

THE DOKHPA OF INDIA

Thondup stuck the few strands of flowers on his hat for the festival. As he left his house, the village street was already crowded with people, all eager for the festivities to start. Almost all had bright flowers on their hats or headdresses, creating a brilliant sea of colours that brightened the otherwise drab appearance of their poverty-stricken village. Thondup smiled, his heart gladdened with the beautiful scene. Yet he couldn't help but knew that the joyful atmosphere was temporary, just as the colourful flowers would eventually wilt and die.

The **Dokhpa** (population: 13,000 plus) are also called 'Dard', 'Drokpa' or 'Brogpa'. Their curiously Caucasian features have given rise to many questions as to their actual origins that remain unanswered. The remote Ladakh region in the eastern part of Jammu and Kashmir State, up in India's north is their homeland. This region is where Buddhism and Islam come into close contact. The **Dokhpa** are known for their practice of decking themselves with flowers during festivals.

The **Dokhpa** in India are predominantly Buddhists, practicing the Vajrayana (Tibetan) version of Buddhism. Buddhist lamas perform wedding ceremonies and also assist with funerals. A small minority are Muslims. Very few have heard about Jesus. Like most people in this part of the world, they are not receptive to the Gospel. There are no known Christians among them.

- Pray for the Lord to reveal Himself to them through His Word and dreams and visions, especially to **Dokhpa** leaders.
- Pray against the strongholds of Buddhism and unbelief that have blinded the **Dokhpa**. May hearts be softened and receptive to the Person of Jesus Christ.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info: <https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>