

Introduction-

Kinnaur, which is also known as Kinner Desh, is the mythological land of Kinner. Kinnaur was previously known as Chini Tehsil of Mahasu District and came into being as an independent district from 1st May 1960. Geographically, it is one of the border districts of the country with 640 sq km. of area, and wholly a tribal district. According to the census of India 2001, its population is 77007, which is 1.27 percent of the total population of the State. The entire population of the district is rural and is very scanty. Located 260 km from Shimla. Reckong Peo is the District headquarter having a panoramic view of Kinnaur Kailash. The configuration of the district shows that Kinnaur is mainly inhabited only on the banks of Satluj and other large streams. It has peculiarities of language, culture and natural phenomenon. For a better understanding of ethnic and culture distribution the Kinnaur district may be classified into two territorial units. These are namely lower, and upper Kinnaur. Lower Kinnaur comprises the area between Chora at the boundary of Kinnaur district with Rampur Bushahr District, Shimla to Ropa Valley including Nichar, Sangla, Moorang Tehsil and some part of Pooch Tehsil.

Marriage Customs

Marriages are usually settled through intermediaries. It is the boy's family which has to make the initial offer and seek acceptance for a proposal, with gifts of liquor and money, to the prospective bride's family. Only chosen representatives go to the groom but on the way back, virtually the entire village accompanies the bride, to be wined and dined by the bridegroom's family. The festivities last 2-3 days and culminate with ceremonies, called *udanang* and *belding*. At the *udanang*, the bride's people present gifts to her, while at the *belding*, the groom's family receive gifts from their relatives and friends.

Dress

The people of the district dress mostly woolen clothes. The clothing is well suited to the climate and is artistic in its own distinctive way. The head dress of men and women is round woolen cap called Thepang and pret Thepang. Men wear woolen chhuba. It is long coat, woolen Jacket is worn outside the chhuba, Men wear woolen churidhar pajama. Women wear up a woolen Sari like garment called Dohru. Besides beautiful coloured shawls are also worn by them over their shoulders. Choli is sort of full sleeved blouse is worn by the women. The Ornaments of the Ladies include tunol for the head, tab for the hair, mulu for covering ears, chandarhar for the neck, golden tramol or shokpoto for the neck, Long for the side nose, mundi for the finger, balu for covering the mouth, Khundu for the nose, dhagulu and sunnango for the wrist, picho for pinning up the pattu and digra for tying the dohru (sari)

Folk Dance of Kinnaur

Kayang is the most popular dance of Kinnaur. The dancers join hands to form a ring. The men take their positions one after the other and the women, who also sing the accompanying Songs, follow. The leader, called Dure, generally a versatile male dancer, lead the group with the a whisk in his hand, with a silver Handle and tuft of Yak hair. The dancers change their step with the changing melodies sung in accompaniment. The orchestra of the Kinnaur dancing troupe consists of Nagara, Raunshing, dhol, (Drum) Shanal (wood Pipe) baggial boud shaped cymbal with flat ends.