

## Handloom Weaving – State of Art of Tribes of Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India

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**ABSTRACT** There are a myriad of craft traditions in India, which depend on social, economic and regional factors. The present status of craft in India owes much to the rich craft traditions of the past. The tribals of Himachal Pradesh are well known within and outside the country for the fabrication of woollen clothes of several kinds like shawls, *pattus*, *patties*, *lahang* etc. Kullu shawls like Manipuri and Naga shawls are very popular all over the country (Chauhan et al. 1989). Owing to rough terrain and remoteness of many areas, most of the age-old traditions and costumes have been preserved to date without succumbing to outside influence. Kullu; the valley of Gods is tranquil heaven known for its international Dussehra celebrations, its warm, woollen hand woven shawls and its innumerable temples. The earlier historic reference to Kullu dates back to 5th century BC. According to legend, Kullu once the land of Gandharvas and celestial musicians and has derived its name from 'Kuluta'-people who participated in the Mahabharata. In the olden times, it used to be an important centre on the great trade route to central Asia – to Tibet and China. Though Tibet is no longer a free country and travel to China is restricted, Kullu today has lost its multinational character to certain extent.