Dogri is the second prominent language of Jammu & Kashmir State and has an important place on the linguistic map of northern India. It belongs to the Indo-Aryan group of Indo-European language family. The origin can be traced from old Indo-Aryan language i.e. language of Vedas and Laukik Sanskrit. Like any other Modern Indo-Aryan languages, Dogri has also passed through Old Indo-Aryan (Sanskrit) and Middle Indo-Aryan (Pali, Prakrit and Apabhramsha) stages of development and entered the Modern Indo-Aryan stage around the 10th century A.D. Hence it shows its three-fold process of development of its sound structure expressing its affinity with ShaurseniPrakrit. Dogri is one of the 22 official languages of India. It was added in the 8th schedule of the constitution in 2003. It preserves all the characteristics of all the stages of its growth from Veda’s period to the present form.

Language used in the states of:

It is spoken in the parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and undivided Punjab. The whole of Jammu Province south of Pir Panjal, some parts of Himachal Pradesh, viz. Kangra, Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Suket, some parts of Punjab viz. Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Nurpur, Hoshiarpur, and some parts of Pakistan, viz. Shakargarh tehsil of Sialkot comprises the area speak Dogri language. Dogri is tonal, a trait it shares with other Western Pahari languages and Punjabi.

The earliest written reference to Dogri (using the paleonym Duggar) is found in the Nuhsipihr (“The Nine Heavens”), written by the poet Amir Khosrow in 1317 CE.
The Dogri script is based on the Takri alphabet. During the reign of Ranbir Singh (1857-85) the official script of Jammu and Kashmir was standardised Dogra written in Dogra or Dogra Akkhar; and the Dogri language became co-official with Persian. The dogra script was used in books, official documents and publications, on coins, bank notes and on postage stamps. Respectable citizens of the society and sons of the nobles were taught the language.

The death of Maharaja Ranbir Singh marked the fallout of Dogri language from Jammu and Kashmir due to the pressure of the British and Urdu was adopted as the official language of the state. However, Dogra was for the most part replaced by Devanagari script during the 20th century.

Dogri is now usually written with the Devanagari alphabet, but there is some interest in the Dogra script, particularly among stamp collectors and others interested in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Just as Sanskrit is considered as the mother of all languages in India. Dogri is also the mother of 17 languages spoken in the Duggar Region. And these languages are: Kandyali, Kangri, Bhatiali, Sirmauri, Baghati, Kiniunthali, Kului, Gujari, Rambani, Pongli, Hoshiarpur, Pahadi, Lahnda, Bhadrawahi, Rambani.

Language family
- Indo-European
- Indo-Iranian
- Indo-Aryan
- Northern
- Western Pahari
- Dogri

Dogri Speaking Regions in India
LITERARY WORKS

Dogri has a long standing established tradition of poetry, fiction and dramatic works. Recent poets range from the 18th-century Dogri poet KaviDattu (1725–1780) in Raja RanjitDev’s court to Professor Ram NathShastri and Mrs. Padma Sachdev. KaviDattu is highly regarded for his Barah Massa (Twelve Months), Kamal Netra (Lotus Eyes), BhupBijog and BirBilas.

Popular recent songs include Pala ShpaiyaDogarya, Manney di Mauj and ShhoriDeya. The noted Pakistani singer MalikaPukhraaj had roots in the Duggar region, and her renditions of several Dogri songs continue to be popular in the region. Some devotional songs, or bhajans, composed by Karan Singh have gained increasing popularity over time, including KaunKareyaan Teri Aarti.

Some interesting facts about Dogri language

- In Dogra, the v (व ) and y (य) sound change into b(ब) and j(ज). For example, Vijaypur becomes Bijapur and Yogi becomes Jogi.
- In chh (छ) sound is usually pronounced as sh (श). For example, Chhatri becomes Shattri and Chhanni becomes Shanni.
- Voiced aspirates of Hindi -gh, Jh, Dh, Bh, ae changed to unvoiced mutes with tones

DID YOU KNOW?

The Greek astrologer Ptulomi, accompanying Alexander in his 323 B.C. campaign into the Indian subcontinent, referred to some inhabitants of Duggar as “a brave Dogra family living in the mountain ranges of Shivalik.”

Amir Khusro, the famous poet of Hindi and Persian, referred to Duger (Dogri) while describing the languages and dialects of India as follows: “Sindhi-o-Lahori-o-Kashmiri-o-Duger.” The language contains words from Persian, Arabic, and English languages, and its few inscriptions were found in the 13th century.

After the death of Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1885, Urdu was adopted as the official language in Jammu and Kashmir due to pressure from the British, and the Dogra script started to fall out of use.
ACTIVITY

1. Let’s find out apart from India, which all nations’ have Dogri speaking populations.

2. Name other language’s which is derived from the same language family.

3. Find some languages that are no more in use today or are on the verge of extinction.

4. Make a note of common dogri words used in everyday lives and has similarity with other languages.

Reference:
https://www.dogri.org/dogri-a-history-linguistic-classification/
https://omniglot.com/writing/dogra.html