**TANGSA**

The term Tangsa is an umbrella term given to an ethnic group comprising a number of subtribes and living in the valleys of Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh. The meaning of 'Tangsa' is 'hill people', Tang - hill, Sa - people. The other ethymological meaning for Tangsa means, "the people living on kills". Many Tangsas tell of their origin from a place called Masoi Sinrapum what is now Mongolia, migrated through the South - West China Province of Yunan into Myanmar, thence to India in the 1740s and dispersed to places where they live at present. The Tangsas with a population of around 30,000 (29,538 as per 2011 census) are Tibeto Burmese of mongoloid stock and speak Tangsa language which is a Sino-Tibeto or Tibeto-Burman language family or language cluster. The Tangsas are animist, and they believe in Supreme Being, and personify him under the name of Sikia, Pra or Rang Kau Hawa. He lives in the sky and bestows his blessings on mankind. The major community festival of the Tangsas is Moh-Mol celebrated during the month of May every year. The festival signifies an end of an agricultural activity or beginning of crop season. The Tangsas in the past were accustomed to war and head - hunting. The Tangsa notion of head-hunting was that it brought fertility to the village and it was feared that the heads, if not taken, might turn into an evil spirit called Chawthang, capable of doing harm to the whole village. The Tangsas reckon their kinship through the male line. The clans are all ancestral, and they donot trace their original from any totemic object. The tribe used to have a well constituted council of elders and the councils adjucate all the disputes and maintain law and order in the village.