

- forest tribes fought on the side of Duryodhana and was killed by Bhīma.
- KETUMATĪ.** Mother of Prahasta, a minister of Rāvaṇa. Ketumatī had two sisters Sundarī and Vasudhā. These three were daughters of a Gandharva woman. Giant Heti, the son of Brahmā married Bhayā and Vidyutkeśa was born to the couple. Sukeśa was born to Vidyutkeśa by his wife Sālakaṭāṅkā. Three sons Mālyavān, Sumālī and Mālī were born to Sukeśa by his wife Daivavatī. Sundarī, Ketumatī and Vasudhā the three beautiful sisters mentioned above, were married by the giants Mālyavān, Sumālī and Mālī respectively. Thus Ketumatī became the wife of Sumālī. To Sumālī and Ketumatī were born ten sons, Prahasta, Akampana, Vikaṭa, Kālākāmukha, Dhūmrākṣa, Daṇḍa, Supārśva, Saṁhrāda, Prakvāta and Bhāsakarṇa and four daughters Vekā, Puṣpotkaṭā, Kaikasi and Kumbhīnasī. Most of the sons were ministers of Rāvaṇa. (Uttara Rāmāyana).
- KETUŚRĀGA.** A King of ancient India. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 1).
- KETUVARMAN.** A prince of the country of Trigarta. He was the youngest brother of Sūryavarmā, the King of Trigarta. When Arjuna led the sacrificial horse of the horse-sacrifice of the Pāṇḍavas, Ketuvarman accompanied Arjuna as a helper. (M.B. Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 74).
- KEVALA.** A city of ancient India. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 254, Stanzas 10 and 11 that Karṇa conquered this city.
- KHA.** This syllable has the meanings 'empty' and 'organ of sense'. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 348).
- KHAḌGA.** A warrior of Skandadeva. (Mahābhārata, Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 67).
- KHAḌGABĀHU.** See under Duśśāsana II.
- KHAḌGĪ.** See under Kalki.
- KHAGA I.** A nāga (serpent) born in the family of Kaśyapa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 103).
- KHAGA II.** A synonym of Śiva. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 17, Stanza 67).
- KHAGAMA.** A Brāhmaṇa. In Mahābhārata, there is a story which describes how this Brahmin Khagama changed another Brahmin to a serpent by cursing him. The Brahmin Khagama and Sahasrapāt were friends. Once Sahasrapāt made a snake of grass and terrified Khagama at Agnihotra (Burnt offering in the holy fire) Khagama instantly cursed Sahasrapāt to become a serpent. Sahasrapāt requested for liberation from the curse. Khagama said that he would resume his original form on the day he saw Ruru the son of Pramati. From that day onwards Sahasrapāt roamed about in several countries in the form of a serpent. Once Pramadvarā the wife of Ruru, died by snake-bite. Ruru cried over the death of his wife for a long time. According to the advice of a messenger from the Devas Ruru gave half of his life-time to his wife and she came to life again. But Ruru felt a bitter hatred against serpents and began their extermination. Once he met with Sahasrapāt. Instantly at the sight of Ruru, Sahasrapāt obtained his original form. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 11).
- KHAGANA.** A King born in the family of Śrī Rāma. He was the son of Vajranābha and the father of Vidhṛti. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).
- KHAGODARA.** See under Kahoḍa.
- KHALĪ I.** A synonym of Mahāviṣṇu. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 17, Stanza 43).
- KHALĪ II.** An Asura dynasty. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 155, Stanza 22, that Vasiṣṭha once destroyed an Asura dynasty called Khalī, with his effulgence.
- KHALU.** A river of ancient India. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 28).
- KHANAKA.** A messenger sent by Vidura, secretly to the Pāṇḍavas who were living in the wax-house. Vidura sent a message through Khanaka to the effect that Duryodhana had decided to set fire to the wax-house employing Purocana to do it on the 14th night of the dark lunar fortnight. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 147).
- KHANĀKHANDĀ.** A female attendant of Skanda. In Mahābhārata, Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Stanza 20, mention is made about this woman.
- KHAṆḌAPARAŚU.** Śiva. A story occurs in Mahābhārata stating how Śiva got this name. The famous Dakṣa-yāga (sacrifice performed by Dakṣa) was performed at a time when the Nara Nārāyaṇas were engaged in penance in Badaryāśrama. Dakṣa did not invite his son-in-law Śiva. The angry Śiva sent his trident against Dakṣa. The trident destroyed the sacrifice of Dakṣa and then flew against the breast of Nārāyaṇa who was sitting in penance in Badaryāśrama. By the power of the trident the hair of Nārāyaṇa became of muñja (a grass) colour. From that day onwards Nārāyaṇa came to be known by the name Muñjakeśa. By a sound "hum", the hermit Nārāyaṇa deviated the trident, which reached the hands of Śiva, who got angry and approached Nārāyaṇa to kill him. Nara, who was close by took an arrow and reciting spells over it, released it to kill Śiva. Immediately the arrow changed to an axe. Śiva broke the axe. After this the axe became the weapon of Śiva. In Mahābhārata Śānti Parva, Chapter 49, Stanza 33, it is mentioned that this axe was given to Paraśurāma the disciple of Śiva. Thenceforward Śiva got the name Khaṇḍaparaśu. (Paraśu means axe). (Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 343. Stanzas 150-59, 167).
- KHĀNĀDAVADĀHA.**
- 1) *Introduction.* Long ago a King named Śvetakī began to perform a sacrifice of duration of 100 years. Many Brahmins took part in the sacrifice as priests conducting the rituals and ceremonies. These Brahmin priests began to depart after a few years turning blind due to the smoke coming out of the sacrificial fire. Thus the sacrifice was stopped for want of priests. Śvetakī was grieved at this and performed penance to Śiva for getting a priest. Śiva appeared before him and pointed out hermit Durvāsas as the priest. Śvetakī recommenced the sacrifice and under the supervision of Durvāsas the sacrifice was completed. But Fire god caught dysentery due to the continuous eating of oblations offered in the sacrificial fire for a long period. His face became pale, body became lean, and he had no taste for food. At last Fire-God went to Brahmā and complained about his disease. Brahmā said that in the forest of Khāṇḍava there lived so many creatures which were enemies of the devas (gods) and that by eating their fat the disease of Agni would be cured. Accordingly Agni came to the Khāṇḍava forest.