has wooden paneling with Burma teak. It is resplendent with India’s colonial history.

**Keylong Museum, Lahaul & Spiti:** Also known as the Tribal Museum, it has many items that depict the traditions of natives of Lahaul and Spiti Region. It was opened in 2008 by the Art & Culture Department of the State Government. It has rich collection of different types of masks used for dances, traditional dresses, stone utensils, hand woven carpets, items collected from different Gompas and different types of household items. It has very old Thangka Paintings., manuscripts written in Tankri and Bhoti scripts.

**Kangra Art Museum, Dharamshala, Kangra:** It was opened for the public in the year 1990. It has rich collection of craft works, dresses, art works and many other types of items. Visitors get to see many types of ancient manuscripts, coins, tents, sculptures, pottery items and jewelries of royal families. Many items kept in this museum are dated back to 5th Century AD. Museum library houses works of photographers, sculptors, and artists right from the past to the present. The famous Pahari Miniature paintings that are known for its vibrant color usage and impressive figures are also stored here. The colors used in these paintings are organic which are prepared from dried herbs and flowers.

**Losel Doll Museum, Dharamshala at Norbulinga Institute, Kangra:** This one-of-its-kinds museum has a collection of about 150 dolls that illustrate the culture and traditions of Himachal, Tibet and surrounding areas through their dresses and
appearances. The daily life, festivals and social practices of this region are also showcased through these dolls. These dolls were created by the monks living at Drepung Loseling Monastery. Visitors can buy replicas of these dolls as souvenirs. Losel Doll Museum is located about 33 KM away from Palampur in Dharamsala at Norbulingka Institute of Tibetan Culture.

**Uruswati Himalayan Folk & Art Museum, Naggar, Kullu:** It was established in 1928 by the wife of famous Russian Artist Nicholas Roerich. It has huge collection of many specimens of local arts and paintings of Nicholas Roerich and his students. The museum also has books and postcards about Nicholas Roerich which visitors can buy at the sales counter of the museum. The museum has wooden frames, famous quotations, crystal utensils and showpieces. Dolls, musical instruments, oil paintings, painted dishes etc. from Russia along with many idols of Hindu deities also make the collection of this museum very rich.

**Suketi Fossil Park, Nahan, Sirmaur:** Suketi Fossil Park displays life size fiberglass model of pre-historic animals whose fossil, skeletons were unearthed here. The park is first of its kind in Asia to be developed at the actual site where fossils were discovered.

**7.6.1.2 War Memorial:** The War Memorial is just at the entrance of Dharamsala and is surrounded by sprawling gardens and little paths. This Memorial was built to honour and remember those brave soldiers who sacrificed their life for the country in the Post-Independence Era. One can also find inscriptions of as far as 1046 stating important memorials. The panels of black marble have the names inscribed on it of those martyrs who lost their life guarding the motherland. The operations of 1947-48, 1962, 1965, and 1971 and in various peacekeeping missions saw many of the soldiers fighting bravely for their country and not returning home.

**7.6.1.3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** State is blessed with the presence of UNESCO recognised world heritage sites (WHS). Both of these are now centre of special interest tourism towards nature and human creativity.

**GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK:** Joining the league of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2014, the Great Himalayan National Park, with an area of 754 sq. Km. is located in Kullu District and has the representative area of temperate and alpine forests of Himachal. Vast areas of alpine pastures and glaciers cap this park.
The area has many important wildlife species of Western Himalayas, like Musk deer, Brown bear, Goral, Thar, Leopard, Snow leopard, Bharal, Serow, Monal, Kalij, Koklas, Cheer, Tragopan, Snow cock etc. Trekking of Rakti-Sar, origin of Sainj river and camping in alpine pastures is unforgettable. Similar is the trekking route to Tirath the origin of Tirthan river.

**KALKA- SHIMLA HERITAGE RAILWAY:** A 96-Km long, single track working rail link built in the mid-19th century. It has got itself in the list of world heritage sites in India by UNESCO. The Kalka–Shimla Railway is a 2 ft 6 in (762 mm) narrow gauge railway in North-West India travelling along a mostly mountainous route from Kalka to Shimla. It is known for dramatic views of the hills and surrounding villages. It was constructed by the Delhi-Ambala-Kalka Railway Company beginning in 1898. In 2007, the government of Himachal Pradesh declared the railway a heritage property. On 8 July 2008, the Kalka–Shimla Railway became part of the World Heritage Site Mountain Railways of India. It was built to connect Shimla, the summer capital of India during the British Raj, with the Indian rail system. Originally 107 tunnels were built on Kalka Shimla Railway Track and 102 remain in use. The longest tunnel is at Barog. The line has 864 bridges. The railway has a ruling gradient of 1 in 33 or 3%. It has 919 curves, the sharpest being 48 degrees (a radius of 37.47 m or 122.93 feet). Climbing from 656 meters (2,152 ft), the line terminates at an elevation of 2,076 meters (6,811 ft) at Shimla, a difference in height of 1,420 meters (4,660 ft). The line originally used 42 lb/yd (21 kg/m) rail but this was later relaid to 60 lb/yd (30 kg/m) rail.

7.6.2 ETHNIC OR CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH:

Numerous cultural streams have supplemented the art forms in Himachal Pradesh in the wake of several migrations. The isolation of its natives and avoidance of contact with outside world have blesses distinctiveness to its culture and social behaviour of its people. Himachal’s dance and music, art and architecture, myths and beliefs, observance and worship everything reflects unique culture here. Major religion is Hinduism. The early inhabitants of Himachal Pradesh professed some form of ‘Shaivism’ but it can’t be established conclusively whether Shiva worship was taken from ‘Moanjodro’ culture or was local origin (Balokhra, 2009). People have blind belief in the village deities beside faith in the traditional gods of Hindu pantheon.
People use to worship Shiva and Shakti. Beside Hinduism other religion are also being followed by natives. For example Buddhism has taken the shape of Lamaism here and is being practised in the boarder districts of lahaul and Spiti and kinnaur. There are two important Gurdwaras associated with 10nth of Sikh’s Guru Gobind Singh at Paunta Sahib and Rewalsor. The art of state has grown out of its cultural strains and religious views. It represents multifaceted reality of tough life style at hills. It seems that the art forms are the reaction of human being to the natural environment. Broadly art of Himachal Pradesh is the amalgam of three art groups as: Indigenous and Khasa art, Indo-Aryan art and Indo- Tibetan art (Mittoo, 1978). Its architecture, places of worship, wood carvings, stone sculpture, metal work, bronze and paintings have existed extensively perfect. The style of sculpture in Himachal Pradesh greatly inclined towards classical art of the late Gupta period and touches the Rajput art intermixed with local folk tradition (Mittoo, 1978)

7.6.2.1 Stone Work: the availability of stone has made the artist a stone carver the live examples of such art forms are carvings on door frames, pillars, arches and walls of various temples. There are so many fountain stones, especially in Chamba area with decorative carvings done very tactfully on them. Majority of sculpture found in the Pradesh are in stone. For example monolithic temple Masrur: Kangra, Vishnu and Lakshmi temple: Chamba, Bishweshwar temple: Kullu, Baijnath Temple: kangra, Bhootnath and Trilokinath temples: Mandi all are unique stone architectural wonders. Nagar, Jagat Sukh and Gaurishankar temple at Dashal have some outstanding sculptures of great dignity.

7.6.2.2 Wood Work: The blessings of nature on human being have provided him an opportunity to create his best in terms of most ancient art and architecture based on wood. As a result beautiful places of worship and houses with rich carvings scattered on hill valleys. Khasa style temples are usually built of wood and stone are either located in centre of villages or upper slopes whereas Pagoda architecture is a proof of Chinese influence. There are so many structures those have survived the impulses of weather and the effects of time. Most of wooden sculpture in classical style depict Puranic gods and goddesses carved on the ceilings, walls and doors are found in Lakhna Devi Temple: Bharmaur, Shikari Devi temple: Chatrari, Trilokinath: Lahaul and Spiti, and Hatkoti : Shimla.
7.6.2.3 **Metal Work**: the metal work was not influenced much by classical tradition. The local artists have created masks and images along with religious symbols of deities with bronze which adorn temples all over the state. Beside these artists have been making the silver parasols, staffs, temple utensils, impressive pieces of hill orchestra such as Karnal (the long pipe ending with flower shaped trumpet) and Ran Singha (the famous S shaped trumpet). For example, the Mahishamardini image of Hatkoti temple rank with the finest metal sculptures of the world. In Chamba district Bharmaur and Chatrari temples have some of the finest metal alloy (ashtadhatu) images. Lakhana devi, Shakti devi, Ganesha, narsingha and Nandi have been accomplished with an outstanding sense of art and craftsmanship.

7.6.2.4 **Cloth Art**: the art that appeared on cloth was mainly the talent of womenfolk who emulated the male skills with the brush and translated it into embroidery. The finest specimen of this art was presented by King Gopal Singh of Chamba to the British resident in 19th century. Now it is in Victoria and Albert museum, London. The another example of this art form is ‘Chamba Rumal’- a squared shaped piece of cloth commonly known as handkerchief or mini towel embroidered in two face (do rukha) technique. Beside religious subjects secular themes such as marriage ceremony, hunting, nayak-nayika bhed, other expressions are found on piece of cloth.

7.6.2.5 **Pahari Painting**: The themes of the Pahari paintings derived from seasonal activities were religious and social. Guler which was an offshoot of kangra state is considered to be the originator and promoter of most of the Kalams or styles of the Pahari painting. After Nadir Shah’s Invasion about A.D. 1740 the mass migration of the artists from the plains to hills started some of these refugee painters took employment with the king of Guler: Goverdhan Chand (A.D. 1744-73) who was a great art partron. Another incident of Pahari paining development lies in the history of King Sansar Chand of Kangra (A.D. 1775-1823) a visualizer of big Hindu hill state. The fulfledged development of kangra school of painting is said to have taken place at Sujanpur Tira where Sansar Chand commissioned the paintings from Bhagwat Purana, Gitagovinda, Mahabharta, Satsai etc. A parallel school of painting developed in Chamba under Guler and Basholi influences in 18th century. Broadly the Pahari paintings can be classified as: miniature painting, wall painting, and manuscript painting. Miniature painting include miniature which were drawn on stiff handmade paper and were executed on a prepared ground were kept in portfolios or in
bundles wrapped in cloth. Pahari miniatures are found in almost all the well-known museums of the world. Wall painting was practised in the places of the nobles or temples. Wall paintings from Rang Mehal: Chamba and Sultanpur Palace: Kullu have found place in National Museum, Delhi. Manuscript painting include various manuscripts, those were written and painted in 18th and 19th centuries in the courts of the hill chieftains. The most popular manuscripts were Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagvat Purana. The famous artwork of this Himalayan state is reflected from the antiquities and the masterpieces as below:

**Kangra School of Painting, Kangra:** The Kangra Painting art form, over the centuries, has come up with such masterpieces that too many reputed galleries around the world proudly have them on permanent display. This art form came into prominence after the fall of the Mughal Empire in Delhi, when many artists, left to fend for them, sought patronage from the hill of Rajas of the 18th century. The delicate miniature genre of the paintings, different from Rajasthan’s Rajput School of Painting, has popularly came to be known as the Pahari or Kangra School of Painting.

**Sobha Singh Art Gallery Kangra:** It has been established in a cottage that was owned by Sobha Singh, the renowned contemporary painter of Punjab. This art gallery has many works of this world famous artist. Many of his paintings are focused on the Sikh Gurus. Some other famous works preserved at this art gallery are paintings of Sohni-Mahiwal, Heer Ranjha, Mahatma Gannndhi, Sahid Bhagat Singh, Lal Bahadur Shashtri, Lord Rama, Sheikh Farid, Jesus Christ and Lord Krishna.

**Naam Art Gallery, Sidhbari Dharmshala, Kangra:** Naam Art Gallery exhibits the works of A.W. Hallett and Elizabeth Buschmann. The paintings done in watercolours, acrylics and oil paints mesmerize the visitors and keep them captivated for hours. Visitors can buy some of the art prints at budgeted price at the sales counter of this museum. Naam Art Gallery is located at Chamunda Road at Sidhbari, Mcleodganj in Dharamsala.

**Tibetan Work and Archives Library, Kangra:** Tibetan Work and Archives Library boast varieties of artifacts that showcase Tibetan culture, rituals and social practices. The library has documents, statues, ancient manuscripts, books and numerous Thangkas. The prime aim of this library is to preserve the culture and tradition of Tibet and spread it throughout the world. The library also has many historical items and more than six thousand photographs associated with Tibetan culture and heritage.
Nicholas Reorich Art Gallery, Naggar, Kullu: Nicholas Reorich Art Gallery houses many paintings by the famous artist Nicholas Reorich, who fled from Russia during Bolshevik Revolution. He translated the beauty of Himachal onto canvas with deft, exquisite strokes of the brush. It is his resident, the Hall Estate that was converted into a museum by his son and now maintained by a trust headed by the Prime Minister. For someone who is interested in arts, it offers more than just beautiful paintings.

Thangka Paintings, Lahaul & Spiti: With the arrival of His Holiness the Dalai Lama along with his followers from Tibet, establishment of new monasteries in Himachal in the 1960s fresh centres of the art like McLeodganj, Tashijong, Bir, Manali and Shimla also came into existence. The thangka is a painting on cloth, and can be rolled up. It is invariably a vertical image, usually painted on cotton or linen, and rarely, silk. The common images used are episodes from the ‘Jataka Tales’ or depictions of the life of the Buddha.

Chamba Rumal, Chamba: A humble square piece of cloth with exquisite embroidery, the Chamba Rumal holds the essence of Himachali culture and its importance to the people of this land. Held in high regard, though the name Rumal refers to a handkerchief, it is used for ceremonial purposes to cover gifts on special occasions such as a wedding, birthday, festivals and others.

7.6.2.6 Fairs and Festivals

Shri Naina Devi Ji Navratra festival, Bilaspur: Shri Naina Devi ji temple is situated on a beautiful hillock, about 60 Km from Bilaspur and about 20 Km from Anandpur Sahib. It is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths. Naina Devi, is where Sati’s eyes are believed to have fallen. Nearby is the holy cave in the name of Shri Naina Devi. A big fair during Shravan Ashtami and in the Navratras of Chaitra and Ashwin, fairs commemorating the goddess are held here.

Nalwari fair, Bilaspur: This fair is held in the month of March every year. The idea of this fair was conceived by W. Goldstein. He was the Superintendent of Shimla Hill States in 1889. The idea was motivated by a shortage of the good breed cattle, especially bullocks. Now this fair has become more a business opportunity event. It is a state fair.

Minjar Mela, Chamba: This fair is held on the second Sunday of the Shravana month i.e., between last week of July to first week of August. The fair is announced by distribution of Minjar which is a silk tassel worn on some parts of the dress by men.
and women alike. This tassel symbolizes the shoots of paddy and maize which make their appearance around this time of the year.

**Manimahesh Yatra, Chamba:** In the month of August/September the annual famous pilgrimage of Manimahesh commences from Laxmi-Narayana Temple in Chamba. The Chhari is taken to the sacred lake of Manimahesh, which is one of the chief tirthas in the district. The lake is situated at the height of 13,500 feet above sea level and at the base of a virgin peak: Manimahesh Kailsah peak (18,564 feet)

**The Hamir Utsav, Hamirpur:** It is celebrated in the memory of existence of Hamirpur District. Cultural programs show casing the folk music and dances of Himachal Pradesh and other states are organized in the festival.

**Jwala Mukhi Fair, Kangra:** At the famous temple of Shaktipeeth Jwalamukhi two important fairs are held during the Navratras in earlier March/April and September/October.

**Tribal Festival of Reckong Peo, Kinnaur:** The Tribal Festival is organised in the last week of October to first week of November at Reckong Peo, Kinnaur. Variety of cultural programmes organized.

**The Phulaich Fair, Kinnaur:** The Phulaich Fair is celebrated in Kinnaur district in the month of September every year. A famous flower was brought by the local people from the top of the peak for the Devta Pooja and they perform the dance in a series of sequences.

**Kullu Dussehra, Kullu:** A week-long international level fair held every year during October. The major attraction of the fair is the assembly of hundreds of local deities with the main deity Raghunath ji. Other activities like cultural programmes, exhibitions are also organized.

**Gemur Devil Dance Keylong:** Gemur is 18 Km from Keylong in Bhaga valley where devil dance is held during July in the Local Gompa. The place is situated on Manali-Leh highway.

**Renuka Fair Renuka ji, Sirmaur:** A religious fair to be organised in October/November. Cultural programmes organized during the evenings, provides a wholesome entertainment for the tourists and locals.

**Lavi Fair Rampur, Shimla:** A trade festival organised between 11th to 14th November at Rampur, 130 Km from Shimla. This is an International festival of trade of dry fruits, handicrafts and handlooms etc.


**Sair Festival, Solan:** Sair Festival is celebrated in the different parts of the State. The Sair Festival at Arki in District Solan is the major attraction for the visitors. This festival is organised in mid September.

**Chintpurni Temple Fair, Una:** This Shakti-temple is located on Dharamshala-Hoshiarpur road on a ridge, 53 Km from Una. Thousands of devotees visit this temple. In addition to many religious festivals, the main fair is held during the 10 days of "Shukalpaksh" in August.

**Maha Shivratri Fair, Mandi:** The Shivratri fair Mandi was started by Raja Ajber Sen, 300-400 years ago at Purani Mandi. Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival celebrated annually in reverence of the god Shiva. It held in last week of February month.

7.6.2.7 **Songs and Dances:** Himachal Pradesh is a land of festivals and dances that form an inherent part of its culture. Dances are notably performed at festivals and other special occasions like weddings, lending colour and variety to everyday monotony. The varied forms and styles of dances reflect the true spirit of the people. Through beautiful folk dances and honey sweet pahari songs, they express merriment and exhibit a close bond with their roots. The most popular dances of the state are Rakshasa (demon), Kayang, Bakayang, the Bnayangchu, the Jataru Kayang, Chohara, Shand and Shabu, Lang-dar-ma, Nati, Jhanjar, Jhoor, Gi and Rasa. A myriad of musical instruments like Ranasingha, Karna, Turhi, Flute, Ektara, Kindari, Jhanjh, Manjara, Chinta, Gharial, and Ghunghru are played to provide music for the songs and the dances. Popular dance forms of Himachal Pradesh are listed below:

**Jhamakada Dance, Kangra:** This group dance is performed only by women, usually at sacred ceremonies including marriage. In their dances, they present incidents related to their day to day life.

**Losar Shona Chuksam, Kinnaur:** This folk dance has immense religious significance for the people, who celebrate it in the months of April and May (during the Tibetan New Year). Chuksam is mostly performed by the farmer community as a tribute to agriculture and its significance in the lives of rural people. The knees of the dancers move in the same manner as the knees of farmers that move while sowing seeds in their farms.

**Nati, Kullu:** Nati dancers dressed in ethnic attires groove to the beats of several musical instruments like dhol, nagara, narsimha etc. People gyrate their bodies in slow swaying movements; they dance either by making circles or by standing in rows.
This dance form is performed during the New Year and celebrates the new harvest ready for reaping.

**Chham Dance, Lahul & Spiti:** It is performed by a sect of Buddhists — usually monks and lamas in monasteries on special occasions and festivities. Dancers dress up in monstrous appearances and embody the evil spirits that are supposed to bring natural disasters and disease among mankind. According to legend, the dance form is pious and performing it is known to ward off evils and spirits.

**Lahauli Dance, Lahul & Spiti:** It is a dance that is native to Lahaul and Spiti. The dancers, with their hands interlocked, make circles and take big steps. Their bodies are adorned with beautiful gowns, with embroidery borders. This exclusive dance is accompanied by the beats of instruments like Daman and Surna.

**Thoda Dance, Solan:** Thoda from the hinterlands of Himachal Pradesh is a dance form that derives origins from martial arts. Also known as the dance of archery, Thoda is performed by two teams, descendants of Kauravas and Pandavas of Mahabharta times respectively. The two opposing parties make continuous attempts to attack each other and defend themselves at the same time. They use arrows and bows swiftly and skilfully to create an illusion of real battle.

### 7.7 THE NATURAL HERITAGE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal has many hidden hamlets vying to charm travellers with their pristine natural beauty and cultural innocence. Himachal Pradesh has immense wealth of natural resources and biodiversity and is one of the most ecologically fragile Himalayan regions. Forests are the most important natural resource of the state legally comprising nearly 66% of the geographical area. However, with only 26% tree cover, they are the repositories of 3,295 species out of which 95% are endemic to the state and 5% (i.e., 150 species) are exotic. The state’s contribution in sustaining life support system of the local as well as the national economy is quite undisputed. Most of the people in rural areas in the State depend directly or indirectly on forests for their livelihood and use significant quantity of forest goods and services like non-wood forest products, fodder, timber etc.

### 7.7.1 PROMINENT VALLEYS

Valleys are very important features of Himachal Pradesh. Physiographically they are the places where human civilization has flourished in this mountainous region.
**Satluj valley:** Satluj river form a long valley from Shipki in Kinnaure to District Bilaspur. This valley consists of towns of Bilaspur, Rampur and Bhaba. The Pune based Nayak Environmental Research Institute prepared the plan in 2011 for catchment of the river upstream Kol Dam identified 181 major landslides in 20,000sq km catchment area. Satluj Basin have been included in ‘Red List’ under the integrated catchment area treatment plan.

**Kiarda-Dun Valley:** It is situated on the south-east corner of the state. It is also known as Paonta Valley. Jamuna river separates it from Dehradun. This valley is watered by Giri and Bata rivers and is very fertile. A Sikh Gurudwara at Paonta Sahib and a Ram Mandir are two important religious places in this valley.

**Kullu Valley:** It is an open valley formed by river bias between Mandi and Larji. The majestic hills of this valley are covered by Pine and Deodar trees. The towns of Mandi, Kullu, Bhuntar, Manali and Shamshi lies on it. Naggar Castle, Nehru Kund, Roerich Art Gallery, Hadimba Temple and hot water springs are among the major attractions of this valley.

**Kangra Valley:** It is an extensive dun-type valley located between Dhauladhar range in the north and Shivalik hills in the South. It ranges from West to East rising gradually from Shahpur to Baijnath and Palmpur. This valley consists of ageless beauty of Palaeolithic hand tools, Kangra paintings old forts, ancient temples and beautiful villages. The important towns in this valley are Baijnath, Palampur, Kangra, Nurpur and Dharamshala. Shobha Singh art gallery at Andretta, Shiva Temple at Baijnath, Brijeshwar temple at Kangra, Tapovan are famous attractions of this valley.

**The Bara Banghal Valley:** It lies between Dhauladhar and Peer Panjal ranges which is partially in chamba and partially in Kangra District. The Ravi river rises from the slopes of this valley.

**Balh Valley:** It is also known as Sundarnagar valley and is open dun-type valley between offshoot of Shimla Ridge in the North and Shivalik Hills in the South. The valley stretches from Gutkar in the north to sundernagar in the south Baggi in the east and Gumma in the west. Suketi Khad (stream) divide this valley into two parts. Indo-German agriculture project was started in this valley in 1962.

**Chamba Valley:** It is also known as Ravi valley and is famous for medicine plants and herbs. The important towns located in this valley are Chamba, Bharmaur, Dalhausie, and Khajiar. This valley consists of highest no. of monuments as per state archaeological records. The Pangi valley lies adjoining to Chamba valley extends along the River Chenab.
Lahaul and Spiti valley: It lies to the North of Pir Panjal and main Himalayan ranges. It is made up of river Chandra & Bhaga till Tandi and Chenab from Tandi to Udaipur. This valley has been formed by Spiti river. Kaza town is located in Spiti valley. This valley is quite famous for Buddhist Monasteries. Pin Valley is the tributary of Spiti valley in the Trans-Himalayan region.

Baspa Valley: It is also known as Sangla Valley formed by Baspa river in Kannur district. From Highest village of Chitkul to Satluj lies the inhabited part of this valley. It has excellent climate and fertile zone.

Pabbar Valley: It is also known as Rohru valley drained by river Pabbar which originates from Chansal peak South of kinnaur. This valley extends from Hatkoti up to Tikri at the base of Chansal. This valley is famous for trout fish which was introduced in this river by Mr. Glover a British Chief Conservators of Forests in 1938-1939

7.7.2 IMPORTANT MOUNTAIN PASSES IN HIMACHAL PRDESH

Baralacha Pass: Baralacha La/ pass is situated on Manali-Leh road about 75 km from Kylong towards leh at an elevation of 4890 mts. and nearly 8km long. It is known as “pass with cross road on summit”. The roads from Zanskar, Lahaul and Spiti meet on the top of it.

Bhaba Pass: It is located in Kinnaur district. To cross this pass from Manali one is to go to Kaza over Rohtang Pass and Kunzum La first then to Attargo(3250 mts.) by bus further to Mikkim (3658 mts), then an easy walk of 18 km across Spiti river at Sagnam, further a normal climbing of 14 km to Baldur (3963mts) and finally walk to Pulti (3354mts) a 14 km distance having easy gradient to Bhaba Pass.

Cheni Pass: It is in Chamba district and can be accessed through Mindhal village where famous Kali temple is situated. Every year Kali fair held in August.

Darati Pass: It is situated at an elevation of 4720 meters in Chamba region. It can be accessed from Chamba to Alyas(4300 mts) via Bhango (2450 mts.). To descend over grassy and moraine slopes of Tandi (2650 mts.) one has to come down further to Udaipur which is known for Trilokinath Temple.

Hamta Pass: It is situated at an elevation of 4270 mts. One has to go beyond Manali through Indrasan, Deo Tibba and Inder Killa climbing to its top. During descending once meets the historic cave ‘Arjun Gufa’ at Bhanara
Kunjum Pass: This Pass provides main approach to Spiti from Lahaul. It is situated at 60 km from Gramphoo towards Kaza on the Gramphoo-Kaza-Sumdo Road at an elevation of 4520 mts. Local people have built the Godess Durga temple on the Pass now.

Manirang Pass: It can be accessed after crossing Manessar Pass (3949 mts) located above confluence of Ropa and Chuktyanj rivulets. While walking 12 km distance from Ropa (2925 mts.) to Pankil (4000 mts.) beyond Kalpa, one has to go further through Sumdo Thach (ground) up to base of Manirang pass from Pomachan (3933 mts.) to Ramkali (4421 mts.), a distance of 10 km.

Rohtang Pass: It forms the main gateway between Lahaul valley and Manali. It lies in the Pir Panjal region on the national highway to Leh being the worlds second highest road point at an elevation of 3978 mts. It is one of the most Hazardous Pass being covered by snow for 7 to 8 months in a year. The first Englishman to reach the Rohtang Pass was Moorcraft who called it Ritanka Jot.

Sach Pass: It is the most convinient route for trekking the famous Pangi valley and lies at an elevation of 4395 mts. Killar which is 137 km from Chamba can be reached through this pass.

Shinghor Pass: This Pass lies beyond Dharamshala at an elevation of 4310 mts and can be approached from Alyas. The route is very steep and waterless.

Tempola Pass: It is situated in the district of Lahaul and Spiti. One has to walk along Yoche Nullaha to the base of this place. To decend one has to pass by Khoksar village. From this village either one can return to Keylong or Spiti via Kunzum Pass or to Manali via Rohtang Pass.

Waru Pass: It is between Dharamshala and Chamba at an elevation of abort 3870 mts. It is very widely, rough and stiff Pass however many beautiful peaks are visible from its top.

7.7.3 LAKES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

There are a number of lakes in the state that contribute to enhance the beauty of the state. Moreover, each of the lake has a legend attached to it which makes it all the more attractive

Gobind Sagar: Gobind Sagar is a man-made reservoir situated in Bilaspur District, Himachal Pradesh. It is formed by the Bhakra Dam. The reservoir is on the river Sutlej. The dam has been named in honour of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh
guru. One of the world's highest gravity dams, the Bhakra dam rises nearly 225.5 m above its lowest foundations.

**Ghadhasaru Lake:** Ghadhasaru Lake is a high altitude lake which is located in the Churah tehsil of Chamba (24 km. from Tissa). It is about 3,470 m above the sea level. This lake is held sacred and has a circumference of about 1 km. It is visted by local people to offer prayer at Kali temple located on its bank.

**Khajjiar Lake:** Khajjiar Lake is situated in Khajjiar, in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, India. It is situated at a height of around 1,920 m above sea level between Dalhousie and Chamba Town. The lake is set in a huge grassy landscape, with evergreen cedar trees surrounding it from all sides. The lake takes its name from Khajji Nag, the deity in the temple nearby. The lake has considerably shrunk over the years and is now almost on the verge of vanishing. Khajjiar is also known as Mini Switzerland as christened by Swiss Enoy Willy P.Blazer on 7th July 1992 as 160th tourist spot in the world to be christened mini Switzerland.

**Lama Dal Lake:** Lama Dal is a high altitude lake located in district Chamba (45 km from Chamba main town) about 3,960m above the sea level. It is also held sacred to Lord Shiva. It is part of holy pilgrimage that is held in July/August based on Hindu calendar. Kareri Lake is situated just 3 km (air distance) south west. This lake is a moderate/advance trekking destination accessible via Ghera (road accessible) - Kareri - Kareri Lake and also via mcleod gung (road accessible) - truid - bagga trail.

**Manimahesh Lake:** Manimahesh Lake (also known as Dal Lake, Manimahesh) is a high altitude lake (elevation 4,080 metres (13,390 ft)) situated close to the Manimahesh Kailash Peak in the Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas, in the Bharmour subdivision of Chamba district. The religious significance of this lake is next to that of the Lake Manasarovar in Tibet. The lake is the venue of a highly revered pilgrimage trek undertaken during the month of August/September corresponding to the month of Bhadon according to Hindu calendar, on the eighth day of the New Moon period. It is known as the ‘Manimahesh Yatra’. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has declared it as a state-level pilgrimage. The literal meaning of the Manimahesh is jewel (Mani), which can be found on Lord Shiva's crown. On the full moon night, moon-rays reflected from the jewel can be seen from Manimahesh Lake.

**Mahakali Lake:** This lies between Sano and Gudial on an elevation of 3657 mtr above mean sea level in district Chamba. This lake is held sacred to the goddess Mahakali.
ChanderKup Lake: Situated on an elevation of 3450 mts (14000 ft) it lies in the upper region of Chamba towards Dharamshala in Dhauladhar range.

Dal lake: Dal Lake is a small mid-altitude lake (1,775 m above sea level) near the village of Tota Rani in Kangra district. The Dal to Lord Driveshwar built by sage Agastaya. After 15 day of Janmashtmi a fair known as Radhashtami takes place here. It is also known as Bhagsunag lake.

Kareri Lake: 35 km from Dharamshal at an elevation of 1810 meters surrounded by hreen meadows, oak, and pine trees. It is a fantastic natural lake.

Kumarwah Lake: Kumarwah Lake near Chachiot is a secluded lake, known for an ancient temple where an annual fair is celebrated on a grand scale. During the annual fair, devotees offer gold and silver items that are later thrown into the Kumarwah Lake.

Rewalsar Lake: Hidden in the hills 24km southwest of Mandi, the sacred lake of Rewalsar is revered by Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs. Tibetan Buddhists know it as Tso-Pema (Lotus Lake) and believe it was created when the king of Mandi tried to burn alive the revered Buddhist sage Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche), to prevent his daughter Mandarava running off with the long-haired Tantric master. Today the lake's 800m perimeter is surrounded by a collection of mostly modern temples, monasteries and monuments, in which all three faiths are represented. Despite the untidy architectural hodge-podge the lake retains a spiritual atmosphere.

Kunt Bhayog Lake: Kunt Bhayog Lake is situated at Rewalsar in Mandi District at an altitude of 1,700 m above sea level, the lake is bounded by hills from two sides. The lake has a depth of 12 to 15 m at the center. Kunt Bhayog Lake is at an elevation of 1700 m above sea level in the Rewalsar town. This lake has a depth ranging between 12 m and 15 m and is surrounded by hills.

Kalasar Lake: Kalasar Lake is located at an altitude of 1,755 m above sea level at the top of the Rewalsar town in the district Mandi. The lake is surrounded by beautiful green hills and is an excellent picnic spot.

Prashar Lake: It lies at 2743 meters above sea level and is 30 km from Mandi town. It has three storied pagoda-like temple dedicated to the sage Prashar. The temple was built in the thirteenth century and legend has it was built by a baby from a single tree. The lake has a floating island in it and it is said to be unclear how deep it is.

Bhrigu Lake: It is located at the hight of 4235 mt. above the mean sea level to the east of Rohtang Pass. Its depth is about 3mt. and it remain under snow for whole winter. It is also considered as a scared lake being visited by people of Kullu, Mandi and Lahaul valley.
Sarvalasar Lake: It is situated on the top of the Jalori Pass in Kullu district at an altitude of 3100 mts. It is 20 km from Banjar towards Anni.

Chandranahan Lake: It is situated on the ‘Chanshal Peak’ in Rohru tehsil district Shimla at an altitude of 4267 meters. This is the origin source of Pabar River.

Tannu Jubbal Lake: It is situated near Narkanda in the Shimla District.

Karali Lake: Karali Lake is located in Shimla District, the capital of Himachal. It is located on the other side of Chhota Shali Hillock.

Nako Lake: It is famous for skating and is located near village Nko at an altitude of 3662 mts. It freezes in winter and people enjoy skating on it.

Renuka Lake: Renuka Lake is in the Sirmour district at 672 m above the sea level. It is the biggest natural oval lake in Himachal Pradesh, with a circumference of about 3214 m. This lake was named after the goddess Renuka. It is well connected by the road. Boating is available on the lake. A lion safari and a zoo are there at Renuka. It is the site of an annual fair held in November.

Saketi Lake: It is located near the Shivalik fossil park in Sirmour district. It is filled with sand and stones from the nearby hills. The ignorance of developing it as a tourist spot is quite visible from first sight.

Sukhsar Lake: It is located at an altitude of 1760 mts above mean sea level at the top of Rewalsor town in Mandi District. It receives snowfall during winters.

Mantalai Lake: This lake is sources of Parbati River situated at an elevation of 4116 mts. The beautiful range of Parbati Peaks surrounds this lake.

Shringtingu Lake: Its height is 4200 mts from Seri. To reach at this lake one need to follow Gohru Nallah. The panoramic view of Bara Bhangal is enjoyable from this place.

Suraj Tal: It is situated at an altitude of 4800 mts and is source of Bhaga river. It is located in Lahaul- Spiti district opposite to Balaracha and have 1200x1600 sq. mts. of area.

Chandra Tal: It lies in central Lahaul at an altitude of 4270 met. Above mean sea level. Also known as lake of the moon, it is the source of Chandra river. Chinese Pilgrim Hiuen Tsang called it Lohitya Sarovar. It is about 1.5 km long situated near to Balaracha and have 1200 x 1600 sq. mts. of area.

Una-so Lake: It lies in the Lahaul Spiti District.

Pong Lake: Pong Reservoir or Pong Dam Lake was created in 1975, by building the highest earthfill dam in India on the Beas River in the wetland zone of the Siwalik Hills of the Kangra district. The lake is a well-known wildlife sanctuary and one of the 25
international wetland sites declared in India by the Ramsar Convention. This is only place in India after Bharatpur (Rajasthan) where the rare red necked gerb has been found.

**Pandoh lake:** located 14 km away from Mandi district towards Manali on national highway 21. It was formed due to construction of Pandoh Dam after diverting the water of the Beas river to Satluj river at Slapper. The water is being carried by two long tunnels of 13 km each under the hills along with 12 km open channel.

**Chamera Lake:** It is formed owing to the construction of 540 mw Chamera hydroelectric project on river Ravi near village Chamera. It is 25 km from Dalhousie and is visible towards downside of the hill while commuting from Chamba to Pathankot. The famous temple of ‘Bhalie Goddess’ is situated at a hill on bank of lake

### 7.7.4 HOT SPRINGS

Himachal Pradesh has been endowed with number of hot springs by nature. The three types of springs are found here namely ordinary springs, mineral springs and thermal water springs. The hot water springs have become quite popular in Himachal Pradesh for medicinal properties.

**Tattapani:** This small, beautiful place is located in district Mandi, at a distance of 51 km from the Shimla city. There are multiple Sulphur springs along the river Sutlej, each having the ability to cure a variety of bodily ailments, especially bones and joints-related problems. The water level of these springs keeps fluctuating depending on the water-level of the river. The place Tattapani is also famous for the attractive costumes of the people. Now a substantial part of this spring has submerged under the Kol dam project.

**Manikaran:** Situated at a distance of around 45 km from Kullu, the scenic hot springs lay in Parvati Valley. The temperature is high enough to boil rice, pulses, and vegetables. While there are no minerals such as Iron or Sulphur in the water, radioactivity is responsible for its excellent healing properties. People from around the country and abroad visit the springs to cure ailments such as muscular pains, arthritis, and rheumatics. The name Mani Karan means ear ring. The story is associated with lord Shiva and his consort Parbati. It is believed that ear rings of Maa Parbati were lost here while taking bath and when she told it to Lord Shiva he became furious. He looked water with anger and thousands of year rings appeared on the boiling water. Since then the water is boiling. Manikaran is also famous for a historic gurudwara and a Hindu temple.
Kasol: This hot water springs lay at a distance of 32 kilometers from Bhuntar, Kullu. The spot is approachable by a footpath that stretches to an area of 1km. Here, hot water comes out only at one spot and water temperature is much lower than that of other hot water springs in Himachal.

Khirganga: It is 26 km away from kullu and 10 km from Pulga. Water here is not as much hot as Manikaran.

Vashisht: 3kms from Manali is located on left bank of river Bias. Many people visit Vashisht every day to take a dip in these hot springs. One water tank is made and kept reserved for women only. Vashisht hot water springs are a huge source of water for several other tourist places in and around Manali.

Jeori: There are also Hot water springs at Jeori in Kinnaur district on the right bank of Unu Nallah beyond Rampur-Bushahr on Hidustan-Tibet Road.

Springs in Kangra valley: A good no. of hot springs containing a good quality of salt and iodine lies at Kopra near Nadaun, and at Jwalamukhi on the bank of river Bias were discovered on 10th Dec.1854. There is also a Spring at Lunani. Captain A. Colman Chief medical officer of that time discovered the Salol spring in kangra valley. Also a spring near Baijanth lies in the pulm valley.

7.7.5 WATER FALLS: waterfalls and Kund in Himachal Pradesh includes Rahla Water falls near Manali in Kullu district, Satdharawater spring near Panjpulla in Chamba District, Dhanchho water fall on the way to holy peak Manimahesh near Bharmaur in Chamba District, Kalika Kund at Man in Chamba district, Chdhwick fall near Summer Hill Shimla, Bhagsu water fall near Macleodganj in district kangra.

7.7.6 RIVER SYSTEM: Five rivers flow through Himachal Pradesh. The eastern most river is *Yamuna* which rises from Yamunotri in the Garhwal ranges of the Himalayans and forms the eastern boundary with Uttarakhand. Its important tributaries are Tons, Pabar and Giri or Giri Ganga. The Pabar rises from Chander, Nahan lake on the Chanshal peak in Rohru and the Giri from Kupar peak just above the Jubbal town.

The *Sutlej*, the largest among the five rivers of Himachal Pradesh, originates beyond the Indian borders in the southern slopes of the Kailash Mountain which belongs to Lord Shiva's abode in the Puranic lore. After a run of about 320 kms. from Rakastal, it enter the eastern part of Himachal Pradesh at Shipki(6,608 mts.). Between the
Zanskar and the great Himalayan crossing, the Sutlej receives the Spiti from the north-west. In Kinnaur it is joined by the Baspa river which rises from the southern Baspa hills. Just below Rampur Bushahr, it is joined by Nogli stream. Flowing through Kinnaur, Shimla hills and Bilaspur district, it leaves Himachal Pradesh to enter the plains of the Punjab at Bhakra, where one of the world's largest dam has been constructed. As a result of this dam, a very big lake known as Gobind Sagar lake has been formed in the valley of Bilaspur.

The Beas, which forms the world famous valley of Kullu and Kangra rises from the 3987 meters high Rohtang Pass. The main course of this river is south-ward to Larji and later to the west. Its tributaries in the east are Parbati, Sujoin, Phojal and Sraswati streams. At Bajaura, it enters Mandi district. The town Mandi is situated on its left bank. In Mandi district the northern feeders of Beas are Uhal, Lini, Rana and Binwa and the southern ones are Hansa, Tirthan, Bakhli, Jiuni, Suketi, Panodi, Son and Bather, Beas enters Kangra district at Sandhol. Here it is joined by Binwa, Neogal, Banganga, Gaj, Dehr and Chakki from the north and Kunah and Man from the south. The northern and eastern tributaries of the Beas are snow fed and perennial, while the southern affluents are seasonal. During the monsoon in the month of August, its inflow increases greatly and sometimes results in floods. The river leaves this district neat Mirthal. At Pandoh, in Mandi, the waters of the Beas today have been diverted to Sutlej through a big tunnel.

7.7.7 WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES AND NATIONAL PARKS

A Wildlife Sanctuary is established under sections 18-26 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and admits rights to the extent as allowed by the Collector at the time of settlement in concurrence with Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. Finally notified boundaries of the Wildlife Sanctuaries, like National Parks, cannot be altered without resolution of the State Legislature. General public is legally restrained from destroying, exploiting, or removing any wildlife from the sanctuary, or destroying or damaging the habitat of any wild animal, or depriving any wild animal of its habitat in the sanctuary. These Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and National Parks provide a very good opportunity to the visitor to enjoy and experience the wilderness of the state. The details of Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State is as under:
Table 7.7.7 List of Wildlife Sanctuaries in Himachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name of Sanctuary</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bandli</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>32.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chail</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chandra Tal</td>
<td>Lahaual &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>38.56 + (11.53 for Consideration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Churdhar</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>55.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Daranghati</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>171.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dhauladhar</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>982.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gamgul-Siyabehi</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>108.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kais</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>12.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kalatop-Khajjiar</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>17.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kanawar</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>54.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Khokhan</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>14.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kibber</td>
<td>Lahaual &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>2220.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kugti</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lipa Asrang</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Majathal</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>30.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Manali</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nargu</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pong Dam Lake</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>207.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Rakchham-Chitkul</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Renuka</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Rupi-Bhaba</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Sechu-Tuan Nalla</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>390.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sainj</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Shikari Devi</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>29.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Shimla Water Catchment</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Simbalbarra</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>27.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Talra</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>46.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tirthan</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tundah</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Water Supply Catchment</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Govind Sagar (Denotified)</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5953.63</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 7.7.7A - List of National Parks in Himachal Pradesh:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Name of National Park</th>
<th>Year of Notification</th>
<th>Total Area (km²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Great Himalayan National Park</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>754.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pin Valley National Park</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Inderkilla National Park</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Khirganga National Park</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Simbalbara National Park</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>27.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: data compiled from http://hpforest.nic.in/

7.7.8 RAINFALL AND CLIMATE

The rainfall in the first zone varies from 60 to 70 inches and in the second zone from 30 to 40 inches. The Alpine zone remains under snow for about 5 to 6 months in the year and this has compelled the inhabitants to become migratory. The average rainfall is 63-65 inches. In the Himachal region, there is much diversification in climatic conditions due to the variation in elevation (450-6,500 meters). In general, the climate of this area is distinguished from the Punjab plains by a shorter and cooler weather, a somewhat higher precipitation and cooler and more prolonged winter. The two main climatic characteristics of the region are the seasonal rhythm of weather and the vertical zoning. The climatic conditions vary from hot and sub-humid tropical in the southern low tracts to temperate, cold alpine and glacial in the northern and the eastern high mountainous. Lahaul and Spiti experience drier conditions as they are almost cut off by the higher mountain ranges.

7.7.9 TEMPERATURE

Generally the region experiences low normal monthly maximum temperatures. The highest monthly maximum temperature are experienced in June after which the temperatures continue to fall and the lower monthly minimum temperatures are experienced in January. Above 20°C mean marks a hot month. Mandi has as many as 7 hot months while Shimla has none. Normal monthly minimum temperatures are as low as 1.09°C in January at Shimla and 6.5°C at Dharamshala. Similarly the normal monthly maximum temperatures in June are 15.6°C at Shimla and 22.8°C at Dharamshala. The annual range of temperature at Shimla is 14.0°C and at Dharamshala 18.0°C. The absolute temperatures can go down in January to 4.9°C at Shimla and -0.5°C at Dharamshala and may rise to 38.3°C at Dharamshala and
42.7°C at Mandi. The relative humidity is generally higher in Himachal region than in the adjoining plains during the pre-monsoon (May-June) and monsoon period (July-August) and September. After September, the relative humidity sharply decline and the values are generally lower than in the plains, and continue to remain so till April.

7.7.10 **NATURAL VEGETATION**: Owing to wide range of altitude and climatic conditions Himachal Pradesh has diverse and rich flora. Here we come across every type of west Himalayan Flora from Himalayan meadows and high level birch and rhododendron down to topical scrub and bamboo forests of the low foot-hills. The forests cover an area of 26,768 Kms or about 48% of the total area. The area is classified as under:-

1. Reserved Forests 1,918 kms.
2. Demarcated protected forests 6,886 kms.
3. Undemarcated protected forests 15,823 kms.
4. Unclassified forests 468 kms.
5. Other Forests 203 kms.
6. Forests not under control of the forest deptt. 1,070 kms.

Total 26,768 kms.

National forest policy lays down that in the hilly areas like Himachal Pradesh, 60% of the total geographical area should be under forests. Efforts are being made to bring the area as near to the figure laid down in our National Forest Policy as possible. The natural vegetation has climatic altitudinal zonation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation Zone</th>
<th>Altitude in Meters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tropical and Sub- Tropical</td>
<td>300-1525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Temperate</td>
<td>1525-3650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Alpine</td>
<td>3650-4650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The tree-lines id reached at about 3,950 meters beyond which are the Himalayan meadows. The snow-line is reached at about 4,600 meters. On the basis of composition, the forests can be broadly classified into:- (a) Coniferous forests and (b)
broad-leaved forests, chir, deodar, kail, spruce, silver fir and chilgoza pine are coniferous species. Among the broad-leaved the main species are sal, ban oak, nobru, kharus, oak, walnut, maple, bird cherry, horse chest-nut, poplar, alder, semal,, tun and shisham. The forests of the Himachal Pradesh can be classified mainly into nine types viz:- Dry Alpine forests, Moist Alpine forests, Scrub forests, Sub-Alpine forests, Wet Temperate forests, Sub-Tropical Pine forests, Sub- Tropical Broad leaved hills forests, Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous forests, Tropical Thorn forests.

7.8 POSSIBLE WHS (WORLD HERITAGE SITES) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

The State Government is very conscious of its strategic location in the Himalayan Regions and has expressed its resolve to protect and enhance its natural resources and to follow the path of sustainable development in all sectors. One can see this from the state’s Hydropower Policy, which has earmarked 1.5% of the project cost for the development of local areas through the Local Area Development Committees (LDAC), which involves involving local people in the development of the ‘project affected area’. The tourism policy clearly indicates its vision to position the state as a leading destination by the year 2020. The strategy recognizes creating a tourism sub-plan, which integrates, and coordinate with other state departments. The focus has now shifted to multifunctional landscapes. Forest accounts linked with tourism accounts, for example, can help inform government policy on nature-based tourism, and ecosystem accounts for watersheds can help design payment for ecosystem services schemes. Because existing state accounts do not fully capture the economic contribution of forests, total benefits from sustainable forestry are underestimated, and other sectors are not fully aware of their dependence on healthy forests. These factors prevent policymakers from fully leveraging heritage resources to realize their contribution to economic growth. Finally the seriousness of increasing population pressure and developing the state and its impact on environment and natural resources are not clearly spelt out in policy documents. Hence, there is a serious need to identify these linkages clearly. The world is filled with amazing things to see including both natural and man-made. There are so many great historical sites built by ancient civilizations. It is sometimes hard to just narrow it down to a few. Himachal Pradesh also has such sites those have potential to be declared as UNESCO heritage sites. These sites may include but are not limited to:
1. **The Hadimba Devi Temple in Manali:** The 458-year-old rocket-shaped Hidimba Devi cave temple has been built on a huge rock amid thick deodar trees in Manali. The place finds reference in the Mahabharata.

2. **Tabo monastery in the cold desert of Spiti Valley:** The 1,015-year-old Tabo monastery at the dizzying height of 10,000 ft is a rare mud brick wall Buddhist monument, famous for its ancient cave meditation centres, statues, frescos and mural paintings. Its setting in the cold desolate desert of Spiti on the Sumdoh-Kaza road makes it a fit case for the world heritage site of Unesco as it is popular among foreigners.

3. **The historical Kangra Fort:** The Kangra Fort, Himachal’s oldest fort, is a storehouse of arts related to the Katoch rulers, the Jains, the Mughals and the Sikhs, and is spread on a 4-km area.

4. **The Masroor Temples:** In Kangra, the 7th-century Masroor rock-cut temples are “nagara style” Indo-Aryan temples of rare antiquity carved out on a 2,500-foot-high hill. The Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation has prepared a plan under funds from Asian Development Bank to improve its connectivity as desired by the Unesco team.

5. **The Indian Institute of Advanced Study (Viceregal Lodge), Shimla:** More than 100-year-old Viceregal Lodge, an Elizabethan monument that used to be the official residence of the then British viceroy, has been restored and “meets the conditions of Unesco”. The Viceregal Lodge was witness to the freedom struggle as the roundtable conference was held there. It also served as the Rashtrapati Niwas, but the then President, Dr S Radhakrishan, gifted this building to house the Indian Institute of Advanced Study.

6. **Pong Wetland:** Declared a bird sanctuary in 1983 and one of India’s 25 international Ramsar sites in 2002, the reservoir is additionally one of the leading fish habitats in the Himalayan states, and provides vital habitat to a host of mammals including leopards, sambar, wild pigs, barking deer and oriental small-clawed otters.

7.9 **SUMMARY**

India has an extraordinarily rich, vast and diverse cultural heritage in the form of Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains which are protected by ASI and various state departments of Archaeology. India has 73 percent of the Himalayan
region which holds tremendous potential in terms of a tourist destination both from inside & outside. This potential is evidently palpable both in terms of overall development & growth of countries economy. With 35 world heritage sites (27 sites are of cultural importance and 7 are of natural importance and 1 mixed), biological diversity and fine coastline, India offers a variety of attractions to tourists such as adventure, rural, wildlife and heritage tourism. The recent tourist trend in the destination indicates that there is an increase in the arrival of International and Domestic tourists in Himachal Pradesh; hence there is a need for the comprehensive development of the destination. Since Himachal Pradesh is naturally and culturally gifted destination, the destination development project should be more oriented towards the conservation and preservation of its natural and cultural resources. The studies conducted in Himachal Pradesh states that the nature related tourism opportunities are not explored/ utilized to the fullest. The entire destination in Himachal Pradesh can be developed to the core. For that the first step should be an approach for integrated development of the resources in the region based on tourism circuits, benefiting local community as well. The study focuses on an integrated and sustainable development of natural and cultural resources including other tourism potentials in all districts and to elevate the sector as an instrument promoting for overall socio-economic development. The tourism sector can be a threat to maintaining 60 percent of the geographical area under forests in the hill states as stipulated by the National Forest Policy of India. Development of tourism sector or involves developing infrastructure, which involves diversion of resources for these projects. This in turn can influence entire destination. The development priorities encompass both positive and negative aspects. It is important to develop a clear understanding of such impacts, and negative impacts if any should be compensated, mitigated, monitored and managed. Another significant threat, which can potentially impinge on power production, ecotourism, agriculture, horticulture etc., is climate change. Climate change may alter the distribution and quality of natural resources of Himachal Pradesh and adversely affect the livelihoods of its people. Climate change will also negatively affect the water resources with increased water scarcity in hill stations. As per the state action plan on climate change by 2100, under the most probable scenario, temperature of the state is likely to increase by 3ºC and precipitation will decrease by 20% and in that situation the effects will be more visible and alarming also.