

Tangsa – A Hill Dwelling People of Arunachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT This paper is the result of the researcher's stay with the Tangsa of Arunachal Pradesh. This 'land of sunrise' is located in North Eastern India. Arunachal Pradesh is predominantly inhabited by twenty six major groups belonging to the Indo-Mangoloid stock. Etymologically Tangsa means the 'people living on hills'. They inhabit mainly six villages of changing district namely, Kharsang, Miao, Chingsa, Lonkey and Kultom. 'Tangsa' have settled in the forest land around the Kharsang and established their Basties (Settlements). They construct their houses on a raised platform. Their economy is of subsistence type. They practice 'Jhum' cultivation. They grow rice, mustard, potato, cauliflower, cabbage, kachchu, pumpkin and fruits like pineapple, papaya and banana. Rice is the staple food of these people. They drink rice beer. Tangsa worship nature (Dony-Polo). Status and Photographs of deities are not worshiped. These people are largely animistic, having belief in multitude of supernatural being.