Chapter IV

Tourist Plant Facilities & Tourism Trends
Tourist plant facilities refer to the amenities created to cater to the various derived demands of tourists which need to be fulfilled in the process of effectively satisfying the basic tourist demand, i.e., to see and enjoy the desired destination and/or participate in various tourism related activities. Thus, the provision of appropriate inter and intra-destination transportation, accommodation, food and drinks, recreation and entertainment, shopping options, destination interpretation and travel agency and tour operations related services etc., naturally come under the purview of tourist plant facilities. The ultimate success of a destination essentially depends on a balanced mix of attraction, tourist plant facilities and state of socio-cultural and ecological environment duly complemented by strategic marketing efforts. The demand of tourist plant facilities in terms of quality, quantity, availability and cost etc., however, may considerably vary depending on the basic appeal, perceived image of the destination (s) and consequential tourist use-patterns, i.e., leisure, pleasure, culture, religious, nature, business, adventure and so on. Thus, it is essential to first assess the requirement appropriately and then plan and create plant facilities in harmony with the expectations of the target market and inherited cultural and natural characteristics of the destination, so that an exceptionally befitting ambience could be created that ensures higher levels of tourist satisfaction. At the same time one should
keep in consideration the advice of Eric Laws (1995) wherein he cautions the planners and practitioners about the usually uncontrolled tendency of the secondary elements of a destination (which include major tourist plant facilities) to be nearest possible to the primary elements (inherited resources and/or products) which inevitably influences the tourism magnetism of a destination negatively, hence causing a fatal decline in the appeal of the place. To cite some examples of this tendency, Shimla and Manali can be taken up as cases from Himachal where excessive and unmindful development has adversely affected not only the flora & fauna – both quantitatively and qualitatively, but also has deprived the locals from many essential basic resources that used to be available in abundance.

**Road Network in Himachal: A Retrospective Insight**

While planned construction of modern roads in India was started in 1848 under the rule of Lord Dalhousie, Himachal had to start from the scrap in this respect exactly a century later.

A good network of road transport is a basic necessity for development and progress of any region but is more urgently needed in the hilly areas like Himachal Pradesh where the entire progress depends primarily on the development of roads. For the development of an area, the potential for its economic growth has to be identified. In Himachal Pradesh where about 91 per cent population is rural and excellent agro-climatic conditions exist, the overall economic betterment lies in the development of cash crops, growing all season vegetables and seeds, tourism and dairy development, establishment of horticulture, forest produce and mineral based industrial units and above all in generation of hydel power. The basic infrastructure facility for development of this
potential is the provision of a good network of motorable roads. There are some basic features which inflate the primary cost of providing elementary facilities in the Hill areas, mainly because these areas are prone to heavy rainfall, snow and severe cold. Extreme weather conditions reduce the working season considerably. Transportation of construction materials and other basic inputs which in some areas have to be done by humans and mules, increase the cost manifold in comparison of plain areas. Due to natural setting other means of transportation like Railways, Water transport and Air transport are a rare possibility or very meager in Himachal Pradesh. The track of two railway lines constructed by the British that passed through the territory of the then existing Himachal Pradesh was merely 34 miles. Roads, thus assume the most important means of transport and communication and therefore, this sector continued to enjoy the top priority up to the 4th Five Year Plan. In improving the communication network some problems arising from these hilly terrains have always to be faced. With narrower roads, sharp curves and steep gradients, vehicles with wider wheel base cannot be used and it is also necessary to keep down the gross weights of the vehicles. The cost of carriage will obviously be higher and return on the outlay less. This would mean that the outlay on the purchase, running and maintenance of vehicles would be heavy and more vehicles would be needed for a given surface operation.

**Road Development**

From the very 1st Five Year Plan, need for construction of roads all over the inhabited area was felt great while resources available were meager. Initially construction of main arterial roads for connecting major Valleys and administrative centers was undertaken. Construction of tracks on motorable roads were developed in phased manner to jeepable, single lane motorable standard, providing cross drainage,
bridges, metalling and tarring and then widening of few roads to double lane standard according to resources. Gradually this programme was extended to construction of rural road links and roads to minor Valleys and production areas.

Figure 4.1

The total length of motorable roads in Himachal Pradesh at the time of its formation in 1948 estimated was about 288 km in addition to about 300 km of jeepable roads. At other places there were either foot-paths or bridle-paths. There were no metalled roads, no permanent bridges, and travelling itself was strenuous and full of hazards while articles of human consumption had to be carried either as head-loads or on mule backs. In 1950-51, there were 5.3 miles of surfaced roads per one lakh of population, this being lowest road mileage among the States in India. According to an estimate in the year 1951-52, the number of motor...
vehicles per one lakh of population in the State was the smallest among all the then existing States of India.

The expenditure incurred on Road construction programmes and employment provided during the period 1951-1997 are given in the following table

**Table 4.1
Planwise Expenditure on Road Construction and Employment Provided**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Total expenditure on Plan sectors</th>
<th>Expenditure of State on Roads (in Lakh Rs)</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage</th>
<th>Average employment generated (Persons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Plan</td>
<td>(1951-56)</td>
<td>527.25</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Plan</td>
<td>(1956-60)</td>
<td>1602.60</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Plan</td>
<td>(1961-66)</td>
<td>3384.47</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>(1966-69)</td>
<td>3978.18</td>
<td>1228</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>16300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Plan</td>
<td>(1969-74)</td>
<td>11342.97</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>16700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Plan</td>
<td>(1974-79)</td>
<td>23024.01</td>
<td>4700</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>22400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>(1979-80)</td>
<td>7880.00</td>
<td>1497</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>29700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Plan</td>
<td>(1980-85)</td>
<td>65566.00</td>
<td>10176</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>27000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Plan</td>
<td>(1985-90)</td>
<td>132475.75</td>
<td>15889</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>(1990-91)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4388</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>(1991-92)</td>
<td>78502.93</td>
<td>5064</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Plan</td>
<td>(1992-97)</td>
<td>250200.00</td>
<td>27500</td>
<td>00*</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total outlay for Roads is 27,500.00 lakh while expected expenditure shown in the 8th Plan Document (P.271) is given 27,650.00 lakh approximately.

Starting practically from a scratch-with 288 km roads length in 1948, by March 1966, the State had 2137 km of motorable roads and 810 km of jeepable roads. The road mileage of the merged areas during 1966 was proportionately less being 1443 km of motorable roads and 200 km of jeepable ones. Thus the total length of roads in the Pradesh rose to 3580 km of motorable roads and 1010 km of jeepable roads. At the end of
March, 1986 there were 15003 km of motorable roads raising the road
density to 26.95 km per 100 sq km of area. And at the end of March,
1988 the motorable road length rose to 16213 km having road density of
29.12 km per 100 sq km of area. At the end of March, 1993 the
motorable road length in Himachal Pradesh stood at 18160 km having
increased the road density to 32.62 km per 100 sq km of area. Length
provided with cross-drainage bridges out of total length of 18160 km
stood at 8031 km (44.22 %). Metalled and Tarred length out of 18160
km stood at 6922 km (38.12 %). The total 7521 villages (44.75 %) have
so far been linked by motorable roads in Himachal Pradesh having
18160 km of roads length by March, 1993. By March, 1994 the total
roads length increased to 18520 km.

The road construction anywhere can be studied under two heads, i.e., (a)
State Indigenous Roads Programme and (b) Central Sector Roads
Programme. The former deals with roads other than National Highways
with the State's own resources and planning, while the latter, the Central
Sector Roads Programme deals with
a) National Highways,
b) Roads, bridges of economic, strategic and interstate importance, and
c) Roads under sensitive border areas.
Bifurcation of total length of Motorable Roads (Formation) 18160km;

a) State Roads (Formation)

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) State Highway</td>
<td>2,862</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>3631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) District &amp; Other</td>
<td>12,900</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>13,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15,762</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>16,777</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) Central Roads

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) National Highway</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Border Road with DGBR</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>1,383</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CENTRAL ROADS

National Highways
By definition these roads run through the length and breadth of the country connecting State Capitals, major ports, large industrial sensitive border areas, and tourist centres and foreign highways. A sum of Rs 1200 lakh was allocated by the Ministry of Transport, Government of India for the improvement and construction of National Highway comprising a total length of 724 km falling in Himachal Pradesh. The works under this scheme including widening of National Highway No-22 from Shimla to Wangtu, construction of Barog By-Pass, initiation of works for upgradation of Pathankot-Chakki-Mandi Road which has been upgraded National Highway No-20. Besides, sufficient finances are always made available for maintenance of National Highways damaged by floods and rain.

Strategic Roads
The Ministry of Transport, Government of India has completed the extension of Mukerian-Talwara-Nurpur road to Chakki-Dhar in Himachal Pradesh under the Strategic roads programme.

Bridges
The tempo of road construction would not accrue desired results if it is not closely connected with bridge construction simultaneously. Unlike the plain areas most of the streams flowing through Himachal are snow-fed and perennial. Therefore, for their crossing the construction of bridges are urgent. The construction of permanent bridges of all types by March, 1993 stood at 847 out of which 107 are major bridges above 60 m span.
A bridge which links Himachal with Uttar Pradesh has been constructed over Yamuna river at Paonta Sahib in Sirmaur district. Another bridge on Beas links Shimla with Bilaspur at Nadaun and provides all weather shortest route. On the other side it also links Dharamshala and Chamba with Shimla. The important bridges on Satluj are at Slapper (on Mandi-Ropar Road), Kandror (on Bilaspur-Hamirpur road) Luhri(on Shimla-Ani road) and Tattapani (on Shimla-Karsog road). The Kandror bridge is said to be Asia's highest bridge 60 meters high from the river surface situated 20 km away from Bila'spur towards Hamirpur. Other new bridges on Satluj are at Kharo, Nogli, Moorang, Gymthing and Wangtu (on Hindustan-Tibet road in Kinnaur district). The suspension bridges on the Ravi river have been constructed at Sitla, Chaurahg, Bagga, (near Chamba, on Chamba-Pathankot road) Rakh, (near Chamba on Chamba-Bharmaur road), and Kharamukh (in Chamba, on Chamba-Bharmaur road). The important bridges on Beas are at Pandoh (on Mandi-Kullu road and at Mandi town (on Mandi - Jogindernagar road). The construction of Tandi bridge has also been taken up in Lahaul-Spiti district.

**Roads in Tribal Areas of Himachal Pradesh**

The absence of road construction has so far been felt the main bottleneck in the development of land locked tribal areas. The efforts to construct roads at priority in these areas have now been supplemented by the Director General of Border Roads (DGBR) as they are also constructing roads in tribal belt of Himachal because of the strategic location of these areas near the international border. The hilly areas in general and the tribal areas in particular would need special attention due to their being comparatively less developed or underdeveloped.
The tribal area of Himachal Pradesh forms 42.6 per cent of Pradesh's total area yet amazingly contains only 3.2 per cent population of the State. The density of roads for tribal areas per 100 sq km thus works out to only 2.5 km as against Pradesh's average of 32.62 km (March 1993). This itself is indicative of the fact that the means of communications in the tribal belt of the Pradesh are in a very rudimentary condition. This problem is still more acute in Pangi and Bharmaur Sub-Divisions. The density of roads in the different tribal areas per 100 sq km is 5.7 km in Kinnaur, 3.9 km in Bharmaur, 3.1 sq km in Lahaul-Spiti and 1.27 sq km in Pangi. However, Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts have 204 km and 200 km road length respectively under Border Roads Organisation programme. The road construction in the tribal sub-Divisions of Bharmaur and Pangi of Chmaba district is being mainly carried out by the Public Works Department (P.W.D.) of Himachal Pradesh government. Village paths and some mule roads are being constructed through the Community Development Blocks as well. The reason for low density of roads in these tribal areas is probably due to very low density of population (2 persons, 1991 census). Obviously, the per capita cost of road construction goes extremely high.

The expenditure on road development programme has progressively come down from 42.8 per cent of total plan expenditure of the State during 1951-56 to 32.3 per cent in the 2nd Plan to 30.01 per cent in the 3rd Plan and 24.7 per cent in the 4th Plan, 20 per cent in the 5th and so low as 15.3 per cent during the 6th plan and still lowering in the subsequent plans. A careful study would, however, reveal that the planners have erred gravely by diverting the funds to other activities
especially in a hilly State like Himachal Pradesh. from the Plan outlays for road development.

According to the National Transport Policy, all villages are ultimately to be linked with all weather motorable roads by the year 2001 AD. It is estimated that about 40500 km roads are required to be constructed in Himachal Pradesh to connect all villages, giving density of 72.75 km per 100 sq km area. Seeing the location of villages on the slopes of the hill ranges, it may however, not be possible to provide motorable roads to connect each village, as such an attempt may lead to land slides and ecological disturbances. Construction of total motorable roads length to link about 12347 villages other than isolated villages will either be connected individually or as a cluster covered within 1 km of distance and altitude difference of 100 m while leaving another 4460 isolated villages unconnected but would fall within 1-3 km of distance and altitude difference of 300 m. And these isolated villages would be linked by mule roads and gravity type aerial cableways for transportation of goods from such villages to the nearest motorable roads where feasible.

In addition, industries like cement and newsprint, fruit and forest based have bright prospects. Besides immense potential of hydro-electric power generation, Himachal has lot of hidden and unexploited mineral wealth. However, the entire progress depends upon the development of roads. The construction of roads has already made a significant impact on State's economy. The most inaccessible areas like Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Outer Seraj (Kullu district), Pachhad and Renuka tehsils of Sirmaur district, Chhota Eara Banghal area in Kangra district, Janjheli area of Mandi district, Tissa and Bharmaur areas in Chamba district
have been linked with motorable roads to some extent. It is very interesting to know how the people prior road transportation used to reach nearest tehsil headquarters or district headquarters walking days together. Road construction has helped in getting employment to rural folk near their homes, and has helped them to carry cash crops to the nearest markets, thereby boosted dairy development and selling milk at collection centres. The progress is evident from the simple fact that the State per capita income has risen from Rs 240 in 1950-51 to Rs 5741 in 1992-93.

The road construction is an indispensable infrastructural facility for development and needs allocation of minimum of 30 per cent of the plan outlays for atleast next 15 years. It is very important that we understand the whole range of factors that are responsible for our backwardness. Among others geographical setting, highly-dispersed population, absence of needed diversification in agriculture, meagre infrastructural facilities, institutional and administrative deficiencies are prime. In the beginning, when the Five Year Plans were drawn up, we thought of the Country or the State as one entity and covered them under the similar plan pattern. Experience reveals that since many of these programmes were not applicable to the hills, and therefore, some of them were left out and the remaining remained unsuccessful. Planning Commission thought seriously about specific problems of Hilly States and soon discovered that no two Hill areas are alike in their indigenous problems and topography etc. has decided allocating extra funds especially for construction of roads.
Road Connections

Himachal is connected by road with all the major Centre of North, some of the important entry point are:

Table 4.2
Main Entry Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Name</th>
<th>HPTDC Transport Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parwanoo</td>
<td>Kalka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Amb</td>
<td>Ambala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paonta Sahib</td>
<td>Dehradun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swarghat</td>
<td>Ropar / Chandigarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakki</td>
<td>Pathankot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talwara</td>
<td>Mukerian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Una</td>
<td>Hoshiarpur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bus Services:

Regular deluxe / semi deluxe / ordinary bus services to and from Shimla from following major cities apart from other important stations of North India.

Table 4.3
Main Cities Connected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Name</th>
<th>HPTDC Transport Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaipur</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Jalandhar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurgaon</td>
<td>Amritsar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dehradun / Hardwar</td>
<td>Pathankot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambala</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Railway Network in Himachal Pradesh

At present the total length of railway routes in the State remained at 209 km. There are only 2 narrow gauge railway lines since British time connecting Shimla and Kalka (96 km) and Jogindernagar with Pathankot (113 km). There is an additional broad gauge railway line from Nangal dam to Talwara under construction’ and has been completed 16 km of length up to Una at present. This line is proposed to be taken further to Talwahesh now.

Shivalik Deluxe Express:

- Journey time of 4:45 hours stopping enroute only at Barog
- With a seating capacity of 120, this is a connecting service to Howrah-Kalka mail
- Luxurious comfort of wall to wall carpeting, wider glass windows, reversible cushioned chairs, table for meals and improved toilet facilities
- Improved lighting and installed music system for comfort and entertainment.
• Microphones for communicating with guard and alarm bells to communicate with the driver in emergency.

• Fare includes break-fast in the UP; and dinner in the DOWN direction.

**Shivalik Palace (Tourist Coach):**

• Can accommodate up to six persons.

• On board catering with exclusive kitchenware refrigerator installed and well equipped kitchen provided in the coach.

• Dinning table with beautiful cushioned chairs.

• Folding cushioned beds for space and comfort, wall to wall carpeting, music system with electronic voice control, decorative lights and plants and luxurious ultra modern fittings in bathrooms.

• Fare includes complementary accommodation at Shimla in two retiring rooms for one day and free meals enroute.

**Figure 4.4**

[Map of Railway Network of Himachal Pradesh]
Air Transport

Prior to 7th Plan, there was only one Airstrip in Himachal Pradesh at Bhuntar in Kullu district. During 7th Plan, Shimla airport at Jubbarhatti (25 km from Shimla) became operational in May, 1987 and Gaggal airport (renamed as Kangra Airport during BJP regime) in Kangra district has become operational on 20th December, 1989. The Rangrik air-strip is under construction. Presently, the helipads are functioning at Dodra-Kawar, Kaza, Keylong, Killar, Rohru, Baikuffar, Sangla, Tabo and Annadale (Shimla). New helipads are under construction at Bharmaur, Rampur, Chamba and one proposed to be constructed at Chopal. Proposals for linking all the district headquarters with helipads are under progress. Presently, there are regular scheduled sevices of INDIAN AIRLINES, TRANS BHARAT AVIATION, JAGSON AIRWAYS and other prominent airlines connecting Shimla, Kullu and Karga with the National capital.
Conference Facilities

Himachal Bhawan is a property of HP Govt. which is run by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corpn., a State Govt. Undertaking. HPTDC is professionally managed organization which has its own hotel chain through out Himachal and luxury transport connecting NCT of Delhi with Himachal. The high quality service is our mantra which envies the comforts of any commercial Hotel. Entry for the outsiders is restricted to the exhibition area of the building only, with independent rear side entrance. Location is the biggest advantage of the building being situated in the heart of Delhi on Sikandra Road near Mandi House round about at equal distance from Connaught place and ITO. The place is a hub of cultural activities. In the vicinity of Himachal Bhawan are situated well know Shri Ram Art and Culture Centre, Kamani Auditorium, FICCI, NSD and Directorate Doordarshan are some of the famous buildings. Himachal Bhawan is proud to be a venue for some of the international brands of fashion industry and financial markets.

Convention Hall

Convention Hall is situated at the ground floor of Himachal Bhawan measuring 5500 sq.ft. with a stage area of about 94.01 sq.mtrs. with four doors (three on the front and one on the back ) and 2 Nos. fixed glass windows of 4.90 mtr.X3.90 mtrs. Ech brighten the hall with natural lights. As the building has its own central air conditioning plant and the Convention Hall is fully air conditioned with separate AHU to make the AC more effective. There is enough space outside the Convention Hall which is about 1496 sq.ft. On the one side of the open space two toilets are provided and on the other end of the open space is the main entrance
to the Hall and art gallery. There is enough space for parking within the premises of Himachal Bhawan besides the parking space available on both sides of the building which makes the people visiting the venue comfortable and secured with hassle free parking. The hall is best suited for exhibition, parties and conventions and other social functions.

**Art Gallery**

Himachal Bhawan has two Art Galleries situated on the ground floor close to the Convention Hall with common main entrance, one measuring 550 sq.ft. and the other 600 Sq.ft. The two art galleries are inter-connected with a passage of about 7 mtrs. which makes it possible to turn the two units into one, if needed. The art galleries have provision for ventilation and natural light with glass windows on two sides. The art galleries are best suited for exhibition of arts, crafts, paintings and garments etc. Air Conditioning facility is also provided. Proper lighting arrangements suitable for exhibition are provided in the area. Within and outside Parking at the premises is an added attraction.

**Conference Room**

Conference Room having a covered area of about 800 Sq.ft. is situated at the first floor adjacent to the restaurant. It has wall to wall carpet and wooden paneling on the walls is most suited for press
conferences, corporate meetings and social gatherings. It is well furnished with sitting capacity of 50 people with Horse Shoe conference table. Being adjacent to restaurant makes it convenient to serve the eatables fresh and hot. Service counter is also provided inside. We provide working lunch/executive lunch and high tea during conference.

**Conference Room in Himachal Sadan**

Himachal Sadan is newly constructed building located in the elite area of Chankyapuri at Sadar Patel Road. The conference room is situated on the 3rd floor of the building. Having seating capacity of 60 people with oval shape of table in the center and latest ceiling tube lights enlighten the 1100 sq.ft. evenly. The place is most suitable for conferences and social gatherings with catering facility at reasonable price. The restaurant is located at the first floor of the building.
Shopping
Each and every activity of tourism is directly or indirectly aimed at providing a 'worthwhile experience' to the visitors to translate it into 'pleasing memory'. It is a very natural, human phenomenon that memory fades with time without remembrance. Souvenirs are a form of objectified tokens for keeping the memory alive and are very appropriately termed as 'memory ticklers'. Souvenirs create an emotional link of the tourists with the destination and play a very important role in bringing the tourists back to the same destination. People get emotional satisfaction by showing the souvenirs to their friends and in their social circle. Lately, the concept of holidaying in famous destinations has become a status symbol and souvenirs from a famous destination decorated in the house is of course the best way to impress others. Some of the tourists buy the souvenirs for this sole purpose, but for most of the tourists buying souvenirs, it is a way to keep their memory fresh or a way to appreciate the art and culture of the destination.

Kullu & Kinnauri Caps
They are circular woollen caps with a vibrantly coloured folded flap. This flap is woven in beautiful geometric patterns typical to Kullu or is made of velvet as in the Kinnauri Caps. Traditionally, the Kinnauri Caps are worn by both men and women folk, whereas the Kullu Caps are worn by men only.

Shawls
Kullu and Kinnauri shawls come in various colours and designs. These shawls are woven from the wool shed by the pashmina goat
or from the wool of angora rabbits. The three dominating colours used in the Kinnauri designs are Red, Yellow and Blue, which symbolise spiritual power, sublime truth and transcendental knowledge respectively. Each combination represents a spiritual-cum-mystic message in its intricate pattern. Kullu shawls are different from the Kinnauri ones, as they signify less devotion and more of prosperity by liberating from its religious confines. They have a wider range of base colours and vibrantly coloured borders.

**Pullahs**

Pullahs are footwear made of fibre extracted from hemp and wool. The sole is made of hemp and the upper part is woven of wool and is in different colour combinations and beautiful designs. 'Pullahs' are made in many parts of Himachal such as Lahaul, Pangi, Shimla etc., with slight variation in designs and make.

**Carpets**

Carpets and blankets are an essential part of Himachali furnishing. Carpets in brilliant colours are woven with a variety of traditional motifs. There are Garudas on flowering trees, dragons, swastikas, flutes to symbolize happiness and lotus blooms to mean purity

**Chamba Rumal**

Chamba rumals are exquisitely embroidered squares of cloth and part of Chamba's rich artistic heritage. The unique feature of this craft is that both sides of the embroidered pattern are identical with no front or rear side. They make unique decorative items and are also used as wall hangings.

**Miniature Paintings**
There are 2 distinct schools prevalent in the State - Kangra and Bosohali. The Kangra paintings were developed under the patronage of Raja Sansar Chand, the ruler of Kangra in 17th century. The subjects of the paintings are from Mahabharata. The prominent centres of this school were Nurpur, Arki, Nalagarh and Mandi.

**Metal Craft**

Metal craft is one of the traditional crafts of Himachal Pradesh. The more commonly used metals are silver and copper, though bronze is also used. The local craftsmanship in carving, ornamenting and engraving of silver has evolved into classic designs, different in different parts of the State. The locally available items include carved silver lamp stands, tea pots, wine cups and metal sculpture.

**Jewellery**

Fine jewellery is crafted out of silver and gold in most parts of the State. Elaborate silver jewellery is worn by the women in Kinnaur, Gaddis of Chamba and Kangra and the Gujjar women.

**Dolls**

Small dolls, adorned in the traditional dress of Himachal from the different parts of State, are a very popular souvenir amongst the tourists. These dolls are available in many costumes such as Gaddi dolls, Kinnauri dolls, Lahauli dolls etc., each fully decked up in clothes and jewellery of the traditional styles.

**Wood Craft**

The most abundant wood in Himachal's forests are the pine and deodar, besides walnut, horse chestnut and wild black mulberry. Intricately carved seats, doors, windows and panels are some
examples of the dexterity of Himachal's craftsmen. The articles which the tourists buy as souvenirs are fruit bowls, beer mugs, wooden jewellery, carved images, key rings and candle stands.

**Agricultural & Horticultural Products**

'Kangra Tea' which is grown in Palampur and nearby areas is rapidly becoming popular. There are many flavours which have been named on the various 'raagas' of classical music, giving them a cultural aroma. Besides the cooked food, there is another very unique preparation called "Jarees", which is served as a mouth-freshner after the meal. 'Jarees' is a mixture prepared from very finely chopped dry coconut, "saunf", black cardamom, 'supari' and 'misri'. This is a speciality from Chamba and is produced there only. 'Jarees' is becoming popular amongst the tourists visiting Chamba. 'Chamba Chukh' is another speciality from the Chamba District. It is a pickle made of chillies, lime juice, salt and mustard oil. Few years back it was only a household product, but some entrepreneurs have started its large scale production experimenting with various recipe and the demand of Chamba-Chukh, is increasing

**Guide and escort services in Himachal**

Though an essential part of the effective tour management system, Himachal Pradesh is severely lacking this component of the packaging. An analysis of the state revealed that till now, despite it being one of the most admired tourist destinations not only of the country but in the whole of Asia-Pacific region, there is not even a single Govt. of India licensed guide. Though Dept. of Tourism, Govt.
of Himachal Pradesh took initiative in the year 2004 by conducting a training programme for state level guides in collaboration with the Institute of Vocational Studies, H P University, yet the services of these trained guides have not been put to the best of the use. The planners need to take immediate action in this direction.

Figure 4.7

The Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (DMAS), Manali

DMAS is an Indian institution located in Manali, HP providing specialised training in Mountaineering, Mountain Rescue, Skiing, Water Sports, Trekking and Rock Climbing. The Institute was established under the personal initiative of Late Pandit Jwaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India. The Institute's aim was to encourage young generation to go to the mountains and participate in adventure activities and interact with Nature. participation with nature helps the individual to develop will power, stamina, confidence, team spirit and comandership and thus channalises the
energy towards Leadership, Character building and National Integration.

Keeping in view the value of adventure sports, the present Institute was established in 1961 at Manali as the Western Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (WHMI). The institute was later named as the Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports and more than 80,000 people have been trained in different adventure activities since its inception. Training is imparted under the guidance of 22 experienced instructors (including four Everesters) who have extensive experience in Skiing and Mountaineering in Himalayas, Alps, (France) and Norway.

The DMAS has 100 employees. It has a spacious campus with administrative offices, a modern auditorium, lecture rooms, library, kitchen, dining hall and hostel accommodation for 300 and teenage accommodation for 250 participants. There is also fitness training area and meteorological observatory post. The DMAS has established 9 training centres all over Himachal Pradesh to provide adventure tourism training to the locals and others from all over the country and abroad.
The institute has been organising National Winter Games Championships, Summer Skiing competitions, White water Rafting and Kayaking competitions, Water Regatta, Mountaineering expeditions, Mountain rescue etc. regularly. DMAS has produced a good number of mountaineers and skiers of National and International eminence. The institute has played a major role towards the promotion and development of adventure tourism.

The State of Himachal Pradesh has emerged as one of the most progressive Himalayan States in the country. Its three major potentials are Hydro-electricity; Horticulture and Adventure Tourism.

The mighty Himalayan range passes through the complete State of Himachal Pradesh and thus it offers the most scenic view comprising of lofty snow covered mountains, glaciers, mountain streams, green open valleys with kilometers long pasture slopes, thick coniferous forests and pollution free climate round the year. Millions of people from all over the country and abroad visit Himachal Pradesh every year. Following features / points make the State of Himachal
Pradesh as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the whole Himalayan Range
(a) Serene scenic beauty
(b) Salubrious climate
(c) Peaceful co-existence
(d) Developed means of transportation and communication within the State.
(e) Close proximity to the National Capital – Delhi
(f) Progressive attitude of local population
(g) Facilities for adventure sports / tourism like Mountaineering, Trekking, Rock Climbing, Hiking, Skiing, Water Sports (Kayaking and Rafting), Angling, Aero Sports (Paragliding and hang gliding), Jeep Safaris, Bird and Wildlife Watching
(h) Variable rich local heritage, culture in different valleys.
(i) Famous State and National festivals.

DMAS has directorate at Manali and centres at different locations in Himachal Pradesh. Contact details for all offices of DMAS is as follows.

- Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali, HP - 175131 (INDIA)
- Regional Mountaineering Centre, Swarag Ashram, McLeodganj, Dharamshala, Angra, HP - 176216
- Regional Water Sports Centre, PO Sansarpur Terrace, Pong Dam, Kangra, HP - 176501
- Winter Sports Skiing Centre, PO Palchan, Manali, Kullu, HP
- Mountaineering Sub Centre, Jispa, Lahaul Spiti, HP - 175132
Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC)

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) is a pioneer in the development of tourism infrastructure in Himachal. Formed in 1972, it provides a complete package of tourism services, including accommodation, catering, transport and sports activities.

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. As the tourism industry flourished in this region, the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation built Turkish type baths, 500 mts. below Vashisht village to tap the springs curative potential. Hot water from the spring is brought through pipe and stored in a huge water tank, from where the water is channeled through pipes to the bathrooms of the HPTDC.
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.

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**Domestic & International Tourist Traffic Trends**
### Table 4.4
Domestic and foreign tourist arrival in Himachal Pradesh from 1993 to 2005

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- **Exclusive of religious tourists**
- **Source:** From records of Dept. of tourism and Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh

# Total bed nights spent by tourists

Tourism has been declared an industry by the government for its speedy development. It creates employment opportunities, both for skilled as well...
as unskilled and energizes local economy and patches up regional imbalances. After the development of basic facilities like accommodation, catering, entertainment and transport, tourism will be one of the major sources of revenue in the Pradesh. The schemes which are taken in hand by the Tourism Corporation are aimed at creating local economic activities and generating employment apart from providing facilities for tourists. The current tourism philosophy in the public sector is geared more towards providing facilities to middle and lower class income groups, including host of pilgrims. So, Himachal Pradesh is giving a thorough look into its potential for attracting large number of visitors. Tourism has rightly been given priority at present as no other industry creates perhaps so much understanding and goodwill as the movement of people from one place to another. It demolishes the walls of mistrust and ignorance that we are prone to erect around ourselves. In the present time of divisive forces, strife and social turmoil tourism builds bridges between people of different backgrounds.

Therefore, tourism is an active activity that needs and deserves our attention and participation for the welfare as well as providing better quality of life to our people.

Of course, Himachal is endowed with tourism resources and has a significant and potential tourist receiving areas. Among other assets the most lucrative is its mountain sceneries, Shimla the largest hill station of destiny, arts and crafts of the enchanting Kangra Valley, pulsating Kullu Valley, and exquisite landscape of Mandi are to name the few besides, variety of flora and fauna. However, despite these diverse attractions Himachal Pradesh does not get its due share of tourist arrivals. The main reasons inhibiting the tourism growth are the seasonability that accounts for low density of traffic during winter resulting an under utilization of existing
resources, infrastructure and the lack of proper transport link roads. There is need to introduce direct train services to Kalka from Bombay, Madras, Bengalore and Ahmedabad. This would help in enlarging the catchment areas for domestic tourists which are presently confined to neighbouring States of Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Uttaranchal and West Bengal only. In terms of air links Himachal is definitely at a disadvantage, while in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar is expecting international chartered flights in addition to Indian Airline's regular flights. The airport at Shimla (Jubbarhatti) needs immediate expansion to accommodate Boeing or Air Bus operation regularly. Big airports need to be constructed at Banikhet and Sundernagar. More rail links need to be constructed in the lower areas of the Pradesh. The surface transport forms a key role in Himachal. The Pinjaur-Swarghat road should be declared as National Highway since it is an important link between National Highway No 21 (Kiratpur-Manali road) and National Highway No 22 and Pathankot-Mandi road should be declared as National Highway. The opening of the Lahaul Valley for all time is possible only through construction of a tunnel across Rohtang Pass. The present provision of bus services to different destinations in Himachal is inadequate. Ofcourse the State at present had 2000 routes out of that 120 had been converted into Express routes to avoid inconvenience to public.

Tourists visiting Himachal are interested to know local performing arts. At present there is no organized effort to entertain the tourists with local talent. Cultural centres need to be developed like the one "Indoor Games Cultural Stadium" being constructed at Combermere Bridge on The Mall, Shimla. There is vast potential for outdoor recreations in Himachal. More than 70 per cent tourists have their inclination towards leisure, recreation and adventure tourism. Therefore, Naldehra, Narkanda, Kufri, Churdhar and
Solang Nullaha should be popularised for winter sports. The activities such as Jiing-gliding, tsanooning, Heliskiing, River Rafting, Canoeing, Kayaking, Fishing, Boating, Trekking, Mountaineering, Rock-climbing, Horse Riding, Nature Jogging etc. should be organised and popularised to attract the tourist traffic to different parts of Himachal Pradesh. This would inspire them in extending their stay also. Installation of Ropeways could be another attraction-cum-facility which deserves greater attention. There is imperative need to save the historical buildings and monuments. The influx of tourists has to be diverted from Shimla and Manali to neighbouring destinations such as Kufri, Narkanda, Chail, Fagu etc. For example Chail offers an excellent forest walks. There are opportunities to play tennis, squash and enjoy flora and fauna. Selected journalists and Travel Agents should be invited to Himachal on a familiarisation trip. Certain outstanding features of Himachal are receiving quite positive response from tourists. Among these are charming snow capped peaks, glaciers, skiing slopes, hot water springs, Kalka-Shimla Rail route, Himachal cuisine, apple blossoming, tribal life, snow leopard, Chamba rumal, Kangra miniatures, Kullu dussehra, Lavi fair of Rampur and numerous handicrafts of Himachal Pradesh etc. It has been observed that our publicity system is inadequate as compared to other States. The publicity material is in dearth (and at some places not available at all) for displaying at places such as Airports, Railway Stations, Bus Terminals and in strategic Government offices. Posters and pamphlets are always eye catcher to attract tourists. The menace of fleecing by the porters, guides and transport operators need to be curbed. Besides, the absence of basic facilities to suit all categories of tourists has always been the major constraint to increase the number of visitors to Himachal. The private hotels are the main source of accommodation and they do charge exorbitant rates due to limited facilities in the public sector. However, in the ultimate analysis development has to
be value based keeping in view the importance of ecology, environment and cultural aspects of the place. In the name of development (or tourism development) large scale exploitation of land, forests, water, mineral resources etc. has been responsible for the devastating disturbances in ecological equilibrium resulting in erosion, sedimentation etc. at several tourist destinations. The State has to take adequate preventive measures so that it may not assume dangerous proportions. In most cases, environment is tourism. People do visit a destination due to its climatic salubrity, scenic beauty and in some cases for its man-made attractions. In broad sense, people and custom are very much an integral part of tourism environment. A tourism impact which spoils customs, religion, dress or lifestyle would have just as destructive effect as littering, trampling the grass or over crowding that destroy forests etc. and some of our places like Manali are going to fall in this category now. Therefore, using the environment without misusing it up is one of the key challenges and prerequisites for genuine tourism development. Environment is a totality rather than a collection of individual parts. Thus climate, green belts, friendly people, historic monuments, the relationship of buildings to their surroundings, historic land-marks, traffic and pedestrian circulation and many other facets are all part of the totality. Thus plans and programmes must enhance and preserve the environmental beauty and natural spontaneity while developing tourism.
Case Study

SHIMLA

The British empire may have ceased to exist, but its echoes linger on in Shimla (2130 m). As the summer capital/refuge of the British in India, this was the country's focus for the better part of every year and now, it is the state capital of Himachal Pradesh. Today, its well developed facilities, easy accessibility and numerous attractions make it one of India's most popular hill resorts. Places in the lower ranges of the Himalaya mountains, it is surrounded by pine, deodar, oak and rhododendron forests. Within the town are a host of splendid colonial edifices, quaint cottages and charming walks. Shimla holds a variety of shopping, sport and entertainment.

Shimla is located on the slopes of lower Himalayas at an altitude of 2,159m. The altitude of Shimla from the sea level makes it a very cool place. The temperature range is not very high and the maximum temperature rarely crosses 25 degrees during summers. Rainfalls mark the summers and the nights are cool and light warm cloths are required during this time. Winters are cold and chilly winds from the upper Himalayas makes the place really cold. Around Christmas or last week of December Shimla gets snow. The Best season to visit Shimla is between April and August, but the main season is between December and January. It is better to avoid the rainy seasons.

Sprawling over an area of 55,673 Sq. Kms Shimla is a tourist destination par excellence. It is a beautiful hill town in the lap of nature, surrounded by pine and deodar forests. Temperature is ideal in summers and tourists flock it in great numbers and it is highly advisable to get hotel reservations done well
in advance despite the fact that there are over 1000 hotels in Shimla. It is well connected by road to the plains. Facilities and amenities are good. People are friendly. It is also comparatively safer than other tourist destinations. All this makes it the favorite travel destination of tourists from India and across the world. An amazingly high percentage of tourists are repeat guest.

British coined the term “Queen of the hills” for Shimla. It has been blessed with all the natural bounties, one can think of. The biggest industry in Shimla is hotel, travel and tourism. Bulging at its seams with unprecedented expansion, the town retains a colonial aura, with its grand old buildings. If you happen to visit Shimla without hotel reservations, you can take the services of one of the numerous porters who double up as travel guides and touts for hotels in Shimla.

Besides being the ultimate summer retreat it remains an ideal spot for adventure sports. Tourists can go in for the various treks to the Kullu valley or indulge in trout fishing at the Pabbar River. The more adventurous may ski at the Narkanda and Kufri from January to mid-March. The nine-hole golf course at Naldehra is also a major draw for the tourists.

This beautiful hill resort also offers a lot for those who would like to indulge in a shopping spree. The Mall is the place to check out for the best in garment and textile industry. Here the State emporium offers the himachali (local) handicrafts and handloom items. The hats that are available in a wide range of charges and colors make the perfect souvenirs. For the dry fruits and natural herbs carrying medicinal properties you may check out any of the local shops whereas the Lakkar Bazaar is the one stop market for the wooden items of all shapes and sizes.
Pine forests and apple orchards, crisp, clean air and breathtaking views - that's **Shimla in a nutshell**. Sprawled over 12 kms on a crescent shaped ridge, Shimla is the largest hill station and erstwhile summer capital of the British in India. Descending in layers from the top of the ridge, at 2,213 metres, Shimla straddles several hills, including the Jakhu, Prospect Hill, Observatory Hill, Elysium Hill and Summer Hill.

Shimla is a tourist paradise throughout the year. The town itself is worth a visit in the off-season when it is less crowded and can be explored to one's heart's content. In the season, most of the over 1000 hotels in Shimla are filled to capacity and getting a room in a hotel in Shimla can be an arduous task. To prevent your visit to Shimla from any hiccups, it is advisable to get hotel reservations in advance. In the off-season, most hotels give "off-season discount" which ranges from 20-50% of room rent. People here, like in the rest of Himachal Pradesh are simple, hard working and fond of music and drama. They worship the goddess Shakti and one can see small temples on hillsides, in valleys, on peaks and ridges. These hillsides are known by the name of the goddess/god itself. The interior part of the Shimla district gives one a fine view of how rural or rather real hillside folks live like. The district offers something to any kind of a visitor. The young, the old, the writers, adventurers, nature lovers and peace lovers can all find their bit of heaven here.

The district of Shimla has amazingly beautiful forests of firs, pines, oaks and rhododendron. The beautiful meadows with hyacinth, celandine, asphodel, climb gently up to the deodar forests and further up to rocky and snowy peaks of the Himalayas. A pleasant way to enjoy natural beauty of the region is to travel to Shimla on the 'Kalka - Shimla' train. It runs on the narrow
gauge and winds its way through forested hills of fir, pines, walnut, apricots and through terraced hillside fields of paddy, corn and the famous capsicum known as 'Shimla Mirch'. The entire Shimla district has a number of small streams and springs and is a delightful place for nature lovers. One can walk and love to walk some more.

The houses of the locals are made of stone and mud with thatched roofs. The materials used for the roofs are plenty but the style is always similar. The roofs slant down on both sides of the house. This helps the snow to slide down during the winters and not accumulate on top of the houses. The houses built by the British mostly used a lot of timber (oak) and were built in gothic styles. The roofs are generally colored brick red or green.

From the days of the British, when it was the popular retreat of the sahibs, Shimla has now become the hub of major activities in Himachal Pradesh. Being the seat of government and a major tourist attraction in north India, Shimla has grown to bursting point. In peak tourist season, traffic jams and crippling water shortage are common. Nevertheless, the fresh air, magnificent snow peaks and refreshing green all around make Shimla worth a visit.

**Geography of SHIMLA** Shimla is a 18 sq km mountainous region lying at an altitude of 2,213 meters in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Fig 6.1 & Fig 6.2. The Shivalik ranges are to the far south, the Dhauladhar and the Pir Panjal ranges cut through it; the Himalayas fall to the north east of Shimla. Sub-tropical forests, maize fields and orchards give way to pine, cedar and snow as you move to the higher slopes. Cars and taxis are not allowed on the upper slopes. They stop at Cart Road, which is the main thoroughfare in Shimla. Buses and taxis stop here. The Mall runs east-west and ends at
Scandal Point. The Ridge Road joins Scandal Point to Christ Church. The central shopping area of the Mall has a promenade packed with clubs, restaurants and bars. From the top of Scandal Point you can get good views of the town and Christ Church.

**History of SHIMLA**

Shimla came into existence in 1819, after the Gurkha War, when a thickly wooded spot, then known for the temple of goddess `Shyamala' was discovered by the British. Its climate commanded itself to British officers on leave and remained a summer village of tents for about three years. It was only in the year 1822 that Captain Kennedy constructed the first double storey building here known as the Kennedy House. Lord Amherst, the first Governor General who visited Shimla, in 1827 stayed at the Kennedy House. It was during Lord William Bentinck's time that Shimla was truly acquired by the Government of India. The old Dak Bungalow of Shimla was demolished to provide a site for the Bentinck Castle, which is today the famous Grand Hotel. Soon Shimla became the summer capital of the British Indian Government. Lord Bentinck's successor Lord Auckland, chose a residence on the northern eastern spur of the Shimla range which was known as the Auckland House. The Auckland House, one of the oldest houses of Shimla, was a scenario of brilliant balls and theatricals.

The British made Shimla their summer capital in 1864 and it remained so until 1939. The summer exodus of the officials from the plains, however, ended after 1947. Shimla continued to serve as a temporary capital of the east Punjab until the new city of Chandigarh was completed. It has remained the capital of Himachal Pradesh ever since 1966.

**Culture and Language**
Shimla has a multilingual, cosmopolitan character. People speak and understand both Hindi and English. Punjabi and Pahari languages are also spoken and understood in and around Shimla.

India is a land abundant in raw materials that have lent themselves to the creative hands of the Indian craftsmen. From expensive materials like ivory, gems and marble; to cheaper ones like clay, cane and bamboo and wood, Indian handicrafts have an amazingly captivating beauty. Another thrilling factor is the numerous processes that these materials go through before they take final shape. Processes like the 'chikan' work and 'phulkari and bagh' work on cloth; certain Himachali art and crafts are truly fascinating; it is incredible how ancient practices and traditions have continued since time immemorial. The history of India is a story of unbroken traditions that have continued for over 5000 years. For centuries, Indian handicrafts have been distinguished for their aesthetic and functional value.

**Weather and Climate** Summer in Shimla ranges from April to June, with temperatures ranging from a maximum of 28°C and a minimum of 15°C. Summer temperatures are mild and light woolens/cottons are recommended.

Winter here lasts from November to February, with temperatures rising to a maximum of 8°C and a low of 0°C or even low. Winters are cold due to the chilly winds from the upper Himalayas. Heavy woolens are recommended for this season. Around Christmas, Shimla experiences snowfall. Shimla receives an average annual rainfall of 166 cms.
Place of interest in and around Shimla

The Ridge: This large open space in the heart of town presents excellent views of the mountain ranges. Shimla's landmarks - the neo-Gothic structure of Christ Church and the neo-Tudor library building are here.

Lakkar Bazaar: Popular for its wood crafts and souvenirs, this is just off the Ridge.

Jakhu Hanuman Temple: No visit to the state capital Shimla is complete without visiting Jakhu Hill. This hill looms over Shimla town and is the geographical nucleus. The Hanuman temple at the top of Jakhu hill is the highest point in town. The steep climb is rewarding for the fine views it offers over the surrounding valleys, out to the snow capped peaks and over Shimla itself. The temple is only 2 km from the Ridge but it could be an hour walk for a person not used to mountain climbing. The temple is one of the most favoured spots for tourists apart from pilgrims. There are many monkeys around the temple, but surprisingly they don't attack people. Pilgrims offer them eatables which they readily accept. The approach to the temple is through a
dense forest of deodars, though many find the climb tiresome. Ponies are available for a to and fro ride to the temple

**Figure 4.12**

St. Micheal's Cathedral: This dressed-stone church with fine stained glass has a cruciform design. It is located just off the Mall, below the District Courts.

The Glen: At 1830 m, this is a thickly wooded ravine through which a stream flows. It is a popular picnic spot.

**Figure 4.13**

Glimpse of State Museum
State Museum
The Government of India had transferred this building having historical importance for housing the Museum. Previously, the building was a private residence of Lord William Beresford, the Military Secretary to the Viceroy for many years. After Lord William Beresford left India, the General Sir Edwin Collan occupied it and then by Sir Edward Law, the Financial member of the council. After it served as residence of Indian government officials.

Art objects in the Museum collection are mostly related to art, archaeology and cultural anthropology of Himachal and other states of India. At present Museum, has about 9000 objects in its collection. At the outset, museum started with four galleries. Since then more galleries have been added. These galleries pertain to Pre-historic, Indian Archaeology, Woodcarvings, Himachal Archaeology, Pahari Miniature Paintings Monuments, Photographs, Rajasthan paintings, Bronzes, Numismatic, Arms Gallery, Gandhi Gallery, Philatelic, Anthropological, Contemporary Art & Wall Paintings gallery. In addition to these galleries museum has one exhibition hall for arranging the exhibition and other museum activities.

Pre-Historic Gallery: At the entrance of museum, the visitors can have a view of some fiberglass models of extinct wild animals which were used to roam in the Shivalik hills, million of years ago. In the gallery, some stone tools and fossils are on display, which show the development of technique of tools.

Wood-Carving Gallery: Here one can find the display of wood carving and panels retrieved from the old-age temple and houses of state. There is a fine display of masks, which are still used in various religious and cultural festivities. The gallery serves as a living example of traditional wooden art of
Himachal. Apart from this Some stone sculpture of Himachal are also on display.

**Archaeology Gallery:** The sculpture from different parts of India are displayed here. The themes, styles and material of these sculptures provide us with a good perspective of the cultural life of the various regions and provide a comparative study of art for research. Apart from this, some terracotta's of Maurya, Shunga and Gupta period and pottery shreds of proto- historic period are also on display.

**Himachal Archaeological Gallery:** - Gallery has a unique collection of stone sculptures from different parts of the State which reflects the artistic skill of the regional artists. The sculptures of Simhavahini Durga from Hatkoti, Surya from Kullu, Vishnu and Lakshmi from Nirmand, Kartikeya from Karsog and Nidhi from Kangra are among the displayed sculpture.

**Pahari Miniature Painting Gallery:** - Himachal is well known for its Kangra Miniature Paintings in the art history. The miniature painting of different school like that of Kangra, Guler, Basholi, Bilaspur and Mandi etc are on display. These paintings were done on hand-made paper prepared by the prisoners of Sialkot Jail and natural colors are used in paintings. The themes of these paintings are drowned from epics, Git-Govinda,Ragmala ,Baramasa, Bihari Satsai and other secular themes.

**Wall Painting Gallery:** The tradition of decorating the temples, palaces and royal houses with wall were prevalent in Himachal. The wall paintings displayed here are retrieved from the palace 'Rang Mahal' of Chamba and dated back to first half of 19th century A.D.
Photographs Gallery: In up-stair one can find the display of photographs of important monuments of Himachal Pradesh. The photographs depict the hill architecture.

Rajasthan Miniature Painting Gallery: Miniature paintings and portrait from various school of Rajasthan, i.e. Jaipur, Mewar, Buildi, Kota, Malwa, etc. are on display. In addition, some paintings of Mughal School, Sikh School and Company period are also exhibited.

Bronze Gallery: Bronzes of different regions of Himachal are exhibited in this gallery. In addition to it bronzes of rest of India are also displayed which reflects the cultural tradition, artisanship and religious belief of the people.

Numismatic Gallery: Coins discovered in different parts of Himachal are chronological displayed in the gallery. Gallery throws a complete light on the numismatic history of Himachal. Coins right from Punch mark i.e. first Indian coin to the present coins are on display in its chronological order. Apart from this some chart of coins showing the different types of coins issued by the ruler during their reign.

CHURCHES

Christ Church & St. Michael's Cathedral: Built in 1846-1857, Christ Church is the second oldest church of Northern India. The Church overlooks the ridge and is one of the landmarks of Shimla. The clocks on Christ Church were added later but none of them are functional now. The Church's exquisite beauty comes with the stained glasses that are fitted on its windows. The town's other important churches are St. Michael's Cathedral and Roman Catholic Cathedral, which is just off the Mall.
**MUSEUMS**

**Himachal State Museum & Library:** The museum is located 2.5-km west of the scandal point and opens daily except on Mondays and public holidays. It has got a good collection of ancient historical sculptures, paintings, coins, photos and other items from all over the state as well as outside it. It has also got a library, which houses many historical books and manuscripts.

**GARDENS**

**Viceregal Lodge & Botanical Gardens:** On the Observatory Hills is located Viceregal Lodge, which is also known as "Rashtrapati Niwas". This magnificent building was the residence of the British Viceroy Lord Dufferin. This lodge was completed in 1888 and it is said that every brick for the building was carried by mules. This is a six-storey building and is surrounded by well-maintained gardens and lawns. The lodge has now been converted into Institute of Advanced Study and is further 2-km from State Museum.

**SHOPPING CENTRE**

Being the state capital, handicrafts from all over the state come here for sale. The Mall has some of the good and big names in the garment and textile industry. The State emporium on the Mall offers many handicrafts and handloom items, which
are made by the artisans of Himachal. The famous Himachali hat comes in different rates and vivid colors. Lakkar Bazaar is famous for items made from wood. These decorative wooden items are made from the softwood found in the hilly region. Further, dry fruits and natural herbs, which have many medicinal properties, are also easily available in the shops.

The Mall: This is the main shopping centre of Shimla with restaurants. The Gaiety Theatre, which is a reproduction of an old British theatre is a center of cultural activities. A passenger lift of HPTDC can be taken from the Cart Road and the Mall. Lakkar Bazaar adjacent to the Ridge is popular for its wood-crafts and souvenirs.

MOUNTAINS

Prospect Hill: Crowned by a temple dedicated to Kamna Devi 15-minutes walk from Boileauganj on Shimla-Bilaspur road. The hill at an altitude of 2,155m offers a spectacular view of the area.

The Ridge: The large open space in the heart of town presents excellent view of the mountain ranges. Shimla's landmarks - the Neo-Gothic structure of Christ Church and the new - Tudor Library building is worth seeing.

TEMPLES

Jakhu Temple: Dedicated to Lord Hanuman, this temple is at an altitude of 2,455m near the highest point of Shimla ridge. It offers a fine view over the surrounding valleys, out to the snowcapped peaks, and over the town itself. The temple is a 45-minute walk from the Mall. Jakhu is a vantage point for witnessing the changing skyline as the sun rises or sets.
**Sankat Mochan:** On Shimla-Kalka road is the famous "Lord Hanuman" temple. Situated at an altitude of 1,975m, it commands an excellent view of Shimla town.

**Tara Devi:** On Shimla-Kalka road this holy place is accessible by rail, bus and car (11-km). From the station / road - one can visit the temple either on foot or by taxi / jeep.

**OTHERS**

**Chadwick Falls:** Surrounded by thick forests, one can reach these falls by taking about 45-minutes (7-km) walk from Summer Hill Chowk.

**Fagu (22-Km) 2,450m:** Situated on Hindustan-Tibet Road (22-km), at a height of 2,450m Fagu is gifted with some enchanting views.

**Bharari Spur:** It is a less explored area within the town. From here, one can take a long haul by foot through the thick cedar forest to the Hot-springs of Tattapani, or to the ruins of Kiar Koti.
**Institute of Advanced Studies:** Housed in the former Viceregal Lodge, it was built in 1888. A spectacular English Renaissance grey stone structure. The entry in the institute is by ticket and only on Sundays the grounds are open for the public.

*Figure 4.16*

**Annadale:** Surrounded by deodar trees, this glade has an ancient temple on the edge.

**Summer Hill:** At an altitude of 1,283m, Summer Hill is a picturesque spot on Shimla-Kalka Railway line offering shady walks in quiet surroundings. The Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to Shimla lived in the elegant Georgian House of Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur located here. HP University is also situated over here.

**Himalayan Aviary:** Close to the Viceregal lodge is the Himalayan Aviary or the Himalayan Bird Park. This park is a natural habitat of numerous species of birds found in Himachal such as Himalayan Monal, Pheasants, Peafowls and National Bird of India, the Peacock.
FAIRS & FESTIVALS
Every year in the month of June, the Folk Dance festival, the "Mushaira" - recitation of Urdu poetry by poets, the Red Cross Fair, Golf and the Flower Show are some of the events held in Shimla, to celebrate Summer Festival. In December, Ice-Skating Carnival is held and then Christmas celebrations overtake Shimla

MACLEOD GANJ
McLeod Ganj often called the ‘Little Lhasa’ is just 9 km up from Kotwali Bazar of the famous town Dharamsala. Mc Leod Ganj, also known as upper Dharamsala, is the most frequented by Tibetans of the places in India. In the times of British rule Upper Daramsala was a "hill station", a place where wives and daughters of British officers and government officials spent hot Indian summers.

Marvelously scenic, especially upper Dharamsala is well wooded with oak, cedar, pine and other timber yielding trees and offers some lovely walks and finer views. In 1855, Dharamsala had only two major areas where civilians settled in: McLeodganj, named after Lieutenant Governor of Punjab "David McLeod", and Forsyth Ganj, named after a Divisional Commissioner.

Lord Elgin, the British Viceroy of India (1862-63) fell in love with the natural beauty of Dharamsala because of its likeness with Scotland, his home in England. Lord Elgin died in 1863 while on a tour. He now lies buried in the graveyard of St. John's Church-in-Wilderness which stands in a cozy pine grove between McLeod Ganj and Forsyth Ganj. A Legend has it that Lord Elgin liked Dharamsala so much that he had sent a proposal to
the British monarch to make Dharamsala the summer capital of India. However, the proposal was ignored.

By 1904, Forsyth Ganj and McLeod Ganj had become nerve centers of trade, business and official work of Kangra District. But on April 4, 1905, as a result of a severe earthquake, whole of the area was devastated. Alarmed at the massive destruction, the British government decided to shift the district headquarter offices to the lower reaches of spur. As a result, the present-day district courts and Kotwali bazaar areas came into being which earlier had only a jail, a police station and cobbler’s shop to boast of. Until India attained independence from Britain on Aug. 15, 1947 McLeod Ganj and Forsyth Ganj continued to serve as health resorts and resting places for the British Rulers. But all this changed when the government of India decided to grant political asylum to the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, in 1959. In 1960, he was allowed to make McLeod Ganj his headquarters. After his arrival, trade, commerce and tourism picked up afresh. Because with the Dalai Lama came thousands of Tibetan refugees, who gradually settled in McLeod Ganj. During the last three decades, The Tibetans have built many religious, educational and cultural institutions in and around McLeod Ganj, which has helped in preservation of their culture. This has been a keen area of interest for the people around the world and as a result they flock at Dharamsala at various times.

In the first years of Indian independence, the place quickly lost its importance. In 1959 after the Chinese invasion to Tibet, the Dalai Lama fled from Tibet to India and was offered the former hill station, now known as McLeod Ganj, as a place of residence of the Tibetan exile government. Originally home of the seminomadic Gaddi tribe, Mcleod Ganj is today the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This mid 19th
century place was developed as a British Garrison. The place was an important administrative point for the whole Kangra valley. Today Macleod Ganj has developed as headquarters of the exiled Tibetan Government and is situated just before the Upper Dharamsala.

The impressive monastery has got larger than life size images of Buddha, Padmasambhava and Avaloketeshwara. To preserve the rich manifestation of the Tibetan culture the institute of Tibetan performing arts was established over here. In April and May a festival is organised here, which includes the traditional plays, dances and many more such events.

The large Tibetan population of the region and the presence of traditional architectural designs have enhanced the area. But the most important example of the Tibetan architecture is the Tsuglagkhang or the Dalai Lama's temple. The magnificent images - a gilt statue of Shakyamuni; then facing Tibet is the Tibetan deity of compassion, Avalokitesvara and that of Padmasambhava who introduced Buddhism and tantric teachings to Tibet in 8th century.

The house also has a collection of scared text called the Khagyr based on the teachings of Buddha. Also included in the temple is a collection of works on art, philosophy, literature, astrology and medicine.

Dharamsala is situated in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. It lies on a spur of the Dhauladhar range, the Pir Panjal region of the Outer Himalayas; and commands majestic views of the mighty Dhauladhar ranges above, and the Kangra Valley below. Dhauladhar means "white ridge" and this breathtaking, snow-capped range rises out of the Kangra Valley to a height of 5,200 meters.
Image by Dr B C Khanna The mountains dominate the scenery in McLeod Gunj. They form a treacherous range creating unpredictable weather, but passes of 2,400 meters (8,900 feet) provide route for the herdsmen of the Ravi Valley beyond. The Kangra Valley is a wide, fertile plain, criss-crossed by low hills. The scenery touched the heart of a British official who wrote: "No scenery, in my opinion, presents such sublime and delightful contrasts. Dharamsala is divided into two very different parts. Kotwali Bazaar and areas further down the valley (at the average height of 1,250 metres) are called Lower Dharamsala, while McLeodGunj (at the height of nearly 1,800 metres) and surrounding areas are known as Upper Dharamsala. McLeodgunj is nine kilometers by bus route and four kilometres by taxi route up the hill from Kotwali Bazaar. While inhabitants of Lower Dharamsala are almost all Indians, McLeod Gunj is primarily a Tibetan area. McLeod Gunj is surrounded by pine, Himalayan oak, rhododendron and deodar forests. The main crops grown by local Indians in the valleys below McLeod Gunj are rice, wheat and tea. Today, streams of Tibetan refugees from all over the world flock to McLeod Gunj to receive blessings and teachings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Western and Indian tourists and scholars come here to see the rebirth of an ancient and fascinating civilization. The high altitude and cool weather contribute physically to this recreation of the original Tibetan environment. Dharamshala pulsates with the sights and sounds of old Tibet. Though certainly more modern, life is basically Tibetan in character. Shops strung out along the narrow streets of McLeod Gunj sell traditional Tibetan arts and handicrafts and the aroma of Tibetan dishes lingers in the air.
Tsuglag Khang (Central Cathedral)
Though a plain and utilitarian substitute for its far more splendid name sake in Lhasa, also known as the Jokhang, the Tsuglag Khang is nevertheless fascinating and peaceful.

Figure 4.18
Statue of the Sakyamuni Buddha
Situated opposite the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tsuglag Khang is known to the local Indians as the Main Temple. It houses three main images: that of the Sakyamuni Buddha, Padmasambhava and Avalokitesvara, the Buddha of Compassion, of whom the Dalai Lama is the current emanation. The principal image is that of Sakyamuni Buddha, measuring three metres high and made of gilded bronze. To its right are the images of Padmasambhava and Avalokitesvara which are both facing Tibet.

*Namgyalma Stupa*

Surrounded by prayer wheels, this Buddhist stupa, is located in the centre of McLeod Gunj. Erected as a memorial to those Tibetans who lost their lives fighting for a free Tibet, Namgyalma Stupa stands as a monument to the determination of a suppressed people to preserve their distinctive way of life against overwhelming odds. With a statue of the Sakyamuni Buddha enshrined in a small chamber, the stupa is built in the tradition of the third century Indian Emperor Ashoka and represents peace and progress. Day and night, devotees turn prayer wheels as they circumambulate the stupa, reciting mantras.

*Figure 4.19*
Fifteen minutes' walk from McLeod Gunj, the Anglican church lies in the forest near Forsyth Gunj. This neo-Gothic stone church was built in 1852 and has some fine Belgian stained-glass windows. It miraculously survived the 1905 earthquake - only the spire collapsed. A memorial to Lord Elgin stands in the churchyard. The British Viceroy died in Dharamsala and is buried here. Visiting hours for the church and cemetery are 10 am to 5 pm each day.

**Dal Lake**

About three kilometers from McLeod Gunj and next to the Tibetan Children's Village, this small lake is brownish in colour and not nearly as impressive as the name and reputation suggest. However, there are many interesting walks around the lake.
Triund

Mcleodganj to Triund is a 9 km gradual trek which passes through the Dharmkot and Rakkar villages. The tracks from Rawa, Dallake, Dharamkot and Bhagsu meet at a ridge known as Galu Devi (2130m) which has a small temple and a water point. From Galu Oevi onward the track is smooth and clear and ascends through a mixed forest of oaks and rhododendrons. The track then gradually gains height and winds round the ridges looking towards Dharamsala and the Kangra valley. The last climb after a snow nullah rises abruptly with steep ascents and the track weaves through twenty two curves making the ascent tiring and difficult. On this track one can spot many types of birds. Monals are in plenty. The black bear, leopards, pigs and wild goats are also found in this region. There is a small forest bungalow at Triund located on a big and green subsidiary ridge of the Dhauladhar range. The forest bungalow was built some years ago.
**Bhagsunag**

This ancient temple is 2 kms from Mcleodganj. Close to this temple is a beautiful waterfall. Near the Dal Lake is the shrine of Bhagsunath an easy walk from the Mcleod ganj. Famous for its ancient temple and a pretty waterfall not far away. The rock temple dedicated to local Goddess is just 3 km from Kotwali Bazaar.

**Dharamkot**

This village, twenty minutes’ walk further up the hill from McLeod Gunj, is a favourite picnic spot with a panoramic view of the Kangra Valley. It is possible to rent houses from local Indians if you are planning a longish stay.

**Chinmaya Tapovan**

An ashram complex has been established by late Swami Chinmayananda, a noted exponent of the Gita, at a distance of approximately 10 km from Dharamsala on the banks of the rivulet Bindu Saras. The complex includes a 9 m high image of Lord Hanuman, a magnificent Rama temple, a meditation hall, a school, and a health and recreation centre.
**Kangra**

Kangra town is 18 km from Dharamsala. This was the first seat of Raja Sansar Chand II (1775-1823). One of the ancient capital of powerful hill state-fort of Nagarkot (3km) stands as a mute witness to the ravages of conquerors from Mahmood of Ghazni to the Emperor Jehangir, and the disastrous earthquake of 1905. The place is now called "Purana Kangra". 2 km from the bus stand is the temple dedicated to the goddess Barjeshwari Devi.

**Jawalamukhi (600 mt)**

56 km from Dharamsala is the famous temple of goddess Jawalamukhi also called the “Flaming Goddess” or “She of the flaming mouth”. It lies in the valley of Beas and is built over some natural jets of combustible gas believed to be a manifestation of the goddess Devi Bhagwati Jawalamukhi. A legend avers that the flames proceed from the mouth of demon Jalandhara, the Daitya King whom Shiva over-whelmed with mountains. The temple building is modern whose dome is of gilt, gold and pinacles and possesses a beautiful folding door of silver plates, presented by the Sikh Raja Kharak Singh, which so struck Lord Hardinge that he had a model made of it. Many people, especially women take a vow that if anything they ardently wish for, is obtained, they will go on pilgrimage to the temple here. Beautiful songs in praise of the goddess are sung by the women on way to the temple. On the backside of the temple water runs along a water-course which takes off from a spring high above. Some say this canal was constructed by Emperor Akbar to try to quench the flames. The attempt having proved abortive, he became a devotee of the Goddess. The song popularly sung in praise of the Goddess describes how the Mughal Emperor came barefooted and placed a crown of gold before the Goddess as offering. That crown is still preserved and it is said, it was turned into copper as soon as the Emperor looked back in pride.
and thought of costly present he had made. The interior of temple consists of a square pit about three feet deep with a pathway all round. In the middle, the rock is slightly hollowed out about the principal fissure and on applying a light the gas bursts into flames. The gas escapes at several other points from the crevices of the walls of the pit. There is no idol of any kind, the flaming Fissure being considered as the fiery mouth of Goddess. There is the Gorakh Dibbi, Chaturbhuj Temple and a host of other smaller shrine at Jawalamukhi town.

**Chintpurni**

84 km south of Dharamsala and 3 km from Bharwain is the famous temple of Chintpurni on a ridge top. A stone idol (pindi) represents the goddess. According to the legend, hundreds of years ago a brahmin, Maldas, saw in a dream a young girl with a lion listening to devotional music under a banyan tree. She told him that she was goddess Durga (Bhagwati) Chhinmastika -the headless form in which she killed Nishumukh, and, wanting to stay there, she asked him to build a temple for her and become its priest. She also told him that anybody who worshipped her with a pure heart would be relieved of all worries, hence the name Chintpurni. The main fair at the temple is held during Navratras (April and October) and during the days of Shuklapaksh of Shavan (August), when thousands of people visit this place.

**Pong Dam (500 mt)**

Pong Dam reservoir is 65 km Pathankot and 115 km from Dharamsala. Nestled in the sylvan surroundings of the Kangra valley, the sprawling Pong Dam wetland has emerged as a major habitat for migratory birds in the country as also an attraction for bird watchers.

The most common bird species that have arrived and often visit this lake every year include ruddy-shell ducks (surkhab), bar-headed geese,
mallards, coots, pochards and pintails besides rare red-necked grebe and gulls. These species come from as far as China, Siberia, Central Asia, Pakistan and Ladakh. According to a census, more than one lakh migratory birds visited the lake last year.

Built in 1960, the Pong Dam reservoir is the only place in the country after the Bharatpur Sanctuary where the red-necked grebe descends every year. Similarly, though seashore species, the arrival of gulls on this lake also make the Pong Dam an exception. It may be recalled that it was in 1920 when a British police officer counted as many as 27 bird species in this region of Kangra district. Subsequently, it was designated as a protected area.

The water body occupies an area of at least 18,000 hectares and extends up to 30,000 hectares at the peak monsoon. An area of about 20,000 hectares within the radius of 5 km has been notified as the buffer zone.

However, there is abundant aquatic vegetation on the lake and mixed perennial and deciduous pine forests on hillsides girding up the lake to provide enough food and shelter respectively to the migratory birds even as under the social forestry programme a large number of eucalyptus trees have been raised in the area to enable migratory birds to seek shelter on these trees.

**Tatwani & Machhial (500 mt)**

20 km from Dharamsala and 4 km from Rait (on Dharamsala-Pathankot Road) is the beautiful waterfall. 5 km down lies the hot spring of Tatwani (a
contraction of Tatta pani) on the bank of Gaj rivulet, a tributary of Beas. The hot spring issues at a height of about five feet from the side of the hill.

**Chamunda**

Another 20 km from Kangra is the famous Chamunda Nandikeshwar dham. This place also has a beautiful bathing ghat and a small temple across the bridge joining the ghat. There are ample arrangements to stay in the temple sarai and the rest house at Dadh. Up in the Dhauladhar hills, a trek of about 16 km, is the place where Bhagwati Chamunda, according to the Puranas, Vanquished the demons Chand and Munda.

**MASRUR**

Masrur is famous for Rock cut Temple located 15-kms South of Kangra or 36 km from Dharamsala on Nagrota Surian link road and is famous for remarkable group of rock cut temples. They form a group of 15 monolithic rock cut temples in the Indo Aryan style and are richly carved. The main shrine contains three stone images of Ram laxman and Sita but the presence of the figure of Shiva in the centre of the lintel affors a strong presumption that the temple was originally dedicated to Mahadeva.

**Archaeological Sites**

Dr. O.C. Handa, in his Buddhist Art and Antiquities of Himachal Pradesh, points to two ancient and important sites very close to Dharamsala. In the fields between Khanyara Road and the village of Dari, at Uparal, two smooth granite boulders inscribed in Brahmi and Kharoshtin scripts record that this was the site of a Buddhist monastery in 200 B.C. An Archaeological Survey of India signboard marks the rock inscription. And at Chetru village, near Kangra, the ruins of a stupa, and a headless standing Buddha statue, mark what is believed to have been a larger monastic complex from the age when Buddhism flourished in the valley,
circa 300 B.C. Among the wealth of antiquarian finds at various Buddhist sites in Himachal, made on pioneering field-trips by Dr. Handa, the stupa remains at Chetru are the only significant monuments to survive in any recognizable form.

The Norbulingka Institute  
The Norbulingka Institute of Tibetan Culture was founded by the Department of Religion and Culture to preserve and promote Tibetan art and culture in exile. It derives its name from the His Holiness the Dalai Lama's beautiful summer residence, the Norbulingka (Jewel Garden), set in parkland two kilometers from Lhasa. Fearing for the future of Tibet's cultural heritage, the Seventh Dalai

Figure 4.21  
Art of Norbulingka Institute of Tibetan Culture

MONASTERIES

The Residence of Dalai Lama: The Dalai Lama settled in Macleod Ganj in 1960 and his residence on the south edge of town has become his permanent home in exile. His own quarters are the modest, and government offices take up most of the walled compound overhanging the valley.

Tsuglagkhang: In front of the private enclosure of the residence of Dalai
Lama, Dharamsala's main Buddhist temple, Tsuglagkhang, shelters images of Shayamuni, Padmasambhava and Avaloktesvara, all sitting in meditation postures and are surrounded by offerings from devotees.

**Gompa Dip Tse-Chok Ling:** The small Gompa Dip Tse-Chok Ling is located on the bottom of a steep track. The main Prayer hall has an image of the Shakyamuni. The monks who lived in the Gompa have made two huge drums covered in goatskin and painted around the rim. The butter sculptures, which are made during Losar, are destroyed in the next Losar festival. This gompa is also famous for the fine and detailed mandals.

![Monks at Prayer](image)

**Library of Tibetan Works & Archives:** The library of Tibetan works and archives stores almost 40% of the original Tibetan manuscripts and is a repository of the rich Tibetan culture. The library also has a photographic archive. At Gangchen Kyishong is the Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute.

**LAKES**

**Dal Lake:** The small, murky Dal Lake, connected to Dharamkot by a path down through the wooded slopes, is the scene of an animal fair and Shivate festival in September.
CITIES

Bhagsu: Bhagsu is a village on the banks of a mountain stream. A path meanders up boulder-strewn slopes from here, through a slate quarry, to the waterfall that feeds the stream. Each September pilgrims come to bathe in the waters of the tank of Bhagsu's Shiva temple.

MUSEUMS

Kangra Art Museum: This treasure trove of the Kangra valley's arts, crafts, and rich past, displays artifacts that date back to the 5th century. The museum also includes a gallery of Kangra's famous miniature paintings and a representative collection of sculptures, pottery, and anthropological items.

War Memorial: Set amidst the pine groves is a war memorial, built on the entry point of the to Dharamsala to commemorate the post independence war heroes of Himachal Pradesh. A web of narrow paths and landscaped lawns lead towards this monument.

CHURCHES

St. John's Church: One of the most poignant memories of the British Raj is the church of St. John, situated in the wilderness. This charmingly dressed stone church is located just 8-km from Dharamsala on the way to McLeod Ganj. Under the shade of Doedar branches, a memorial has been made over the body of the British Viceroy, Lord Elgin who died at Dharamsala in 1863.
HOT SPRINGS

Tatwani & Machhrial: There are hot springs situated at Tatwani, 25-km from Dharamsala but on the way, at Machhrial, is a waterfall twice as big as the one near the Bhagsunath temple.

OTHERS

The Shrine of Bhagsunath: Just 11-km from the town center of Dharamsala is the ancient temple of Bhagsunath. There are many fresh water springs close to the temple, which are considered sacred by the Hindus.

Kunal Pathri: These are the rock temples from which the place derives its name. Kunal pathri is a 3 kms flat walk from Kotwali Bazaar.

Dharmkot: Just 11-km away from Dharamsala, located on the crest of a hill lie this attractive picnic spot, which presents a panoramic view of the Kangra valley and Dauladhar ranges.

Norbulinka Institute: Just four kms from Dharamsala, Norbulinka was established to preserve and teach the ancient Tibetan arts. The shady paths, wooden bridges, small streams tiny water falls make this place look like heaven. Here one can watch the wooden carvings and the tangka paintings, golsithing and embroidery being done. The nunnery close to the institute is a place where women are taught the advanced levels of Buddhist philosophy.

Chinmaya Tapovan: Just 10-km from the town is the tranquil ashram
complex set up by the great exponent of the Gita--Swami Chinmayananda. Situated on the banks of Bindu Saras, the ashram includes a 9m high image of Hanuman, a Ram temple, a meditation hall, a school and a health & recreation center.

**Andretta:** Situated just 13-kms away from Palampur, lies this dwelling place of artist S.Sobha Singh. It houses a gallery of some of his major works and a pottery center.

**ADVENTURE SPORTS**

Dharamsala is one of the most popular starting points for treks and rock climbing over the ridges of the Dhauladhar range. There are tailor-made treks in the Kangra valley around Dharamsala and adjoining places. The trekking season starts from May and goes on to October. The most frequented route from Dharamsala to the Chamba valley, over the Indradhar Pass (4350m), is arduous trek but the most novice trekkers can manage to complete it within five days.

There are many easy walks of small treks around McLeodganj and Dharamsala such as Toral Pass (4575m) that start from Tang Narwana (1150m), which is 10-km from Dharamsala. A 2-km stroll takes one to Bhagsu, then a little further a 3-km walk will bring the trekkers to Dharamkot. If one wishes to go on a longer walk then he can walk 8-km to Triund. The snow line of Ilaqa Got is just a 5-km walk.

The most difficult route is towards the north, a five to six day trek across Bhimghasutri Pass (4580), covering near-vertical rocky ascents, sharp
cliffs and dangerous gorges. An easier four or five day trek from Dharamsala crosses Bleni Pass (3710m) in the milder ranges of the northwest, weaving through the alpine pastures, woods and passing through few streams, before terminating at Dunali, on the Chamba road.

The area is rich in small rivers and streams, which give ample opportunity for angle fishing. The 20-km stretch of the river Beas between Nadaun and the Pong Dam offers ample of opportunities in angling for Mahaseer.

**Excursions**

**Kareri:** Set amidst a sylvan surrounding is a rest house, located in the cool depths of the pine grove. Surrounded by green open meadows and forests of tall oak & pine at a height of 3250m is situated the picturesque Kareri Lake, which is just 13-km from the rest house and 22- kms from Dharamsala.

**Trilokpur:** On the way from Pathankot, 41-km from Dharamsala are the unique cave temples with a stalactite and stalagmites dedicated to Lord Shiva.

**Sujanpur Tira:** This place is famous for the wall paintings and the temples. Sujanpur Tira also has fort, which is worth visiting. It is 8- km from Dharamsala and in particular the festival of Holi is a major event here and attracts many visitors to this area.

**Yoga Centre in Dharamsala & Mcleodganj**
BUDDHA HALL is located in the heart of Kangra district headquater Dharmashala, (Bhagsunag) literally means 'Holy Refuge'. The hall provides a warm and friendly environment where people interested in Reiki and the healing arts, can meet, network and enjoy spending time together. We are offering many different styles of Reiki, Meditation.

The hall provides a warm and friendly environment where people interested in yoga and the healing arts can meet, network and enjoy spending time together.

**Buddha Hall major activity includes:**

Reiki (the healing touch of safe natural hands)  Reflexology Meditation and yoga

Reiki - Reiki is an ancient healing therapy which is believed to have originated in Tibet, later surfacing in Japan and introduced to the Western World in the mid 1970's. This is one of the most effective natural stress relief and health improvement therapies. Activation of Reiki within a person's hand is made possible by a simple process called an "attunement".

Reflexology - The congestion or tension in any part of the foot mirrors congestion or tension in a corresponding part of the body. Thus, when you treat the big toes there is a related effect in the head, and treating the whole foot can have a relaxing and healing effect on the whole body.

Meditation and yoga - If you are just learning to meditate and yoga, you'll find everything necessary to get started quickly and easily. If you are already practicing meditation and yoga, you may discover new methods to deepen your practice.
Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts McLeodganj Dharamsala

TIPA is about fifteen minutes' walk from McLeod Gunj. Established in 1959, TIPA was the very first institution in exile. It is the home of lhamo, the arrestingly colourful and unique folk opera of Tibet. TIPA preserves a wide repertoire of musical, dance and theatrical traditions from Tibet. To balance the weight of tradition in its repertoire, the institute has a modern Theater Troupe which puts on contemporary plays. TIPA also maintains its own workshops for making costumes, masks and musical instruments. TIPA trains instructors who are sent out to teach music and the performing arts at schools and settlements throughout India and Nepal. It also runs a schools where a mix of modern academic and traditional Tibetan education is provided to children who are, in addition, trained in Tibetan music, dancing and acting from an early age. Of late, TIPA has started a special programme to teach the Tibetan performing arts to non-Tibetans TIPA holds an annual Folk Opera Festival in April. A number of folk operas, dance programmes, plays and concerts are presented on this occasion. It is always an exciting time to be in Dharamsala. On important national holidays throughout the year other performances are given.
Tibetan Medical Tradition

Over a period of 2,500 years Tibetans have perfected a sophisticated medical tradition based on the holistic concept of mind and body. It maintains that disease or disorders in the human body are caused when there is a disequilibrium of psychological and physical energies. Delusion, hatred and attachment result in ego (translated also as "I" consciousness), which in turn disturbs the psychological energy balance, while improper food, behavior and bad environment disturbs the physical energy balance. Tibetan doctors would normally follow three methods of diagnosis: visual, interrogation and pulse-reading. Sometimes, they may be able to tell your ailment by merely asking the symptoms, followed by a pulse-reading and a look at your tongue or eyes. However, it is believed that diagnosis is more accurate if these methods are accompanied by a urine test.

Tibetan medicines normally come in hard pills or powder, and most are extremely bitter in taste. Their ingredients are predominantly herbal, although animals products, precious stones and metals are also used. The stones and metals are burned and detoxified through an intricate and secret process of alchemy. Over the years, Tibetan medicine has proved most effective in curing various chronic diseases. Its effectiveness in curing hepatitis, according to some westerners, is miraculous. Tibetan medicine is also known for its efficacy in curing chronic sinus-related diseases, although one has to be on medication for a long time.

Namgyal Monastery Mcleodganj

Namgyal Monastery was founded by the Third Dalai Lama in the late sixteenth century to assist him in carrying out his religious activities. Since then, the
monastery has exclusively served the Dalai Lamas. In Tibet, the 175 Namgyal monks and their monastery were located in the Potala Palace, performing spiritual duties and religious ceremonies for both the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government. A distinctive feature of this monastery is its diversity of practice: prayers and rituals of all the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism are performed by Namgyal monks. The monastery is now situated next to the Central Cathedral.

These destinations had been chosen as focal study areas because of the diversity of the inherited basic pull factors/attractions alongwith the heterogeneity of the market segment. This rationale proved to be crucially significant because the scholar was able to approach respondents from different backgrounds, with varied motivational spectrums and, consequently, the interpretations drawn were the reflections of the experiential quotient of the sample chosen.