

*syāmi tān api / ... kirātā barbaraiḥ saha*) 12. 200. 40; (2) The large country of Suḥāhu on Himavānt mountain was thronged by Kirātas and Taṅgaṇas (*subāhor viṣayam mahat / ... kirātataṅgaṇākīrṇam ... / himavati*) 3. 141. 24-25; on the other side of the Himavānt, near the mountain of sunrise, on the shore of Vāriṣeṇa ocean and around Lohitya (Brahmaputra) river (*ye parārdhe himavataḥ sūryodayagirau nrpāḥ / vāriṣeṇasamudrānte lohityam abhitaś ca ye / ... kirātāḥ*) 2. 48. 8; the inaccessible parts on the Himavānt mountain was the place of residence of the Kirātas (*kirāta-kimnarāvāsam śailam śikhariṇām varam*) 3. 88. 17; (*himavaddurgaṇilayāḥ*) 7. 4. 6; (3) On the Indra mountain, near the Videha country (*vaidehasṭhas tu kaunteya indraparvatam antikāt / kirātānām adhipatīn vyajayat ... pāṇḍavaḥ*) 2. 27. 13. B. Origin : They were produced in ancient times by Vasiṣṭha's cow Nandinī from her foam when Viśvāmitra forcibly tried to take her away (*pañḍrān kirātān ... phenataḥ sā sasarja ha ||*) 1. 165. 36; they are, however, reputed to have their origin from fire (*sarve caivāgniyonayaḥ*) 7. 87. 30. C. Characteristics : (1) Arrogant while fighting (*yuddhadurmada*) 7. 87. 30, 32; rough in battle (*raṇakarkaśa*) 7. 4. 6; of fierce prowess (*ugravikrama*) 8. 51. 19; hostile (*vikṛta*) 14. 72. 24; they have a collection of different kinds of weapons and they fight with them; when they strike, they act like poison (*nānāśastrasamāyōpair evividhā-yudhayodhibhiḥ / kirātaiś ca sameṣyāmi viśakalpaiḥ prahāribhiḥ*) 7. 87. 49; they fight with swords and bows (*asidhanurdhara*) 14. 72. 24; their army shone like a Karṇikāra forest full of Kāncana trees

(*kāncanair iva samvṛtān / ... balam ... karṇikāravanaṁ yathā*) 5. 19. 15; they were always fondled by Duryodhana and they sought his welfare (*lālitaḥ satataṁ rājñā duryodhanachitaiḥ*) 7. 87. 49; they were expert in training elephants and they fought from elephant-backs; their elephants used to be protected by armours (*nāgān ... / ... varmasainchannān kirātaiḥ samadhiḥ hitān || ... teṣāṁ ete mahāmātrāḥ kirātā ... hastiśikṣāvīdaś caiva*) 7. 87. 27, 30; (2) they were eaters of fruits and roots and they wore skins (*phalamūlāśanā ye ca kirātāś carmavāsasaḥ*) 2. 48. 8; (3) They were included by Bhīṣma among those Kṣatriyas who were degraded due to their non-respect for Brāhmaṇas (*kirātā ... tāś tāḥ kṣatriyajātayaḥ / vṛṣalatvam anuprāptā brāhmaṇānām adarśanāt*) 13. 35. 18; they were sinful and lived the life of dogs, crows, *balas* (a kind of crow?) and vultures; they did not exist in the Kṛtāyuga but exist since the Tretāyuga (*ete pāpakṛtas tāta caranti pṛthivīm imām / śvakākabala-gṛdhrāṇām sadharmāṇo narādhipa || naite kṛtāyuge tāta caranti pṛthivīm imām / tretāprabhṛti vartante te janā ...*) 12. 200. 41-42; some of them apparently lived on country side but they lived like *dasyus*; Māndhātṛ asked Indra what was the *dharma* of the Kirātas and how they should be governed by kings like him (*katham dharmam careyus te sarve viṣayavāsinaḥ*) *madvidhaiś ca katham sthāpyāḥ sarve te dasyujivinaḥ*) 12. 65. 15; Indra then told Māndhātṛ the *dharma* of the *Dasyus* 12. 65. 17-22; Bhīṣma included the Kirātas among those northern people who did not believe in Dhātṛ (12. 200. 33) or Bhūtapati (12. 200. 38) as being the superintendent of all