ABALA—(i) Mind-born mother. *(Purana)*
(ii) Sister of Dattatreya and Durvasas; a Brahmadadini. *(Purana)*

ABALA BOSE, LADY—Wife of Sir J.C. Bose, a renowned scientist. She was the first lady to go from Calcutta to Madras to study medicine.

ABDAR BEGUM—One of the concubines of Akbar.

ABHAYA—(i) A follower of Buddhism; illustrative of the influence of Buddhism. She joined the order because of her friendship with Padmavati, known as Abhaya’s mother. *(5th C.B.C.)* *(Therigatha)*
(ii) Goddess enshrined in Ushnatirtha. *(Purana)*

ABHIMATI—Wife of Drona and mother of Harsha, Shoka, Bhaya and others. *(Purana)*

ABHIRUP NANDA—A beautiful Sakyan girl whose suitor Charbhata died on the day she was to choose him. Her parents forced her to go to the Buddhist order, fearing that she would not be able to marry a Sakyan. *(5th C.B.C.)* *(Therigatha)*

ABHRAMU—Daughter of Bhauvana and mother of diggajas. *(Purana)*

ABHRAYANTI—Queen of Varsha-ritu. *(Purana)*

ABIDA BEGUM—Wife of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India.

ACHCHHODA—Mind-born daughter of Barhisada pitrs. The Achchhoda lake is named after her. *(Purana)*

ACHALA—(i) Mind-born mother. *(Purana)*
(ii) Distinguished dancer who founded a school of classical dance. *(10th C)*

ACHAMMA J. MATHAI—Social worker who worked with devotion for the cause of refugees during Partition;
associated for long with the Central Social Welfare Board. (20th C)

ACHIRA—Mother of Shantinatha, the 16th Arhat of the Jains by Visvasena.

ADARASANA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

ADARSH KUMARI—Freedom fighter; was sentenced along with Amar Kaur for pulling the chain of a moving train and exhorting the passengers to free the country from the British hold. (20th C)

ADDHAKASI—Courtesan; daughter of a setthi of Kasi; she adopted the religious life of a Buddhist almswoman and received the Upasampada without going to the Chapter, after the discipline was relaxed by Buddha; attained arhanship. (Therigatha)

ADITI—Aditi means 'infinity' and in the Rig-Veda, she is implored for blessing children and cattle and for protection and forgiveness; one of the 13 daughters of Daksha, she was married to Maricha Kasyapa (a Prajapati); mother of 12 Adityas (Vamana, Hari and others); a revealer of Vedic wisdom; lived the ideal life of spirituality and was not touched by the things of the world. (Purana)

ADRIKA—Apsaras.

ADRSYANTI—Wife of Sakti; daughter-in-law of Vasishtha, and mother of Parasara. (Purana)

ADUNA—Wife of King Gopichandra of Patika; her mother-in-law Maynamati was a Siddhadakini.

ADYA PRATIHARI—First maid-servant of Siva with four arms and six white clothes; she is followed by other ladies. (Purana)

AGAHJ—Daughter of Vrakadevi. (Purana)

AGHORMANI DEVI—Mystic disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

AGNAJITI—A queen of Krishna. (Purana)

AGNAYI—Goddess; wife of Dikpala Agni. (Purana)

AGNEYI (i)—Wife of Havirdhana, also known as Dhisana.

(ii) Wife of Kuru.

(iii) Wife of Uru. (Purana)
AGNIKA—Daughter of Vikranta; originator of the Agneya gana of the Gandharvas. (Purana)

AGYAVATI—Of Delhi, urged for women’s education and started a Vidhawa Ashram to give women political training. (20th C)

AHALYA—(i) Beautiful daughter of Mudgala; wife of Gautama, a Siddha; according to legend she was the first woman made by Brahma and given to Gautama. She was seduced by Indra and the two had to suffer for adultery. One version is that she condescended to his flattery.

According to another version, Indra assumed the form of Gautama, secured the help of the moon, who assumed the form of cock and crowed at midnight. This roused Gautama and he went out. Indra then came to Ahalya and deceived her. The sage expelled her from the hermitage. She was restored to her natural state by Rama and reconciled to Gautama. This seduction is explained by Kumarila Bhatt—Indra as अहल्या sun carrying away the shades of light (Ahalya).

(ii) Daughter of Vindhyasva and Menaka; sister of Divodasa; wife of Saradvat and mother of Sadananda. (Purana)

AHILYA BAI HOLKAR—Queen of Indore; she was an able administrator and set up many charities for which she is even now respected by people.

AHLIA BAI—Wife of Madhav Rao Peshwa; she built a bathing ghat on Jamuna.

AHUKI—Daughter of Punarvasu; sister of Ahuka; married Jayadhvaja, king of Avanti. (Purana)

AIKSHVAKI—(i) Daughter of Ikshvaku; wife of Purnadvaha and mother of Satva. (Purana)

(ii) Queen of Jantu; mother of Sura (Purana)

AISAN DAULAT BEGUM—Grand mother of Babur, the Moghul king. (15th-16th C)

AISHA—Wife of Muhammad, the governor of Makran (Sindh). (8th C)

AJA—Born of Yasoda-Maya. (Purana)

AJAMUKHIKA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)
AJITA—(i) Yakshini of Aranatha, the 18th Arhat of the Jains.
(ii) Mother of the devas known as Ajitas.  
(iii) Female convert of Abhiananda, a Jain Arhat.
AJITABALA—Attendant of Ajitanatha II, a Jain Arhat.
AJJHILA BHATTARIKA—Daughter of Kuntala; she married Maharaja Narendrasena, grandson of Prabhavati Gupta. (4th C)
AKARNANI—Goddess following Revati.  
AKARSHINI—Mudra Devi.  
AKBARABADI MAHALL (or Aaz-un-nissa Begum)—Wife of Shahjehan; she built mosque (red stone) in Faiz Bazar, Delhi, in 1651.
AKBARI BEGUM—Authoress of the novel Goodar-kalal which was ‘so popular that it used to be given in dowry’. (20th C)
AKILANDATHAMMAL—Wife of Vaidyanatha Iyer; took active part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932, and Individual Satyagraha, 1941; she was arrested and imprisoned.
AKKA MAHADEVI—Great mystic poetess of Karnataka (12th C). She was a Virasaiva but married to a Jain prince. When he interfered in her religious life, she left and went to Srisaila to meet the deity Mallikarjuna.
AKKADEVI—Daughter of Dasavarman and sister of Chalukya Jayasimha II; she acted as a governor of Kiskakad and with Mayuravarman ruled Banavasi, Belgola etc. She laid siege to the fort of Gokare (Gokak). She was fierce in battle and destroyed hostile kings. (11th C)
AKLI DEVI—Patriot; wife of Shrigopal Dusadh of Bihar; died of wound of bullets fired by British soldiers in her village in 1942-movement.
AKRISHTABHASHA—Rishika.
AKSHAMALA—Name of Arundhati. (See Arundhati)
AKSI—Daughter of Rohini and Anakadundubhi.  
(Purana)
AKHTAR MAHAL—Wife of Wazid Ali Shah, the Nawab of Oudh; after the annexation of Oudh, she lived with the Nawab at Calcutta.
AKUTI—(i) Daughter of Svayambhuva Manu and Satarupa; wife of Ruchi; begot twins Yajna (son) and Dakshina (daughter); she was grand-mother of Yamas. (Purana)
(ii) Queen of Sarvatejas and mother of Manu Chaksusha. (Purana)
(iii) Wife of Prithusena and mother of Nakta.; (Purana)
(iv) Daughter of Manu and wife of Daksha. (Purana)

ALAMBA—Daughter of Khasa and Rakshasi after whom came the Alambeya gana. (Purana)

ALAMBAKSI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

(A) LAMBUSA—An Apsaras; queen of Tranabindu; mother of Visala (son) and Chedavida (daughter). (Purana)

ALAMELU—Daughter of Ayyaswami Thevar; in 1942 she took part in Quit India Movement, was arrested and sentenced to 18 months' jail.

ALAMELAMMA—Wife of Rangarayulu, viceroy of Seringapatam. The couple left the town with the jewels used in a temple when Raja Wodiyar acquired the town. Messengers sent by the Raja used force against Alamelamma to take possession of the jewels. She cursed that the Mysore kings would be denied of heir and jumped into Malangi. The Raja built her image of gold to propitiate the spirits.

ALAMELAMMA AMMAL—Wife of Sundaraj Ayyer; joined the movement in 1941; took part in Individual Satyagraha and courted imprisonment.

ALATA—Daughter of Ira. (Purana)

ALAVIKA—Buddhist almswoman who escaped to the forest for solitary meditation; was questioned by Maya as to 'what profiteth thee than thy loneliness?' (Therigatha)

ALHANADEVI—Daughter of Vijayasingh by Rani Shyamal Devi of Malwa, married to Jayakarnadeva, king of Chedi; her son Narsinghdeva and Jaisinghdeva became kings of Chedi. (13th C)

ALLAMMAL—Daughter of Ganga Naicker. Took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932; was arrested and kept in jail.

AMAR KAUR—Freedom fighter. She set 'the agitation
ablaze' in the district of Llaylpur. She was arrested many times. (20th C)

AMAVASYAKA—Shakti Devi on the Sodasapatrabja. (Purana)

AMBA—(i) Mother; a name of Durga; saviour of the world with her Purusha Sadasiva. (Purana)
(ii) Eldest of the three daughters of the king of Kasi. Her other two sisters were Ambika and Ambalika. Bhishma forcibly took the three princesses from their swayamvara to Hastinapur to marry them to his step brother Vichitravirya. But when told by Amba that she was going to garland Salva (when she was forcibly brought by Bhishma), he released her. She went to Salva but he declined to marry her. She then cursed Bhishma for her condition. The two other sisters were married to Vichitravirya. (Mahabharata). She performed austerity and Siva favoured and promised her the desired vengeance in another birth. Then she ascended the fire and was born as Sikhandi who slew Bhishma.
(iii) Queen of Varsa-ritu. (Purana)

AMBAD EKKAVAMMA—A fiction writer of Malayalam. (20th C)

AMBALIKA—Princess of Kasi and sister of Amba and Ambika. (See Amba). Ambalika was wife of Vichitravirya who died without any heir. As Bhishma had vowed never to marry, he persuaded the great anchorite Vyasa to go to the widows. By him Ambalika had Dhritarashtra and Ambika had Pandu. (Mahabharata)

AMBHIRA—A Brahmavadini whose writings have been incorporated in the Vedas.

AMBHUDHARA—Wife of Ayusmat and mother of Risabha. (Purana)

AMBICA (or AMBIKA)—(i) Great mother with whom were associated other mothers (Matrikas).
(ii) She was described as a sister of Siva but later came to be regarded as his wife. Her other names are Haimavati, Parvati, Gauri, Kali, Karali etc. (Vajsaneyi Samhita) (See Uma). In her honour a festival was observed at a sacred spot called Ambikavana. (Purana)
(iii) Yakshini of Naiminatha, an Arhat of the Jains.
(iv) Daughter of the king of Kasi and wife of Vichitra-virya; mother of Dhritarashtra. She was sister of Amba andAmbalika. ( Purana)

AMBUJAM—Wife of T. Raghavachari; joined Civil Disobedience Movement in 1932 and took part in boycott of foreign cloth. She was sentenced to jail.

AMINA—(i) Daughter of Risa; gave birth to four kinds of crocodiles. ( Purana)

(ii) Dancing girl of whom Burhan Nizamshah I of Ahmednagar was enamoured and he married her. (16th C)

AMINA BEGUM—Daughter of Nawab Alivardi Khan of Bengal; married to Zaiuddin; mother of Siraj-ud-aulah. (18th C)

AMMANBAI—Mother of Ali Brothers; infused with national feelings, she aroused Muslim women against the foreign domination of her motherland. (20th C)

AMMANGADEVI—Daughter of Rajendra Chola and wife of Rajaraja; mother of Kuluttunga. (11th C)

AMMANI AMMAL—Wife of Arumunga Mudaliar; took part in freedom movement and suffered jail.

AMMARIKADEVI—Daughter of Rajendra Chola; wife of Chalukya King Rajaraja; mother of Rajendra Chola II. (11th C)

AMMAYAMMAL—Daughter of Appanna Rao Naidu; took part in freedom movement (1942) and Civil Disobedience Movement.

AMMU SWAMINATHAN—Social worker; took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1942; was arrested and kept as detenu; was elected in 1946 to the Provisional Parliament of India.

AMOGHAKSHI—Goddess enshrined at Vipasa. ( Purana)

AMRAPALI—A courtesan of Vaisali; she was extremely beautiful and talented. Born daughter of a wealthy citizen named Mahanama, she was sought by many suitors including princes who fought amongst themselves for her hand. When Mahanama brought this to the notice of the Lichchhavi gana, they saw the charming girl and decided that she was a stri-ratna, should be the property of the gana and should
not marry anyone. Amrapali agreed to lead the life of a public woman provided she was given five privileges. These were granted to her. She was well versed in 64 arts and was visited by kings and nobles. She had a son from Bimbisar who enjoyed a high position in the court. Once during his wanderings, Buddha happened to come to Vaisali, and attracted by the cool and quiet of the amra-vana at Kotigama owned by Amrapali camped there. Hearing of this, Amrapali visited Buddha who said, “With all her beauty, which enslaves even kings and princes, she also possesses great calm and steadfastness. Women of such character are in truth difficult to find in the world!”

Buddha taught Amrapali the Dharma which destroyed all her worldly desires and purified her heart. She then requested for Lord’s blessing by accepting alms from her the next day. The Tathagat signified his assent by silence. Soon afterwards rich young merchants came and invited the Master to their home for a meal but they failed. They then went to her and offered, ‘Amrapali, give up this meal for a hundred-thousand’. ‘My lords!’, replied she, ‘were you to offer all Vaisali with its subject territory, I would not give up the meal.’

The next day Buddha with his disciples visited her house. After the food, with folded hands, she told the Master, “O Lord! this house and garden, my clothes and jewels and all my other possessions, I offer at the feet of the Sangha. Please fulfil my heart’s desire by accepting this insignificant gift.” The Buddha accepted the gift and made her his disciple. After some time Buddha left but she continued to serve the poor and miserable and tried to achieve purity of thought and conduct. She had a monastery erected to serve the Bhikkhus for their residence. Though once she followed the low profession, she was able to reform her life and became famous as one of the most loyal and generous supportees of the Buddhist Order. (6-5th C.B.C.)

AMRITA—(i) Sakti Devi; the goddess enshrined in a Vindhyan cave at Vena. (Purana)

AMRIT KAU, RAJKUMARI—Princess of the erstwhile Kapurthala State; she interested herself in the nationalist
movement; was close associate of Gandhiji. She was the first woman Minister in the Central Government after India became independent.

AMRITA PRITAM—Punjabi writer and poetess.
AMRITA SHERGILL—One of the foremost artists of modern India. She died at a very young age.
AMY RUSTOMJEE—Prominent worker for child welfare (20th C)
ANALLADEVI—Wife of Karna from Hama family; mother of Yasashkarna (a Kalachuri of Tripuri). (11th C)
ANANDADEVI—Chief queen of Puru-Gupta of the Gupta dynasty. (5th C)
ANANDIBAI JOSHI—Prominent social worker; she assisted Pandita Rama Bai in her work and was connected with the Association of Medical Women in India. (19-20 C)
ANANDI BAI PESHWA—Wife of Raghunath Rao; she was mainly responsible for the disintegration of Peshwa kingdom.
ANANDMAYI—Poetess who wrote on Bhakti in Bangla. (18th C)
ANANDA MAYEE MA—Disciple of Shri Ramkrishna; she kept alive his work at Varanasi.
ANANGA—Apsaras sent by Indra to ruin Hari’s tapas. (Purana)
ANANGA DHARMALINI—Sakti Devi. (Purana)
ANANGAKUSA—Sakti Devi on the 7th Parva of Chakrarajaratha. (Purana)
ANANGALEKHA—Sakti Devi on the 7th Parva of Chakrarajaratha. (Purana)
ANANGAMADANA—Sakti Devi on the 7th parva of the Chakrarajaratha. (Purana)
ANANGAMADANATURA—Sakti Devi on the 7th parva of the Chakrarajaratha. (Purana)
ANANGAMALINI—Sakti Devi on the 7th parva of the Chakrarajaratha.
ANANGAMEKHALA—Sakti devi (Purana)
ANANGAVATI—Courtesan who observed the Vibhu-
tivadashivrata and became Priti, the wife of the Lord of Love in her next birth. *(Purana)*

ANANGADEVI—Sakti Devi on the 7th parva of Chakrarajaratha. *(Purana)*

ANANTA—Wife of Swayambhuva Manu. *(Purana)*

ANANTAMATI—Yakshini of Anantajit, 14th Arhat of the Jains (Dig).

ANAPAYA—Apsaras. *(Purana)*

ANAR DEVI—(i) Wife of Chaman Lal of Delhi; took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and was imprisoned.

(ii) Wife of Gulzari Lal of Delhi; served imprisonment for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

(iii) wife of Vishwanath; took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 and was sent to jail.

ANARAN—Keep of Raja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur. *(17th C)*

ANARKALI—Young woman of the Moghul court with whom Prince Jahangir had a secret love affair which was not approved by Akbar and he got rid of her. After ascending the throne in 1615, Jahangir raised a beautiful marble tomb of Anarkali at Lahore, bearing the passionate insertion, “Ah! Could I behold the face of my beloved once more, I would thank God until the day of resurrection”.

ANASUYA—Wife of sage Atri and friend of Shakuntala. She practised severe penance constantly; spent the whole of her life in meditation and reached the greatest height of spiritual perfection. She was mother of 5 Atreyas, including Dattatreya, Durvasa and Soma, and of one daughter named Srutis. Anasuya was well versed in Itihasa, painting etc. She was very kind to Sita when she visited her Ashram near Chitrakoot. *(Purana)*

ANASUYABAI KALE—In 1920 she organised a Bhagini Wing and was an active member of the All India Women’s Conference. In 1928 she was Dy. Speaker which office she resigned on Gandhi’s arrest in 1930. She took active part in the Civil Disobedience movement of 1930 and the Quit India Movement, 1942. In 1937 she was Dy. Speaker of the Madhya
Pradesh Legislature Assembly when the Congress Ministries were formed. In pursuance of Congress policy she later resigned. She saved lives of 24 young men who were to be hanged for their role in Chimur and Asti. After independence, she was a member of the Central Legislature.

ANAUPAMYA—Wife of Banasura; she was ill treated by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law; she was initiated into a mantra by Narada to control them and to be ever pleasing to her husband; she left the strict path of chastity. (Purana)

ANAVADYA—Apsaras. (Purana)
ANAVASA—Apsaras. (Purana)
ANAYU—Mother goddess; daughter of Daksa; a consort of Kasyapa; fond of eating. (Purana)
ANAYUSA—Mother of Araru and four other sons; mother of diseases. (Purana)
ANDAL—A saint poet of South. She was popularly known by the name of Goda.
ANGACHIAMMAL—Of Tamilnadu; daughter of Krishnasamy Iyer; served jail sentence for taking part in Civil Disobedience Movement of 1932.
ANGAJA—Daughter of Brahma. (Purana)
ANGANA—Wife of Yamana. (Purana)
ANGIRASI—Wife of Vasu and mother of Visvakarman. (Purana)
ANILA—Leader of the female converts of Naiminatha, an Arhat of the Jains.
ANIRUDDHA'S Mother—(name not known); she was very fond of her son and became a follower of Buddhist Order for his sake. (6-5th C.B.C.) (Samy Nik)
ANITALLI—Kakatya Vema’s daughter; ruler of Raja- mundhry; wife of Virabhadra Reddi.
ANJANA—(i) Mother of Hanuman by Vayu, god of the wind.
(ii) Wife of Kesari. (Purana)
ANKIDEVI—Mother of Danarnava and wife of Chalukya Bhima II.
ANKUSA—Yakshini of Anantanatha, the 15th Arhat of the Jains.

ANNA CHANDY—The first woman to be a Munsif, a Judicial Officer (1938) in India; Member, Law Commission; from Kerala.

ANNADA—A Sakti (deity).

ANNAPURNA—Goddess of plenty; form of Durga.

ANNAPURNA DEVI—Served jail sentence for taking part in the Quit India Movement of 1942.

ANNE MESCARENE—A Parliamentarian from Kerala.

ANNIE BESANT—Irish lady who devoted her all to India’s cause of freedom; she started Home Rule movement in twenties; was the first woman president of the Indian National Congress in 1917. (She also headed Women’s India Association).

ANNUPRIYA BARUA—As a result of her efforts against the excesses committed by the military and police in 1942, there sprang up a women’s organization in Assam. Failing to arrest her husband, in 1942, the police took charge of all her possessions, tortured her and made her life miserable.

ANOJJA—Lord Mahavira’s daughter from Yashoda, she was married to Jamali, son of Mahavira’s sister.

ANTARA—Apsaras. (Purana)

ANTONY AMMAL—Daughter of Selvamuthu, joined freedom movement in 1937 and took part in 1942 Movement; was arrested and sentenced to jail.

ANUSHUYA T.—Daughter of R.Rami Reddi; took part in Quit India Movement of 1942 and suffered imprisonment.

ANUMATI (i)—Daughter of Sraddha Angiras, wife of Dhata and mother of Purnima. (Purana)

(ii) Sakti Devi on the Sodaspatrabja. (Purana)

ANUMLOCHANTI—An apsaras mentioned with another apsaras named Pramlochanti. (Yajurveda) Anumlocha presides over the month of Nabhasya. (Purana)

ANUP BAI—Wife of Moghul emperor Jahandar Shah and mother of Alamgir II.

ANUPALIKA—Daughter of Vaka. (Purana)
ANUPAMA—(i) Although a peerless beauty and daughter of wealthy parents, and sought by many suitors, she joined the Buddhist Order to tread on the lonely path of life and wandered forth to lose the sense of home. On the seventh day she realised arhanship (Sam. Nik)

(ii) Advised her husband, General Tajahpala, and built the magnificent Dilwara Marble Temple at Mount Abu which is renowned for its exquisite carvings and beauty of architecture and design.

ANUSUYA BAI—Known as Annu Akka, a well known lady of Maharashtra. (20th C)

ANVATA—Apsaras. (Purana)

APACHITI—Daughter of Marichi and Sambhuti. (Purana)

APALA—A Brahmadadini, revealer of the Vedic wisdom, she lived the ideal life of spirituality and was untouched by the things of the world. (Rigveda)

APARA—One of the 13 wives of Vasudeva. (Purana)

APARAJITA—(i) Mind-born mother, following Maya. (Purana)

(ii) Yakshini of Mallinatha, the 19th Arhet of the Jains (Dig).

APARAJITA KUMARI—From Delhi; was sentenced to ail for taking part in the Quit India Movement.‘

APARNA—The eldest of the three daughters of Mena and Himavat; the others were Ek-Parna and Ek-Patala. Seeing Aparna doing severe penance, houseless and foodless, her mother was distressed and cried out ‘U-ma’, ‘Oh don’t!’ whence she became the beautiful Uma. Pleased with her, Siva married Uma. (Purana)

APSARAS—Celebrated nymphs of Indra’s heaven.

Puranas attribute their origin to the churning of the ocean. Neither gods nor asuras would have them for wivesj so they became common to all. The Vayu Purana enumerates 44 of them. They are either Daivitra (10) or Laukika (34). They fascinated heroes (as Urvashi did) and allured sages (as Menaka and Rambha did). They had power to change their form.
ARAM BANO BEGUM—Daughter of emperor Akbar and Bibi Daulat Shah.

ARANI—Wife of Dvaipayana and mother of Suka. *(Purana)*

ARANYANI—The goddess of woods. *(Rig-veda)*

ARATI (Saha) CHANDRA—The first Asian woman to swim across the English Channel.

ARCIS—(i) Born from the arms of Vena; an *amsa* of Lakshmi and a queen of Prithu. She gave birth to five sons, all rising to the ideal; followed Prithu to the forest and on his death, she threw herself on her husband’s pyre. *(Purana)*

(ii) Daughter of Daksa, wife of Krisasva and mother of Dhumrakesa. *(Purana)*

ARCISMATI—Daughter of Sarana. *(Purana)*

ARISTA—Mother of eight apsaras. *(Purana)*

ARIST (H) A—Daughter of Daksa, one of Kasyapa’s wives and mother of Kinnaras and Gandharvas, expert in music. *(Purana)*

ARISTANEMI DUHITA—Second wife of Sagara by name Sumati; sister of Suparna. *(Purana)*

ARJMAND BANU BEGUM—Also known as Mumtaz Mahal; wife of Shahjahan; mother of Dara, Aurangzeb etc. *(See Mumtaz Mahal)*

AROGA—Goddess enshrined at Vaidyanatha. *(Purana)*

ARTHAKARSONIKA—Devi *(Purana)*

ARTHASIVA—Leader of the female converts of Dharmanatha, the 15th Arhat of the Jains.

ARUNA (i)—Apsaras. *(Purana)*

(ii) A devi. *(Purana)*

ARUNA ASAF ALI (b. 1906)—Wife of late Asaf Ali; educated at Lahore and Nainital, an eminent freedom fighter; organized meetings and defied the salt laws by making salt. She took active part in 1942 movement and presided over the flag-hoisting function at Bombay on 9th August. When leaders were behind the bars, she led the workers to carry on the national struggle. Government declared her an absconder and there was a prize of Rs. 5000/- on her head. Her belongings were auctioned. She eluded police and con-
nued her campaigns till 1946 when her warrant was cancelled. She went to jail many times.

ARUNBALA SEN—Picketed foreign cloth shops in Calcutta when Gandhiji gave call for breaking the salt laws.

ARUNDHATI (i)—Model of conjugal excellence. Daughter of Kardama, sister of Parvata and Narada (Kasyapa) and wife of Vasistha; a surname of hers was Urja; mother of seven sons—Chitraketu and others—all sages of renown; also mother of Sakti, goddess among satis; meditated on the 108 names of Deva to attain fruits of Yoga. (Purana)

(ii) Daughter of Daksa and one of Dharma’s wives; gave birth to Prithivi and earthly objects. (Purana)

ARUSHI—Wife of the sage Chyavana and mother of Aurva.

ARYAMAHADEVI—Queen of Kubjavishnuvardhana; she built a temple named Nadumbi Vasadī.

ARYCHANDANA—First cousin of Mahavira (according to some, his aunt); she was his first woman disciple and the head of the Jain order of nuns.

ARYATARA—Deity of the Buddhist Tantras.

ARZANI BEGUM—Daughter of Shahriar and Mihr-un-nisa.

ASAKNI—Daughter of Virana Prajapati and wife of Daksa. (Purana)

ASALIKA—Daughter of Vaka and Visravas. (Purana)

ASANA—One of the two wives of Bali and mother of Bana. (Purana)

ASANGA·PLAYOGI—A descendant of Playogi; she turned into a man. (Rigveda)

ASANI—Mother goddess (Purana)

ASGHARI BEGUM—of U. P.; mother of a rebel leader of 1857; she participated in the resistance, was captured and burnt alive by the British.

ASHADEVI ARYANAYAKAM—Associate of Gandhi at Sewagram; worked for social reforms.

ASHA DEVI—took part in the great revolt of 1857 in U.P. against British rule; she was captured by the British and executed on the gallows.
ASHALATA SINHA—A short story writer of Bengal. (20th C)

ASHA PADMAVATI—Wife of P. D. Asha; took part in Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and Civil Disobedience Movement in 1932.

ASHAPURN A DEVI—A fiction writer of Bengal.

ASHOKLATA DAS—Prominent worker of the Nari Satyagraha Committee of Calcutta that took part in Gandhi’s Satyagraha.

ASIKINI—Daughter of Panchajana; wife of Daksa and mother of 10000 Haryasvas. (Purana)

ASIMA CHATTERJEE—Renowned scientist; perhaps the only lady to have chaired the Indian Science Congress.

ASIPARNINI—Apsaras (Purana)

ASIS—Daughter of Bhaga and Siddhi. (Purana)

ASITA—Apsaras (Purana)

ASMADAMSANA—Goddess following Bhavamalini. (Purana)

ASOKA—Yakshini of Sitalanatha, the 10th Arhat.

ASRUUVINDUMATI—Daughter of Yama. Yayati was enamoured of her.

ASTAKA—After her is named River Achchhoda in Pitraloka; enamoured, she went there from the earth.

ASTI—Daughter of Jarasandha and queen of Mansa. (Purana)

ASURI—Queen of Devatajit and mother of Devadyumna. (Purana)

ASVALA—A philosopher.

ASVARUDHA—Devi who killed Ulukajit. (Purana)

ASVINI—Wife of Akrura and mother of 13 sons, including Prithu. (Purana)

ATIBALA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

ATIKI—Wife of Usasti. (Chhandogya)

ATMA DEVI—Active political worker; suffered imprisonment for political activities.

ATREYI—Female ascetic; she studied with Lava and
Kusa at Valmiki’s hermitage. She repaired to Dandaka to learn Vedanta from Agastya and others. (Purana)

ATRI—Mother of Soma and Dharma; legend has it that she came out of the eye of Atri. (Purana)

ATRI DEVI—Took part in Individual Satyagraha (1941) and Quit India Movement (1942); while hoisting flag, in Delhi, she was severely beaten by police and suffered injuries.

ATTIMABBIE—A Kannada poetess. (10th C)

ATYA FYZEE—Progressive lady. (20th C)

AUCHCHYA—Wife of Jvalana and mother of Antinara. (Purana)

AURANGABADI BEGUM—Wife of emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir.

AVADHANI—Mudra Devi. (Purana)

AVANTIBAI LODHI, MAHARANI—Widow of Raja Lakshman Singh of Ramgarh, Distt Mandla (M.P.). She reorganised her army and declared war against the British during the struggle of 1857. The Rani personally led her army and fought with remarkable valour. She forcibly resumed control of Ramgarh State after removing the officials of the Court of Wards appointed by the British. A large number of British soldiers were killed. Captain Washington retreated in such haste that his infant son was left behind. But the Rani sent the child through a special emissary. She fought another battle with courage but her army was outnumbered. With no hope of victory or escape, she killed herself.

AVANTI SUNDARI—Wife of poet Rajasekhara. She was an accomplished and learned Chahaman princess. Rajasekhara refers to her views with regard in Kavyamimansa. She wrote and staged many dramas (Karpuramanjari of which was outstanding).

AVANTIKABAI GOKHALE—A dictator of war in the freedom movement. (20th C)

AVIKARA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

AVVAI—Sister of the famous poet Tiruvalluvar; a poet and a great saint. (5th C)

AVAZARALA—A pioneer light and folk music composer of Andhra.
AYATI—(i) Daughter of Meru and Dharani; wife of Dhatr; mother of Markanda and Prana. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Vidhata and mother of Pandu. (Purana)
AYOMUKHI—Mother goddess. (Purana)
AYYANA-MAHADEVI—Jain queen of Kulya Vishnu-
vardhana,. She built a temple at Bezwada. (7-8th C)
AZIZA IMAM—M. P. (Rajya Sabha) from Bihar.
AZU-N-NISSA—One of Shahjehan’s wives; built the Shalamar Bagh at Delhi.

B

BADSHAH BANO BEGUM—One of the wives of emperor Jahangir.

BADSHAH BEGUM—Daughter of Muizzuddin Kaiqubad; wife of Alauddin and mother of Qutabuddin Mubarak Shah. (13th C)

BAGGIALAKSHMI AMMAL—Wife of V. V. S. Iyer; took part in Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and Civil Disobedience Movement in 1932-33; was arrested and suffered imprisonment.

BAGYALAKSHMI—(i) (Alias Sutha Bogiyan); daughter of Rajappa; suffered imprisonment for taking part in Civil Disobedience Movement in 1932.
(ii) Daughter of N. Venkatapathi Ayyer; was jailed for taking part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932.

BAHADRI DEVI—Of Delhi; was jailed for taking part in the Quit India Movement, 1942.

BAHAR BANO BEGUM—Daughter of Jahangir and wife of Tahmur, son of Danial.

BAHINABAI—A Marathi poetess who wrote devotional songs. (1629—1700)

BAHU BEGUM—(i) Wife of a ruler of Rampur; she was a good Urdu poetess. (19th C)
(ii) Mother of Asabuddaula of Lucknow.

BAHUDA—Originally Gauri, wife of Yuvanasva. (Purana)

BAHUPATTIKA—A widow who on being unkindly treated by her own children and their wives took to the religious life of a Buddhist. (Dhp Cmy)

BAHUPUTRI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

BAHURUPINI—Yakshini of Munisuvrata, 20th Arhat of the Jains (Dig).

BAHUSALINI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

BAHYAKA—Daughter of Bhajamana. (Purana)

BAI—Patriot, died of a bullet fired by police at Bombay on people demonstrating in support of the revolt by ratings of the Royal Indian Navy on February, 22, 1946.

BAI TILOKADI—Daughter of Mia Tansen; she constructed Dargah Bazar Masjid at Ajmer in 1652.

BAIZA BAI, MAHARANI—Consort of Daulat Rao Sindhia; on his death in 1827, she became the regent of his minor son Jankoji Rao. She was very ambitious and wanted to completely control the whole administration. This led to much intrigue and confusion and culminated in her expulsion from the state in 1833.

BALA—(i) One of the ten wives of Atri. (Purana)
(ii) Mind-born mother.
(iii) Daughter of Prajapati; she fell down on earth while going across the sky.
(iv) Yakshini of Kunthunatha, XVII Arhat of the Jains.

BALLIYA—She occupied the post of judge under Mahadevi, queen of Bhor in Maharashtra. (11th C)

BALAMANI NAIR—A writer in Malayalam, her themes are mainly childhood and motherhood.

BALAMAKKI BAMAKKA—Of Karnataka; mother of two influential merchants, she was arrested for leading a procession with a flag with Gandhi's photo; she even appealed to the Sub-Inspector of Police who stopped the procession to resign and lead the movement against the Government. She was arrested.
20 INDIAN WOMEN THROUGH THE AGES

BALAMANI AMMA—A well known Malayalam author.
BALAMOHINI—Mother Goddess. (Purana)
BALAMPATTI—She wrote commentary on the law of Stridhan.
BALANDHARA—A princess of Kasi; wife of Bhima, the Pandava; her son was Sarvaga.
BALASARASWATI—An eminent dancer (Bharata Natyam) of South India: was awarded Padma Bhushan (1957).
BALASRI—Mother of Satavahana king Gautamiputra; queen Balasri executed an inscription at Nasik which records of her son Gautamiputra.
BALIKA—Goddess following Revati(Purana)
BALLAMAHADEVI—Ruler of Alupa. (13th C)
BAMAYYA—Wife of Venkata II, king of Vijayanagar; on her husband’s death, she smuggled a Brahman child and proclaimed him as her own. (16-17th C)
BANALATA DASGUPTA—Of Dacca; daughter of Hem Chandra Das Gupta; a revolutionary; while a student at Calcutta, she was arrested for possessing unlicenced arms and detained without trial in jail; refused to give undertaking to keep away from politics; died in jail in 1936.
BANDHUMATI—Leader of the female converts of Mallinnatha, 19th Arhat of the Jains.
BANGARAMMA—A Telugu writer.
BANI RAY—a short story writer of Bengla. (20th C)
BANKHA BAEE—Widow of Raghiji Bhonsle, Raja of Nagpur.
BAPPATADEVI—Queen of Nirjitavarman of Kashmir, (nicknamed Pangu), of bad character; had undesirible relations with one Sugandhaditya.
BARHAT-SAMA—Daughter of Brahatsaman. Her name occurs in a hymn for easy conception. (Atharvaveda)
BARHISMATI—Daughter of Visvakarma and queen of Priyavrata. (Purana)
BASANTA MANJARI DEVI—Was Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation in Orissa.
BASANTA KUMARI PATNAYAK—Oriya writer, (20th C)
BASANTI DEVI—(i) Wife of Deshbandu C. R. Das; was a leader of the women’s movement in Bengal. She sold khadar and propagated against the use of foreign cloth and drinking. She was arrested while selling handloom cloth in 1922 but was released in the very evening of her arrest. But her arrest stirred the people of Bengal. She presided over the Bengal Provincial Congress sessions in 1922 at Chittagong. She said, “Freedom will come as a matter of course to the extent we are able to do penance by our sacrifice.” She inspired Subhash Chandra Bose to take to politics.

(ii) Took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement in Delhi (1930) and was imprisoned.

BASANTI MITRA—With her sister Kumudini started the Suprabhhat, a periodical.

BAYABAI—(i) Saint-poetess of Maharashtra; wrote poetry in praise of God in Marathi and Urdu. She is known as Ramadasi.

(ii) alias name of Kusuma Bai; second daughter of Boji Rao; married to Baba Apte.

(iii) daughter of Chimnaji Appa, the Maratha leader, and grand-daughter of Dwaraka Bai.

BEATRICE BRAGANZA, DOCTOR—Known for her research in cancer.

BEGA BEGUM—Chief Queen of Humayun; she was taken prisoner by Sher Khan.

BEGUM ABBAS TYABJI—She supported Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah (not the present Chief Minister of J & K), when he opened the first English School for Muslim women in India in 1906 which was bitterly opposed by both Muslims and Hindus.

BEGUM AKHTAR—Renowned musician from Lucknow; Padmasri (1968);

BEGUM ANIS KIDWAI—A prominent social worker.

BEGUM SAMROO—See Samroo Begum.

BEGUM SHAH NAWAJ—a Parliamentary Secretary in the Punjab Government when Congress formed Ministry in 1937.
BEHULA—An Assamese who according to a legend brought her dead husband to life with the help of Sitala.

BHADDA—A Jain nun.

BHADDA KACHCHHANA—She attained to supernatural love. (*Ang.*)

BHADDA KAPILANI—Follower of Buddhism; she owned property independent of her husband; renounced the world in contemplation with her husband and handing over her wealth to her kinsfolk, joined the order. She was famous for her memories of her former lives and was learned, fluent and famed for her religious discourses. (*Therigatha*)

BHADDA KUNDALAKESA—a Buddhist preacher; earlier a courtesan; on the very first sight she fell in love with a thief who was being taken for execution. She got him remanded and married with him. But soon she realised that he wanted to steal her jewels, she pushed him hard and he died. In repentence of taking a life, she joined Jainism. But she was not intellectually satisfied. At Sariputra’s initiative, she joined the order, being ordained by Buddha himself. She developed special powers to the maximum and was famous for her swiftness to reach the higher knowledge.

BHADRA—(i) One of the ten wives of Atri. (*Purana*)

(ii) Wife of Udaradhi and mother of Divamjaya. (*Purana*)

(iii) Daughter of Meru (Ghrtachi) and queen of Bhadravasa, gave life to Soma,

(iv) Alias Kaushalya; daughter of Srutakirti of Kekeya; cousin and wife of Krishna; mother of Kesin, Bimba, Praharana, Mahaujas and others. (*Purana*)

(v) Daughter of Anuhrada, the daitya: married Rajatanabha, a Yaksa. (*Purana*)

(vi) Daughter of Rohini, gave birth to the Gandharvas and Ucchaisravas.

(vii) Vasna Sakti. (*Purana*)

(viii) Wife of Garuda. (*Purana*)

(ix) Wife of King Munda, a descendant of Ajatasatru; so much loved by him that when she died, he was grieved and refused to cremate her body. Only on being consoled by a Thera, he gave her body for cremation.
(x) Kshatriya queen of Harishchandra, founder of the earliest Gurjara kingdom. (6th C)

BHADRRAKALI—(i) Goddess prayed by the girls of Braja to secure for them Krishna as their husband. (Purana)

BHADRRAKARNIKA—Goddess enshrined at Gokarna. (Purana)

BHADRASIEWSI—A princess of Vidarbha married to Purudvan; mother of Janhu.

BHADRASUNDARI—Goddess enshrined at Vikuta. (Purana)

BHADRRAVISAHIKHI—One of Vasudeva’s wives. (Purana)

BHADRRAVATI—(i) Wife of Purudvan and mother of Purudvaha. (Purana)

(ii) Daughter of Jambavati and Krishna.

BHAGABATI—(i) or Bhagavati—a goddess who killed demon Vitunda.

(ii) Of Noakhali, a patriot. She tried to create consciousness through her songs.

BHAGAMALINI—Sakti, Mother. (Purana)

BHAGMATI—Founder of Bhagnagar (later to be known as Hyderabad); she was a mistress of Muhammad-Qutb-ul-mulk: the first ruler of Golconda.

BHAGANANDA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

BHAGIRATHI—A Telugu lady; mother of Mohammad Quli. (16th C)

BHAGIRATHI BAI—Wife of Moropant Tambe and mother of Manikarnika, later to be Rani Lakshimibai of Jhansi.

BHAGVAT SHEKHAVAT—One of the 13 wives of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur; with 10 others she became sati.

BHAGWAN DEVI—Freedom fighter of Delhi, was sentenced to imprisonment for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movements of 1930, 32, 37.

BHAGWANI—Participated in the resistance against the British forces in 1857 in U.P. and was executed on the gallows.

BHAGWANTI DEVI—Suffered imprisonment for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1932-34 in Delhi.

BHAGWATI—Took part in the Great Revolt against the
British in U.P. in 1857. Captured by the British, she was executed on gallows.

**BHAIKAVAS**—Apsaras clan from Mrityu. (*Purana*)

**BHAIKAVI** (i)—an epithet of Uma. Literally Bhairavi means wife of the terrible, that is Siva.

(ii) Also known as Brahmani, she practised yoga and initiated Ramakrishna Paramhansa into Tantrik mode of Sadhana. (19th C)

**BHAIKAVADAKINI**—A Sakti. (*Purana*)

**BHAKTBHAN**—She inspired women of Gujarat in the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928 under the leadership of Sardar Patel.

**BHAMIINI**—Wife of Sombu, a Lambada of Andhra Pradesh; took part in the movement for merger of Hyderabad in the Indian Union; the couple was captured by Razakars and put to death with cruelty.

**BHANU**—Daughter of Daksha and one of the ten wives of Dharma; mother of Devarshabha. (*Purana*)

(ii) Daughter of Satyabhama. (*Purana*)

**BHANUMATI** (i)—Wife of Sagara and mother of Asamanjasa. (*Purana*)

(ii) Chief among the 10,000 queens of Dharmamurti, the king of Brihatkalpa; wife of goldsmith Saunda in previous birth; was born again as a queen for her gift of Lavanachala by Lilavati. Apsaras; daughter of Suyasha.

(iii) Daughter of Yadava Chief Bhanu; abducted by demon Nikumbha.

(iv) Magician.

**BHARATA (OR BHARATI)** (i)—Goddess personified divine protection, power of the Bharatas. (*Rigveda*)

(ii) Wife of Mandana Misra; noted for her learning; she acted as the arbitrator in the debate between her husband and Sankaracharya. The condition was that if the former won, Sankara was to give up his celibate life and become a householder; but if the verdict was in Sankara's favour, Mandan was to don the yellow robe and become a Sanyasin. On her decision hang her own fate. She gave the victory to whom it was due and gave up her riches to follow her husband as a Sanyasin. (also named Saraswati)
BHARGAVI THANKAPOHAN—M. P. from Kerala.
BHARATI SARABHAI—An authoress. (20th C)
BHARGAVIAMMAL—Wife of Jaganna Pillia; took part in Quit India Movement was arrested and sentenced.
BHASI—(i) Daughter of Risita. (Purana)
(ii) Daughter of Tamra and Kasyapa; wife of Garutman; mother of Bhasas.
(iii) Wife of Siva; mother of Devamidhusa and ten other sons. (Purana)
BHATAYANI—Jaskunwari, Padam Kumari Sampande—queen of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur, who with 10 others became Sati.
BHAUM (E) RIKA—Daughter of Satyabhama. (Purana)
BHAVANI—(i) A Shakti.
(ii) Uma Parasakti enshrined at Sihanesvara.
BHAVANI RANI—a learned lady of the modern times.
BHERUNDA—An Aksardevi. (Purana)
BHIGGA BEGUM—Wife of the Nawab of Farrukhabad.
BHIKAJI CAMA MADAME—a revolutionary, she operated from abroad for her country’s freedom.
BHIMA—Mother-goddess enshrined at Himadri.
BHISANIKA—a goddess following Revati.
BHOGESWARI PHOOKANANI—an elderly woman of Assam who was shot dead when she tried to hit the police official with flag, which her grand daughter was carrying and which was snatched from her by the police in the National Movement.
BHOJA—(i) Queen of Viravrata; mother of Mantu and Pramanu. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Siva and mother of ten sons and five daughters. (Purana)
BHAR—An educationist of Maharashtra.
BHRAMI—A daughter of Sisumara and wife of Dhruva and mother of Vatsara and Kalpa. (Purana)
BHRIKUTI—Yakshini of Chandraprabha, 8th Arhat of the Jains.
BHISA—A queen of Usinara; mother of Nraga. 
(Purana)

BHUKUTI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

BHUMI—(i) Earth, a sakti of Vishnu.
(ii) (also Bhū)—Wife of Dhrura and mother of Shrashti Bhavya; milked as cow by Prithu with Chaksusa Manu as calf.

BHUP DEVI—Sister of Kirat Singh, ruler of Kishtwar who became a Muslim; she was married to Farrukhsiyar, emperor of Delhi. (18th C)

BHUSUNDI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

BHUTA—(i) Daughter of Daksa and wife of sage Bhuta.
(ii) Daughter of Krodha and wife of Pulaha. (Purana)

BHUTADAMARI—Mother goddess. (Purana)

BHUTI—(i) Wife of Dattali, son of Pulastya.
(ii) Mother of Bhatavya. (Purana)

BHUVANA—Sister of Brahaspati and wife of Prabhata. (Purana)

BHUVANESHWARI—Deity of the Tantrics; a manifestation of the divine mother.

BHUVANESWARI DEVI—An Assamese woman who was a victim of police when she was attending a prayer meeting in a Kirtanghar in 1943.

BIBHABARI SIRURKAR—A Marathi novelist; her themes were mainly women’s problems.

BIBI AMTUL SALAM—Gandhi’s follower; she took part in the freedom movement.∗

BIBI BAHAT—Bahat (means pure) lived in times of Badshah and was noted for her learning. Her sayings in Persian are still on the lips of the educated Kashmiris. Bahat was the disciple of Shaikh Nur-ud-din, the patron-saint of Kashmir.

BIBI BAI—Wife of Islam Shah.

BIBI BARIA—Daughter of Malik Saif-ud-Din; was married to Mir Mohammad.

BIBI BHANI—Wife of Guru Ramdas.

BIBI KHONZA—Queen of Hussain Shargi, the bitterest foe of Bulul Lodi. Her influence over Hussain was primarily
responsible for his recklessness; she was twice taken prisoner by the Lodis but was honourably restored to her husband each time.

BIBI MIRGI—Wife of saint Sayyad Shah Alam of Gujarat. She was daughter of Jam Jaunana and sister of Bibi Moghali. Originally it was planned by their uncle with the consent of their father that Bibi Mirgi would be married to Sultan Qutb-ud-din and Bibi Moghali to Sayyad Shah. But their father betrothed Miragi to Sayyad Shah and Moghali to Qutb-ub-din. But Qutb-ub-din’s predecessor Sultan Mohammed heard of Moghali’s beauty and decided to get her, in which effort he succeeded. He made over Mirgi to saint Shah Alam who felt hurt and complained to his father, also a saint who said, “My son, it is fated that you should marry both of them.” On the death of Moghali’s husband, Shah Alam married her also. Her son from the previous husband was the famous Mohammed Bigarha.

BIBI RANI—Wife of Sultan Mazaffar II of Gujarat. She was mother of Sikandar Khan. She controlled the household and the army. She secured blessings of Sheikh Jiev for the enthronement of Sultan’s eldest son Sikandar.

BIBI SALIHA—Queen of Sultan Muhammad Shah of Kashmir and sister of Kosi Chak. She was greatly influenced by Baba Ismail. Kashmiris remember her for the reconstruction of the shrine of Shah Hamadan which had been demolished by the Shias. She did not touch State money but sold her own jewellery to meet the expenses.

BILVA—Goddess following Bhavamalini.

BILVAPATRIKA—Goddess.

BIMAL PRATIVA DEVI (DAS)—An important political worker and revolutionary of Calcutta; was Secretary of Nari Satyagraha Committee; took active part in Gandhi's programmes and suffered imprisonment in early forties.

BINA DAS—a revolutionary student of the Diocesan College of Calcutta; she was a member of the Terrorist Party. She shot the Governor when he rose to deliver the convocation address at which she was to receive her degree; she was caught. She made a very courageous statement before the court. She was sentenced to 9 years, jail.
BINDUMATI—(i) The queen of Maricha and mother of Bindumat.
(ii) A daughter of Sasabindu; queen of Mandhata as Chaitrarathī; and mother of three sons Purukutsa, Ambarisa and Machkunda, besides 50 daughters.
(iii) Contemporaneous of Asoka; a courtesan, she came under the spell of Dhamma, a myth is that by calling “to mind the attributes of the Buddha who had passed away and making a solemn assurance of the truth,” she reversed the flow of the Ganges. (Milindapanha)

BODHISRI—An Andhra disciple who built many buildings at Nagarjunakonda in earlier times.

BONTHADEVI—Daughter of Lakshminarayan Kalchuri of Tripuri; wife of Chalukya Vikramaditya IV.

BRAHATI—(i) Daughter of Brahaduckha Saineya and wife of Puru and mother of Sveta.
(ii) Wife of Rupa and mother of Chaksusa.
(iii) Mother of Yogesvara.

BRAHMACHARINI CHANDA BAI JAIN—a prominent social worker, she founded the Jain Bala Asram in Bihar.

BRAHMADHANA—(i) A daughter of Brahmadhana, married by Sanda. (Purana)
(ii) Married a Yaksa, one of the two sons of Khasa; the heirless.

BRAHMANI—Daughter of Brahma; also called Satarupa.

BRAHMAMAVADINI—Daughter of Atri and Anasuya.

BRAHMI—Mind-born, mother.
(ii) Leader of the female converts of Rishabhadeva, the first Arhat of the Jains.

BRIJ RANI—Took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 and was sentenced to R. I.

BRIJ RANI BAIJAL—Organised Lady Volunteer Corps in Delhi and took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930), the Individual Satyagraha (1940) and the Quit India movement 1942; was imprisoned for a couple of years.

BRINDRA MOHINI—An educationist from Bengal. (19th C)

BABUJI KHANUM—Name assumed by the Maratha
wife of Sultan Yusuf of Bijapur. She was the sister of a Maratha chieftain named Mukund Rao who was defeated by Yusuf Adil Shah and was given in marriage to him; she became the mother of the second Adil Shahi Sultan Islam and three princesses who were married to members of the royal families of the neighbouring Muslim States.

BUDDHI—A daughter of Daksa and a wife of Dharma, mother of Buddhi and Apramada.

BUDHAN—A dancing girl. One Raja Thakur Prasad, a Brahmin, married her and forced 200 Brahmins to take food served by the newly weds. But the community ostracized all the 200.

BUDHUWAR, BHAGWANTI—Took part in the Quit India Movement (1942) in Delhi and was sentenced to imprisonment.

BURGOHAIN—A prominent social worker.

BUZURG KHANUM—Daughter of Saif Khan and Malika Bano; wife of Zafar Khan, a nobleman in the reign of emperor Alamgir.

C

CAGALADEVI—Wife of a feudatory of Toragali; led in person an attack on Nilagunda in the Deccan.

CAMA BHIKAJI—Renowned revolutionary who operated from abroad for her country’s freedom.

CARSHIKA—A Sakti.

CHACKO, LIZA W., Dr.—Professor of Anatomy in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

CHAITRARATHI—Daughter of Sasabindu, wife of Mandhata, mother of three sons and 50 daughters. (Purana)

CHAKRESVARI—Yakshini of Rishabhadeva, the first Tirthankar.
CHALACHCHHIKHA—Mind-born mother. *(Purana)*

CHALUVAJAMMANNI—Wife of Mummaudi Krishna- raja Wodiyar of Mysore; she took up the cause of her son in 1869.

CHAMEKA—A courtesan of Chalukya King Ausuva II; at her request the king granted a village in favour of a Jain temple.

CHAMELI DEVI—The first woman amongst Jains (of 20th Century) who cast off Purdah and worked for social reform; wife of Phool Chand Jain of Delhi; took part in Civil Disobedience Movement 1830-32. There are three other Chamelis, all from Delhi, born between 1880 and 1910 who took active part in national movement and were imprisoned.

CHAMPA—One of the foremost dancers in the court of Sultan Muzaffar II of Gujarat. *(16th C)*

CHAMPA SUMADE—Took part in the movement for merger of Hyderabad with the Indian Union; was shot dead by Razakars in 1948.

CHAMPADEVI—Sister of King Gopichandra of Patika; she was daughter of the famous Maynamati, the Siddha Dakini.

CHAMUNDA—(i) or Chamundi. The form Kali took in anger.

(ii) Yakshini of Naimagintha, 21st Arhat of the Jains *(Dig)*

CHAND BIBI—Dowager Queen of Bijapur; when Ahmednagar was besieged, in 1595, she gave a heroic resistance to Prince Murad, son of Akbar.

CHAND KAUR—Widow of Kharak Singh, king of Punjab’ mother of Nao Nihal Singh. On her husband’s death, she managed to be declared the queen as Mai. Later she abdi- cated the throne, She met her tragic end at the hands of her maid-servants.

CHANDRA—(i) Mind-born mother. *(Purana)*

(ii) Yakshini of Vasupujya XII Arhat of the Jains.

CHANDA—(or Mahlik), a dancing girl of Hyderabad; a poetess of merit.

CHANDAKALI—A novice who was ordained to
Buddhist monastic life by Tullananda who herself was not of high character. A haughty woman, she was suspended by the Sangha but Tullananda managed to take her back. *(Vinaya Pitaka)*

**CHANDALA**—A beautiful princess of Karnataka. Harsha, king of Kashmir, heard of her beauty and wanted to possess her. But she remained safe.

**CHANDANA**—Nun of the first rank of Lord Mahavira.

**CHANDER KANWAR**—Daughter of Amar Singh, married to Jaisingh. (17-18th C)

**CHANDI**—a Sakti, associated with the Mangala literature of Bengal. Durga assumed the form of Chandi for the destruction of Mahishasur.

**CHANDIKA**—(i) Yogamaya; her shrine at Makarandaka was known as Chandika-graha; a mother-goddess, an epithet of Uma. *(Purana)*

(ii) A maid servant of Parvati. *(Purana)*

**CHANDO BIBI**—Leading organiser of Mazdoor Sanghathans and congress volunteers of Delhi; took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

**CHANDRA**—A daughter of Vrasapavan. *(Purana)*

**CHANDRABALA**—Leader of the female converts of Shri Mahavira, 24th Arhat of the Jains.

**CHANDRADEVI**—(i) Chief queen of Buddha Gupta, son of Puru-Gupta. (5th C)

(ii) Queen of Lakshmansena of Bengal. (12th C)

**CHANDRA KUNWARI**—Daughter of Gaj Singh and wife of Prince Amar Singh of Bandhugarh (Rewa). (17th C)

**CHANDRALEKHA**—Daughter of a Chalukya king and wife of Vikramaditya VI. (12th C)

**CHANDRAMUKHI BOSE**—The first woman to take her M. A. and the first Inspectoress of Schools in India (1884). Later she was the directoress of the Bethune Collegiate School of Calcutta.

**CHANDRAPRABHA**—A well known Assamese writer. (20th C)

**CHANDRAPRABHA SAIKIANI**—When she tried to deliver a lecture on 26 January 1943 (Independence Day) to
about a thousand women who had gathered at a Kirtan Sabha in Assam she was dragged and arrested. The prasad in the Kirtanghar was mixed with dust so that it may not be distributed amongst the audiences.

CHANDRASEKHARA AIYAR—A member of the deputation under Sarojini Naidu that met Mr. Montague in 1917 to ask for women’s rights.

CHANDRAVATI—Bengali poetess. She wrote Ramayana. She loved Jayananda who studied with her and they composed verses together. But he suddenly disappeared on the eve of their marriage. He became Muslim to marry a Muslim girl. Her father built a Siva temple where she became a priestess and wrote Ramayana. Jayananda repented and came to see her but she refused to see him.

CHANDRAVATI DEVI—Wife of Indra Vidyavachaspati and daughter in-law of Swami Shraddhanand. Took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement in Delhi (1932-34).

CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL—Daughter of Pandit Jainarain Shukla; was interested in politics since her school days and took active part in the movement of 1930. She went from village to village and organised villagers to make them politically conscious till she was imprisoned for one year.

CHANDRAVATI RANI—Wife of Raja Jaswant Singh and mother of Ajit Singh.

CHANDROBALA—Daughter of Amoghavarsha, a Rashtrakuta king. She was given in marriage to Butunga, a Ganga prince, which ended the hostility between the two houses.

CHANKROTTO AMMA—A famous saint of Kerala; a devotee of Vishnu from her very childhood. The famous temple of Sri Vallabha in Tiruvalla was built by people on the spot where she is said to have had darshan of Vishnu after her Ekadashi fast.

CHANNAMMA, RANI—The first valiant woman ruler who fought against the British rulers.

CHAPA—A Buddhist preacher; before coming to Buddhism, she had driven away her husband by her gibes; chastened by separation, she followed him to the order.
CHARUHASINI—One of Krishna's wives. *(Purana)*

CHARUMATI—(i) A daughter of Krishna from Rukmini and wife of Balin. *(Purana)*
(ii) A queen of Chittor.

CHARUMUKHI—A daughter of the Gandharvas. *(Purana)*

CHATAN MAHAL—A Begum of Oudh; on becoming widow she married one Kurban Ali.

CHHATTARBAI—Keep of Aurangzeb; he exchanged her with Hirabai, a keep of Saif Khan, governor of Burhanpur.

CHHAYA—(i) Daughter of Visvakarman; maid servant of Samjna. *(Purana)*
(ii) Mind-born wife of Srasti and mother of Prachinagarbha. *(Purana)*
(iii) Wife of Surya; mother of Tapati. She cursed Yama for lifting his foot to kick her.
(iv) Wife of Vivasvan and mother of Manu. *(Purana)*

CHEDAVIDA—Daughter of Tranabindu, wife of Visravas and mother of Kubera. *(Purana)*

CHELLAM—Wife of Manika Muthurian; suffered imprisonment for taking part in anti-war activities.

CHELLANA—Also known as Vaidehi Vasavi; daughter of the Lichchhavi chief Chetaka and queen of Bimbasar. She served and saved her husband when he was imprisoned by Ajatasatru. Her sons were Halla and Vehalla. She was a devotee of Buddha and to relieve him of his pain in the swollen finger, she sucked it. Perhaps she later turned as Jain.

CHIBUNIKA—Queen of Varsa-ritu. *(Purana)*

CHIDAMBARAM M. K.—Chairman of women's Section of the Indian Independence League, Singapore; in 1943 toured various parts of Malaya, collected funds and provided amenities to the soldiers of the Indian National Army.

CHINCHA—Imposter who tried to play a ruse on Gotama but had to face public scorn. *(Dhp. Cmy)*

CHINNAKONDA SORAMMAL—Daughter of Lakshmana Iyer, took part in Civil Disobedience Movement 1932 and was arrested and sentenced.

CHINNAMASTA—Also known as Prachand-Chandika
or Sumukhi, a deity of the Saktas worshipped by them in connection with six magic rites.

CHITRA—(i) Daughter of Vasudeva and Rohini. *(Purana)*
(ii) Daughter of Madira. *(Purana)*

CHITRALEKHA (i) Daughter of Kumbhanda. *(Purana)*
(ii) A famous painter of the ancient times.
(iii) An apsaras in the Sabha of Hiranyakasipu; rescued from the Asura Kesin by Pururavas. *(Purana)*

CHITRANGADA—A princess of Manipur, daughter of Chitra-vahan, wife of Arjuna and mother of Babru Vahana. *(Purana)*

CHITRANGI—(i) Wife of Arjuna and mother of Iravan.
(ii) One of the four queens of Bhand.

CHITRARUPINI—Mother-goddess. *(Purana)*

CHITTA—(i) Ordained to Buddhist Order by Mahaprajapati. *(Therigatha)*
(ii) Mother-goddess. *(Purana)*

CHITTAJALA—Mother-goddess. *(Purana)*

CHITRAVATI—(i) Daughter of Agavata. *(Purana)*
(ii) Daughter of Chitrasena. *(Purana)*

CHOKHA’S WIFE—A Bhakti poetess who wrote songs of prayer in Marathi. (14th C)

CHULLA SUBHADRA—Ananthapindika’s daughter, married and lived at Ugga. By extolling the virtues of Buddha she awakened in her mother-in-law a desire to see the teacher. Buddha went to Ugga and converted chulla’s father-in-law and many others. *(Dhp Gmy)*

CLEOPHES—Queen of Kafaristan who fought heroically against Alexander. She led the army in person which infected the entire womanhood of the locality and brought the people, who were earlier vacillating, to the battlefield. They fought heroically, preferring death to dishonour but, after a few day’s resistance, she fell fighting and was taken prisoner. Her name is perhaps the Greek version of Asva. (4th C.B.C)

CONTRACTOR, MISS—A pioneer of women’s education in India. (20th C)
COMELIA SHORABJI—The first Indian woman to be a lawyer. She passed Bachelor of Civil Laws at Oxford in 1892. She also obtained LL.B. from Allahabad but was not allowed to practice. In 1904 she was appointed Legal Adviser to purdanashin women, and to Court of Wards, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam, and consulting counsel by the Government of Bengal.

COUSINS—Wife of Dr. James Cousins, theosophist and active member of Women’s Indian Association; associate of Mrs. Annie Besant in her Home Rule agitation. Served as Hony. Magistrate, Saidapet, for sometime; identified herself with the Congress from the start of the Civil Disobedience Movement. She was convicted.

COWSASJI JAHANGIR, LADY—A prominent social worker. (20th C)

CRICOBHA MAHADEVI—Queen of Sultan Sikandar of Kashmir. (14-15th C)

CURSETJI—A prominent social worker of Bombay; she organized children’s vocational libraries and outings. (20th C)

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DAHAT—Sister of Bibi Bahat, the great learned lady of Kashmir.

DAKINI—A yogini in the Brahmanical Tantras.

DAKSHINA—Daughter of Ruchi and Akuti; consort of Suyajna, an avatar of Hari; had twelve sons who were known as Tusita gods (Yamas) of the period of Svayambhuv Manu. (*Purana*)

DAKSAYANI—(i) Wife of Kasyapa; mother of Martanda, the Sun god. (*Purana*)

(ii) Wife of Dharma. (*Purana*)

(iii) The previous avatar of Uma; a daughter of Daksha; became Himavan’s daughter by worshipping Siva. (*Purana*)
DALVI, MRS.—Member of the delegation under Sarojini Naidu that met Mr. Montague in 1917 to ask for women's rights.

DAMAYANTI—(i) Wife of Nala. Became legendary for faithfulness in adversity to her husband. She was a lovely and accomplished princess of Vidarbha. She chose Nala, a brave and handsome prince, as her husband at her swayamvara. Nala was addicted to gambling and lost his all at a game. He deserted Damayanti in the forest. But such intense was her love for Nala that she succeeded in finding him out. Nala won in another game of dice and regained his empire. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of V. Mayalagan; took part in August 1942-movement and was arrested and sentenced.

DAMYANTI JOSHI—Exponent of Kathak; awarded Padmashri (1970)

DAMBARAKALI—A Sakti.

DAMINI—Leader of the female converts of Kunthunatha, 18th Arhat of the Jains.

DAMSTRA—Daughter of Krodhavasa; wife of Pullaha; gave birth to lions, tigers, elephants etc. (Parana)

DAMSTRALALA—Mind-born mother. (Parana)

DANDI MAHADEVI—Of the Kara dynasty of Orissa, she ruled over Orissa on her mother Gouri's death; she was grand-daughter of Tribhuvana Mahadevi.

DANTIKA—Buddhist almswoman; she was inspired by the sight of a great elephant in complete subjection to a man; she passed into the forest depths for solitary meditation. (Therigatha)

DANU—(i) One of Kasyapa's wives and a daughter of Daksha; had Dvimurdha and sixty other Danava sons.

(ii) A mother goddess. (Parana)

DARVA—Wife of Usinara and mother of Suvrata. (Parana)

DASEYI—Fisher woman who took birth as Satyavati and begot Vichitravirya by Santanu. (Parana)

DASU—Beautiful dancing girl of Gujarat who was a keep of one Hindu named Kobi; lot of bad blood was created as some rulers wanted to possess her. (16th C)
DAYA—Daughter of Daksa, wife of Dharma, mother of Abhaya, a Sakti. (Purana)

DAYABAI—Hindi poetess; she was a follower of Dadu’s thoughts and wrote Bhakti poetry. (17-18th C)

DATTADEVI—Chief queen of Samudragupta and mother of Chandragupta II. (4th C)

DEHANGADEVI—Queen of Mahendrapal Pratihar.

DEMIYAKA—Chief wife of a merchant named Chamunda Shetty. (12th C)

DERAWARI, RANI—Widow queen of Bhim Singh of Jodhpur and mother of Dhaukal Singh. (19th C)

DEVAHUTI—(i) Daughter of Svayambhuva Manu, and sister of Priyavrata and Uttanapada; wife of Kardama and mother of Kapila. Hearing from Narada of Kardama’s greatness, she fixed her mind on him and Kardama accepted her; led an enjoyable life for 100 years and after this gave birth to nine daughters and then to Kapila. After marrying daughters, Kardama, with Kapila’s permission, left for forest. Devahuti heard Sankhyasastra from Kapila. She attained Nirvana by following path prescribed by Kapila at Siddhapada. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Pururavas. (Purana)

DEVAJAMMANNI—(i) Dowager queen of Mysore. In 1759 by arranging Maharaja’s marriage with Lakshmimani, she saved the state for future from finally going into Tipoo’s successor’s hands.

(ii) Dowager queen of Mysore; in 1869 she took up the cause of her adopted son in which she succeeded.

DEVAJANI—Wife of Manivara and mother of Manasa and Padmanabha, the Yaksa. (Purana)

DEVAKA—Wife of Vasudeva and mother of Mahadevi. (Purana)

DEVAKI (i)—(Devakabhojaputri Sunama)—One of the seven Bhoja princesses, daughter of Devaka, sister of Kansa. Wife of Paundraka who on becoming king asserted that he was real Vasudeva; mother of eight sons of whom Krishna was one. (Purana)

(ii) Mother of Yaudheya and wife of Yudhisthira. (Purana)

(iii) Goddess enshrined at Mathura. (Purana)
DEVAKULYA—Daughter of Purniman. (*Purana*)

DEVAKUNWARI—Daughter of Sabal Singh of Bedal and mother of Sangram Singh of Chittor. She constructed Vaidyanath temple at Udaipur in 1719.

DEVALADEVI—Daughter of Baghela Karna, Yadava king of Devagiri. She was betrothed to Sankardeva; when the latter's younger brother was carrying the princess from Nandurbar in West Khandesh lo Devagiri, she was seized by Muslims of the army of Alauddin Khilji and sent to Delhi. She was mother of Khizr Khan. On Alauddin's death she was appropriated by the eunuch Khusru.

DEVAMATARAS—Sixty daughters of Daksa; collectively known as Devatmatras. (*Purana*)

DEVAMMA—Wet nurse and guardian of prince Wodiyar of Mysore whom Hyder Ali installed on the throne.

DEVANANDA—Brahman lady in whose womb Mahavira was conceived according to Svetambara.

DEVARAKSITA—One of the even daughters of Devaka and a queen of Vasudeva; mother of Upasangadhara. (*Purana*)

DEVASENA—Daughter of Indra also known as Skanda; wife of Kumara. (*Purana*)

DEWARI UDAYA KUMARI—Queen of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur; became Sati with other queens.

DEVASENA—Daughter of Indra, wife of Kumara also known as Skanda. (*Purana*)

DEVAVARNI—Daughter of Brahaspati; one of the wives of Visravas, mother of Vaisravana or Kuvera and others. (*Purana*)

DEVAVITI—Daughter of Meru and queen of Ketumala. (*Purana*)

DEVAYANI—(i) Daughter of Sukra, priest of the Daityas. She fell in love with her father's pupil, Kacha, son of Brahaspati but he rejected her advances. Devayani was companion of Sarmishtha, daughter of the king of the Daityas. One day after bath their clothes got changed on which Devayani spoke rudely which Sarmishtha detested and pushed her into a dry well. She was taken out by Yayati. Sukra was
angry and to satisfy him, the Daitya king conceded Devayani's
demand that after her marriage Sarmishtha would be her
servant. Devayani married Yayati and Sarmishtha became
their servant. But Yayati was enamoured of Sarmishtha and
she bore him a son. This enraged Devayani who left for her
father's house. Sukra cursed Yayati with the infirmity of old
age, which was transferred to Puru, Sarmishtha's youngest son.
Puru succeeded his father.

(ii) Daughter of Jayanti and grand-daughter of Indra.

DEVI—consort (or Sakti) of Siva; Andhaka attempted
to abduct her. (Purana)

(ii) Asoka's wife. While on way to Ujjain, Asoka halted
at Vidisha. There he met a lovely maiden, named Devi,
daughter of a local merchant, and fell in love with her. Asoka
married her and later begot by her Mahendra and Sanghamitra.

DEVI BALASRI—Mother of Gautamiputra Satakarni;
she inscribed messages to commemorate her son.

DEVI GOSWAMINI—Ruler of Orissa.

DEVI NAGANIKA—An eminent lady of Andhra Pradesh. She guided administration.

DEVIKA RANI ROERICH—A prominent actress; she
is niece of Rabindranath Tagore; married a renowned artist
named Roerich.

DEVIRANI—Mother of Aranatha, 18th Arhat of the
Jains by Sudarsana.

DHAMANI—Queen of Hrada and mother of Vatapi and
Ilvala. (Purana)

DHAMMA—Realising the frailty of the body, she sought
her husband's permission to join the Buddhist Order. But on
his dissent, she remained at home until his death, after which
she entered the Order. (Therigatha)

DHAMMADINNA—Chief woman disciple of Buddha.
Her husband Visakha, on renouncing the world, offered her
untold wealth. But she proudly declined and herself took to
religious life and later became a teacher. She attained such
spiritual wisdom that her instruction was sought by her hus-
band himself. She could solve difficult metaphysical questions.
She was instrumental in leading Sukka and other women to arhatship. *(Therigatha)*

DHANA—Yakshini of Aranatha 18th Arhat, of the Jains.

DHANADAKALIKA—A Sakti.

DHAN DEVI KAPOOR—Ran the Rashtriya Virjananda Andh Kanya Vidyalaya in New Delhi. (20th C)

DHANAM—South India’s musician.

DHANAMBAL—Took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932; was arrested and sentenced to jail.

DHANAPRIYA—Yakshini of Mallinatha, 19th Arhat of the Jains.

DHANVANTARI RAMA RAU—A prominent social worker and pioneer in family planning; she worked for the All India Women’s Conference and organized the Skippo mobile health vans and famine relief work which brought medical aid to rural women and children; she called for the registration of women on the electoral roll.

DHANYA—Daughter of Manas; wife of Dhruva; and mother of Sista.

DHARA—(i) Wife of Vasu Drona and born as Yashoda. *(Purana)*

(ii) Leader of the female converts of Vimalanatha, an Arhat of the Jains.

DHARAMA MAHADEVI—Queen of Lavanabhara of Utkal; she succeeded Vakul Mahadevi. (10th C)

DHARANI—(i) A pitrakanya; a daughter of Svadha; mind-born daughter of Barhisadfas; wife of Meru; mother of son Mandara and daughters Vela, Niyati and Ayati; a Brahmadevi. *(Purana)*

(ii) Earth as the wife of Dhruva and mother of celestial beings. *(Purana)*

(iii) Leader of the female converts of Sreyasa, 11th Arhat of the Jains.

(iv) Leader of the female converts of Vasupresya, 12th Arhat of the Jains.

DHARMAJNA—Daughter of Daksa given to Kasyapa. *(Purana)*
DHARMAVRATA—Daughter of Dharma and Visvarupa; performed tapas; wife of Marichi; once Marichi wanted her to massage his legs during sleep. While she was so engaged, there came her father-in-law whom she honoured; finding that she was not doing what he had desired of her, the husband cursed her to be a stone and despite her severe austerities, the curse came true. (Purana)

DHARMESHWARI DEVI—A blind authoress of Assam; wrote mainly devotional poetry;

DHARSIYA—Daughter of Dahir’s nephew and married to Sarhand. (8th C)

DHATRI—Wife of Bhava and mother of Usanas. (Purnna)

DHENUKA—Wife of Kirtiman and mother of Dhritiman Charisnu. (Purana)

DHENUMATI—Wife of Devadyumna and mother of Paramesthi. (Purana)

DHIRUBEN PATEL—Gujarati writer. (20th C)

DHISANA—(i) Daughter of Daksa; wife of Krasasva and mother of Manu, Vedasira and others. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Havirdhana and mother of Prachinabarhis. (Purana)

DHISNI—Mother of Dhisnis. (Purana)

DHRATA (GHRTA)—An apsara; Bhadrasva got 10 sons from her. (Purana)

DHRATADEVA—Daughter of Devaka and queen of Vasudeva and mother of Viprastha. (Purana)

DHRATARASTRIKA—(or Dhrtarastri) a daughter of Tamra; married Garutman and mother of swâns [chakravakas, ducks, geese etc. (Purana)

DHRITI—(i) Mother goddess enshrined at Pindaraka. (Purana)
(ii) Same as Mahati; left her consort Nandi for Soma. (Purana)
(iii) Daughter of Daksa and one of the wives of Dharma; mother of Niyama; one of the nine devis serving Soma. (Purana)
DHRUVADEVI—Wife of Ramagupta, son of Samudragupta. When in the course of war, Ramagupta was besieged and placed in a difficult position, he in order to serve his people decided to surrender his queen to the Saka king. His younger brother Chandragupta protested against this act of dishonour and offered to go to the enemy camp in the disguise of queen Dhruvadevi. Chandragupta went in disguise and killed the hated Saka king. Later Ramagupta was displaced by Chandragupta and Dhruvadevi married the latter. (4-5th C)

DHUMASIKHA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

DHUMAVATI—A deity of the Saktas, worshipped by them in connection with magic rites.

DHUMINI—(i) Sister of Visukara and Dustasekhara, the Asura brothers. (Purana)
   (ii) Sister of Bhanda and mother of Ulukajit and others. (Purana)
   (iii) wife of Ajamidha and mother of Brahadana and Riksa. (Purana)

DHUMRA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

DHUMRAPATNI—Wife of Markandeya and mother of Vedasiras; present at Rama’s abhiseka. (Purana)

DHVANI—Goddess enshrined at Sankhoddhara. (Purana)

DICKSEN (MISS)—The first woman member of the Central Legislature Assembly; she not only resigned her seat but also refused the Kaiseri Hind Medal, when she found injustice being done by the British.

DIDDA—Queen of Kashmir; infamous for her deeds.

DIGAMBER KOER, RANI—She joined the rebels at Gorakhpur in the outbreak of 1857 ‘sepay mutiny’.

DIKS—Wife and mother of Svarja. (Purana)

DIKSA—Consort of Soma a Brahmana. (Purana)

DILRAS BANU BEGUM—Daughter of Shah Nawaj, a member of the Persian ruling family; wife of Aurangzeb.

DILSHAD BEGUM—First woman who was appointed as Justice of the Peace.

DILWALI BAI—She wrote Bhakti poetry in Gujarati. (19th C)

DINESH NANDINI CHORDYA—A Hindi poetess.
DIPABAI—(i) Grand mother of Shivaji. (16th C)
(ii) Shivaji’s daughter.
(iii) Sister-in-law of Shivaji. She advised her husband to conciliate with Shivaji.

DIRGHAKESI—Mother goddess. (Purana)

DITI—Daughter of Daksa and wife of Kasyapa; he laid down certain restrictions to be observed during her pregnancy; her failure to observe these gave Indra the loophole he was seeking to destroy her foetus. Her sons were known as Daityas; a mother-goddess associated with Aditi. (Purana)

DIVYA—Daughter of Hiranyakasipu and wife of Bhruigu. (Purana)

DOLLY NAZIR—A well known swimmer.

DOROTHY JINARAGADASA—She called for registration of women on electoral roll.

DOSA—Queen of Puskarna and mother of Pradosa, Nisitha and Vyustha. (Purana)
(ii) Queen of Vatsara. (Purana)

DOSSIBAI DADABHOY, DR.—The first India woman to take an M. D. from foreign. (20th C.)

DRAUPADI—Daughter of Drupada, king of Panchala, and wife of the five Pandava princes. She was a beautiful princess and to the envy of many princes who came to her swayamvara, Arjuna won her by hitting a moving object. When the five Pandava brothers returned to the house, where their mother Kunti was staying, and told her of having made a great acquisition, she asked them to share it among themselves. The difficulty of sharing a person was settled by Vyasa who said “let her become the wife of all the brothers.” So she became their common wife and it was arranged that she should stay successively 72 days in the house of each and that no one of them but the master of the house should enter it while she was there. In the gambling match, Yudhishtira lost his all—his kingdom, his brothers, himself and Draupadi—to the Kauravas. Duhsasan dragged her by the hair and Duryodhana invited her to sit on his thigh. Krishna took compassion and restored her clothers as fast as they were torn. Bhima vowed that he would drink the blood of Duhsasan and smash the thigh of Duryodhana, and Draupadi vowed that her hair should remain
dishevelled until Bhima should tie it up with hands dripping with the blood of Duhsasana. In consequence of the gambling, the pandavas with Draupadi went into exile for 12 years and were to dwell incognito during another year, after which they were at liberty to return.

For 12 years they remained in the jungle and in the thirteenth year, the six entered in the service of the king of Virata, she being a waiting-maid to the queen. She lived a quite life for a while but her beauty excited the passions of Kichaka, the queen’s brother. Bhima avenged the insult. After the term of the exile was over, she complained to Krishna of the humility.

She had 5 sons, one from each of the five Pandavas. They were all cut down in the camp of Pandavas on the last day of the 18-day war by Asvathamha. Arjuna pursued him but spared his life after taking from him a celebrated jewel. He gave it to Bhima for presentation to Draupadi. She presented it to Yudhishthira as the head of the family. When the Pandavas retired from the world and went on their journey towards the Himalayas, she accompanied them, and was the first to fall on the journey.

Draupadi’s name was Krishna. She was also known as Panchali, Sairindhri, Panchami and Nit-Yauvani.

DRAVIDA—Daughter of Tranabindu and mother of Visravas. (Purana)

DRONA BHATTARIKA—Queen of Vatsaraja and mother of Jayabala; member of Panduvamsa of Mekala.

DRSADVATI—(i) Wife of Divodasa and mother of Pratardana. (Purana)

(ii) Queen of Samhatava. (Purana)
(iii) Wife of Haryasva. (Purana)
(iv) Wife of Visvamitra and mother of Astaka. (Purana)
(v) Queen of Usinara and mother of Sibi. (Purana)

DRUTI—Wife of Nakta and mother of Gaya. (Purana)

DUDU BIBI—Widow of Sultan Muhammad; later regent of the minor Sultan Jalal Khan.

DUHSALA (or DUSSALA)—Daughter of Dhritarashtra; sister of Duryodhana and wife of Jayadratha, king of Sindhus.
DULHAN—Also known as Nawab Bahu Begum; queen of Asaf-ud-Daula of Oudh; she wrote Urdu poetry under the pseudonym of Dulhan, meaning bride. (19th C)

DUNDA—Wife of Veri Singh; constructed Bhavani Temple in 1656.

DURBHAGA—(i) Name of the daughter of Kala (Time); enjoyed Puru and blessed him with a boon; offered herself to Brahadratha and on his refusal cursed him to be ever wandering. She then approached Bhaya; the Yavana lord who adopted her as his sister. (Purana)

DURGA—Consort of Siva (See Uma).

DURGA BAI DESHMUKH—In the early forties she carried on the Congress movement in Madras; in 1930 she defied the salt law; was nominated the second War Dictator after Sri Prakasham. She was arrested in 1930 and sentenced to imprisonment. She was later arrested for her political work. While in jail she learnt English and, on release, joined a College and took M. A.; B.L. She practised as a lawyer in 1942; in 1946 became a member of the Constituent Assembly; later a member of the Planning Commission; in 1953 married Shri C.D. Deshmukh; was Chairman CSWB (1953-1963.)

DURGA BHAGWAT—A well known Marathi writer.

DURGA KHOTE—A well known actress.

DURGAVATI—Chief princess of Silhadi Purbia of Raissen. Muzaffer Shah, king of Gujarat investigated the fort and to save their honour, the Hindu women, including Durgavati, burnt themselves alive.

DURGAVATI RANI—Chandel princess of Mahoba; the Gond queen of Garha-Katanga; she defeated Baz Bahadur, king of Mewar.

DURITARI—Yakshini of Sambhavanatha, the 3rd Arhat of the Jains,

DURUKTI—Born of Krodha and Himsa; sister and also wife of Kali. (Purana)

DURVARKSI—Wife of Vraka and mother of Pushkara. (Purana)

DUSANA—Wife of Bhauvana and mother of Tvasta. (Purana)
DUTI—Aksara Devi.  (Purana)
DVARAVATI—Wife of Bhangakara.  (Purana)
DWARKA BAI—Daughter of Chimnaji Appa.
DYUTI—Left her consort Vibhavasu and loved Soma with eight other Devis.  (Purana)

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EKAKSI—Mind-born mother.  (Purana)
EKAJATA—(also known as Mahachina Tara), a goddess; her cult was discovered by Siddhanagarjuna in Tibet.
EKAPARNA—One of the three daughters of Mena and Himavat; wife of Asita; she gave birth to Devata by her mind; performed penance under a banyan tree living on a single leaf once in every 2000 years.  (Purana)
EKAPATALA—One of the three daughters of Himavan and Mena; wife of Jaigisavya; performed penance and lived on a patala once in every 2000 years.  (Purana)
EKATARA—A Sakti.
EKAVIRA—Mother goddess enshrined in Sahya Hills.  (Purana)
ELA SEN—A journalist.  (20th C)
ELIZABETH DEVANPORT—Athlete—shot put and Javelin champion.
EVA—Wife of Muhammed, governor of Makran in Sindh.  (8th C)
FAKHR-UN-NISA—Wife of Hyderali and mother of Tipu Sultan.

FATIMA—(i) Wife of Chhata Armani (a Sindhi Hindu), brother of Dula Rai. He went to Kaba where he learnt Kuran from Fatima and married her.
(ii) Wife of Muhammed, governor of Makran in Sindh. (8th C)

FATIMA SULTAN—Wife of Umar Sheikh Mirza and mother of Pir Mohammed Jehangir.

FATEHMAN ISMAIL—A social worker devoted to child welfare; she made people conscious of the need of a polio-hospital.

FIRDAUSI—Daughter of Qutab Khan; married to Bulbul Lodi.

FRANCINA SORABJI—Started social service in villages; wanted to bring children of all classes and communities to common schools. (19th C)

G

GA—Daughter of Kakustha and wife of Yati. (Purana)

GAHANESVARI—A sakti.

GANAPAMBA—Second daughter of Ganapati, a Kakatiya king. (13th C)

GANDHARI—(i) Yakshini of Vasupuja, 12th Arhat of the Jains (Dig).
(ii) Yakshini of Naiminatha, 21st Arhat of the Jains.
(iii) One of the wives of Dhristi. (Purana)
(iv) Wife of Vrasni; mother of Sumitra. (Purana)
(v) Queen of Krishna. (Purana)
(vi) Daughter of Sulabha, king of Gandhara; she was married to the Kuru prince Dhritarashtra who was blind. She decided that she should not be better than her husband in anything. She, therefore, tied a piece of silk over her eyes, refusing to see the world which her husband could not. She never remonstrated with her husband even when she thought he was in the wrong. She was sister of Sakuni and mother of Duryodhana and 99 Kauravas. Her superb iqjunction was “let victory be of the righteous”.

GANDHARVI—Daughter of Surabhi and Kasyapa; sister of Rudra. (Purana)

(ii) Daughter of Gandharva. (Purana)

GANDHAVATI—Name of Satyavati, the fisher woman who was married to the great Kuru King Santanu.

GANDININI—Daughter of Kasiraja; married Svaphalka; mother of Akrura; gifted daily a cow. (Purana)

GANGA—(i) Wife of King Santanu. She bore him a few sons but drowned them all. But when she tried to throw the eighth child, Santanu protested. Ganga, therefore, left Santanu. The surviving child grew to be the famous Bhishma Pitamaha. (Mahabharata)

(ii) Wife of Pavaka, lord of Vasus; also known as Vaidyuta. (Purana)

(i) An extremely beautiful woman of Umarkot in Sindh. Around her revolves a story of real love by her husband but treachery was played upon them by the ruler. With the intercession of Alauddin, she was restored to her husband. The story is narrated in a book (Naz O Niyaz—Coquetry and Supplication)

GANGA BAI—Wife of Peshwa Narayan Rao who was murdered at the instigation of his uncle Raghoba. The Peshwa’s widow gave birth to a posthumons son, who was named Madhavrao Narayanrao and later became the Peshwa. (18th C)

GANGADEVI—(i) Wife of Kumara Kampana. She wrote the Sanskrit poem (Madhavavijayam) describing the
campaigns of Kumara Kampana, the king of Vijayanagara, against the chief of Madura. (14th C)
(ii) M. P. (Lok Sabha) from U.P.
GANGA MAHADEVI—(i) Queen of Vikramaditya. (7th C)
(ii) Queen of Chhundaka Naga King Somesvara II. (12th C)
GANGO—Wife of Guru Arjandas and mother of Guru Hargobind.
GANGU BAI—Wife of Bhimaji Kinare. Took part in the salt satyagraha (1930) and the Quit India Movement (1942); arrested and imprisoned, died on December 20, 1941 in the Hindalag jail.
GANGUBAI HANGAL—A musician. (20th C)
GANGULI J.—Was the first woman to speak from the Congress platform.
GANGULI J. K.—She contributed her jewellery to pay off the fine of Shri Durga Mohan Sen who was convicted for sedition.
GANINI VIRAMATI—She helped Maladhan Hemachandra in a commentary on a great work of Jinabhadra. (12th C)
GARGI VACHAKNAVI—One of the greatest Vedic teachers whose memory was honoured at the time of Brahmayajna. Vachaknavi was her patronymic. She showed special interest in Mimansa. Gargi boldly challanged Yajnavalkya in open court on an abstruse philosophical argument. (Satpatha)
GATI—Daughter of Kardama; married to Pulaha; mother of Karmasreshtha, Variyas and Sahisnu. (Purana)
GAU—(i) Mind-born daughter of Manasa (Pitras) and wife of Sukra. (Purana)
(ii) Another name for Kriti, a daughter of Suka. (Purana)
GAURABAI—Wife of Pati Ram Katia of M. P., took part in 1942 movement; was killed in police firing on 23 August, 1942.
GAURI—(i) Parvati; a Sakti; the goddess enshrined at Kanya-Kubja. (Purana)
(ii) Daughter of Antinara; wife of Yuvasasva; cursed by
her husband she became the river Bahuda; mother of Gaurika Mandhatr. (Purana)

(iii) Wife of Viraja and mother of Sudharma. (Purana)
(iv) Queen of Subhakara V of Utkal. On his demise, she succeeded to the throne.

(v) Character of Nagananda.
(vi) Yakshini of Sreyasa, 11th Arhat of the Jains (Dig).

GAURIBAI—Bhakti poetress of Gujarat. (18th C)

GAURIMANI DEVI—(1857-1938); also known as Gauri Ma; she was a disciple of Ramkrishna Paramahansa. She devoted herself to spiritual knowledge and experience and guided several aspirants.

GAUTAMI—Daughter of Satyadhrithi, found in the bed of Kusa grass; mother of Asvatthama; also called Kripi. (Purana)

GAUTAMI BALASRI—An eminent Andhra queen who guided the administration of her son's kingdom for many years. She inscribed Gautamiputra Sri Satakarni's attainments.

GAYANTI—Wife of Gaya. (Purana)

GAYATRI—(i) Sakti, mind-born daughter of Brahma; inseparable from him; goddess enshrined in the Vedas. (Purana)

[Gayatri mantra: "We meditate on that desirable light of the divine Savitri who influences our pious rites." —Wilson]
(ii) a poetic metre, a sister of Aruna and Garuda, wife of Prajapati. (Purana)

GAYATRI DEVI—Maharani of Jaipur; an opposition leader; M.P.

GEETA ROY—A crack shot of Bengal.

GHANTARAVA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

GHASITI BEGUM—Daughter of Alibardi Khan.

GHATODARI—Mind-born mother.

GHOSHAT A Brahmadavadi, a protege of the Asvins; according to one legend, she was recipient of Arjuna, a husband though this is unlikely. According to another, she remained unwed because of some skin disease which too is untenable because Sayana says that she had a son named Subhashya.

She composed the hymns of invocation to Asvins, demi gods, forerunners of dawn. She is a revealer of the Vedic
wisdom and lived the ideal life of spirituality. She performed religious rites, sang holy hymns and discussed the subtle and difficult problems of life and death of soul and God with great philosophers. *(Rigveda)*

GHOSH G.R., Dr.—Professor of Science in the Regional College of Education, Bhubaneshwar. She is well known for her research in Soil Fungi.

GHRITACHI—(i) Apsaras; wife of Brahmadatta of Kampila; mother of 10 sons, including Malada and Manarasa, and Dharmeya from Raudrasva. *(Purana)*

(ii) Apsaras mentioned with Visvachi in Yajurveda. She is associated with sacrificial fire. The two belong to Samyadvasu of the North.

GHRITASTHALA—An Apsaras.

GHURNIKA—Maid-servant of Devayani. *(Purana)*

GIDHRI (or GRIDRIKA)—Daughter of Tamra; married Aruna, gave birth to Sampati and Jatayu; a personification of dawn. *(Purana)*

GIRIJA—Name of Parvati.

GIRIKA—Wife of Vidyaparichara, a Vasu, and mother of 7 sons, including Mathailya. *(Purana)*

GITA BAJAJ—Took part in 1942 movement; suffered imprisonment in Delhi.

GITA CHANDRA, Dr. Sq. Ldr.—First Indian woman parachute-jumper.

GMEINER—Principal, Indraprastha Girls School, Delhi. In 1916 she established a branch of the Home Rule League in Delhi which annoyed Sir Malcolm Hailey, the Chief Commissioner, who advised her to withdraw her support to the League. She declined to oblige him and the grant to the school was eventually stopped.

GO—Wife of Brahmadatta; a Yogini and mother of Vivakseha, King of Salva.

GOCAPALA—One of the 10 wives of Atri. *(Purana)*

GODA—Name of Andal, the famous saint, poetess of South India. She was the adopted daughter of Vishnuchitta (Periyalvar), a noted Vaishnava saint. She refused to wed any man and led the life of a lover of the Lord, like a gopi,
and devoted herself to divine service in the local temple. Her works *Tiruppavai* and *Nacchiyar Tirumoli* are outcomes of her maddening love of God and are exceedingly popular with the Sri-Vaishnavas. She imagined herself as the bride of the Lord of Srirangam.

**GODAVARIBAI**—(i) Educationist of Maharashtra. (19th C)
(ii) Wife of Krishna Rao Teke; took part in the movement for merger of Hyderabad state in the Indian Union; killed with her husband by Razakars.

**GODHA**—Brahmavadini.

**GOKARNIKA**—Mind-born mother. (*Purana*)

**GOLAP SUNDARI DEVI** (1864-1924)—also known as Golap Ma; she was a constant companion of Sharda Devi, wife of Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

**GOMATHI**—Wife of C. Muthuswamy; freedom fighter, took part in Vedaranyami Salt Satyagraha, 1930; was arrested and sentenced.

**GOMATHIAMMAL**—Wife of Hari Shivaram, took part in Civil Disobedience and was sentenced to jail.

**GOMATI**—Goddess enshrined at Gomanta. (*Purana*)

**GONAI**—Mother of the famous saint poet of Maharashtra, Namadev; she composed in blank verse.

**GONAMA**—Daughter by wish of Somapa Pitr and wife of Sukra. (*Purana*)

**GOPA**—Wife of Buddha; she did not lament the loss nor blamed Siddhartha when he left her with the baby son Rahul sleeping. She lived an austere life. When Buddha came to Kapilavastu, Rahul at her directive went to the father and asked him for partrimony; at Buddha’s command, Ananda gave Rahul a begging bowl and yellow cloth. Rahul joined the Order; this was the first and the last sacrifice of Gopa. As a token of love and gratitude, the people named her Yashodhara—the bearer of renown. (*Apadana*)

**GOPAJALA**—The eighth daughter of Raudrasva. (*Purana*)

**GORI**—Wife of Chand Berdai, the court poet of Prithviraj Chauhan.
GOURI K.R.—One time a Minister of Kerala State.

GOURAMMA—(i) A well known novelist of Kannada. (20th C)
(ii) Wife of Venkatachalaiah; took part in the movement for responsible govt. in Mysore State (1938); received bullet wound in head during firing by the police on 25 April 1948 at Vidhurswatha and became insane due to the injury; died after a few days by jumping into a well.

GRACE TUCKER—One time a Dy Minister in Mysore.

GRAMYA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

GRIDDHARAKA—Daughter of Tamra; mother of vultures etc. (Purana)

GUDUBAI—A widow whose marriage with Dhondo Keshav Karve in Poona touched off a storm of protest. (19-20th C)

GUJJULU—An apsaras. (Atharvaveda)

GUJRA BAI—Of the Gaikwad royal family; tried to eradicate the practice of infanticide prevalent in Kutch. (1802)

GUJRI—Wife of Guru Teghbadur. (17th C)

GUL BIHISHT—Concubine of Alauddin; captained the force and fought valiantly but all of a sudden died of short illness, according to Farishta.

GULBADAN BEGUM—Daughter of Babur, she was a talented lady and wrote Humayun Nama, which is an authentic account of Humayun’s times and throws some light on the economic condition of contemporary India.

GUL KHATUN—The queen of Sultan Haider of Kashmir and mother of Sultan Hasan Shah; built a Madrasa. She was famous for her solicitude for her Hindu subjects. She was greatly esteemed by all and men wept on her death. (15th C)

GULABRAI—Keep of Vijay Singh, grand father of Raja Man Singh of Jodhpur; she played important role in the upbringing of Raja Man Singh and wanted to marry her niece Sukhasejrai with Man Singh but this was not only opposed but also mocked at by the chiefs of the State.

GULISTAN BILLIMORIA—(nee Bahadurji) a social worker and well known painter. (20th C)

GULVADI—A student: she entered the District Courts at
Dharwar on 23 October 1942 and asked the Judge to resign and dissolve his court within eight days otherwise he would be treated as a traitor. When the police came on the scene, she escaped. Once again she exhorted the Dharwar Bar to support the cause of independence; she was arrested and sent to jail.

GUNA BEGUM—Daughter of Nawab Ali Kuli Khan; a good poet; wife of Gazi-ud-din.

GUNA SADHVI—Jain nun of high spiritual calibre and deep scholarship; she prepared in 905 the first copy of a monumental allegorical work of Siddharshi. (9-10th C)

GUNA SAMRIDDHI MAHATTARA—Composed a Prakrit work called Ajnana-Sundari Charitra. (14th C)

GUNVANTABAI—7th wife of Shivaji.

GURUSWAMY CHETTY Mrs—Member of a delegation that met under the leadership of Smt. Sarojini Naidu Mr. Montague in 1917 to ask for women’s rights.

GUTTA—A Brahmin woman who found life of luxury distasteful and joined the Buddhist Order with the consent of her parents. But later her heart longed in running after external interests which destroyed concentration. It is not clear how long she waited for arhanship. (Therigatha)

H

HABIBA—A Muslim Gujar of U. P.; took part in the Great Revolt and was executed on the gallows in 1857. Eleven other young women were also hanged and an estimated 258 young women are believed to have died fighting against the British.

HABA KHATUN—Her original name was Zun, the moon, and she was like the moon in beauty, youth, health and grace. She came from a low class family. Her married life was not happy and she got a divorce. Yusuf Shah, the prince, heard her singing and was captivated and made her his queen.
She was called the Nur-Jahan of Kashmir. Her chief contribution was to music. When Yusuf Shah was made to leave Kashmir by Akbar, Haba foresook the world and became a hermitess. Her poetry is on the life of Kashmir. Her life was a strange change of fortune from simple girl to queen and then a hermitess. (16th C.)

HADI KARMAVATI—One of the 13 queens of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur, who with 10 others became sati.

HAFIZA KHADIJA—Daughter of Mir Sayyid Abdul Fattah, a learned man and descendant of Mir Sayyad Hussain Simnani who was deputed by Shah of Iran to preach Islam in Kashmir. He taught his daughter and married her to a scholar named Mulla Zain-ud-Din Mufti. She lives in history as a great teacher. She opened a Madrasa for women at her own expense and died in 1739 A.D.

HAFIZA MARYAM—Tutoress of the celebrated Zeb-un-Nisa Begum, the daughter of Aurangzeb; wife of Mirza Shukrulla of Kashmir; she hailed from Naishapur in Khurasan. (17th C.)

HAJI BEGUM—Step mother of Humayun; Humayun’s Tomb was built under her supervision.

HAKINI—A yogini in the Brahmanical Tantras.

HAMIDA BANU—(i) Daughter of Hindal; when Humayun proposed to her, she was 14 and showed reluctance to the ex-king saying that she could hardly reach his collar. The ladies of the harem, however, persuaded her and then the marriage took place.

(ii) Daughter of Malika Bano; niece of Mumtaz Mahal and wife of Khali-ullah Khan.

HAMINI—The first wife of Muhammad, a governor of Makran. (18th C.)

HAMSABAI—Daughter of Chunda (1399-1472), Rathor leader; married to Lakha, king of Mewar; mother of Kumbha.

HAMSI—She and her sister Nagalata, daughters of a Domb singer Ranga, charmed King Chakravarman of Kashmir by their dance. Forgetting their position, he married the two girls. Hamsi was raised to the status of chief queen. (10th C.)
HAMUN or HEMU—Wife of Singhar of Sind. They had no son and after his death, Hamun took charge and carried on the government from the fort of Dahak. (13th C)

HAMZA BANO BEGUM—Daughter of Shahjehan and Kandhari Begum.

HANNAH SEN—A social worker; she was once the Vice President of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; earlier she was the first principal of India’s ‘first Home Science College, the Lady Irwin College of New Delhi founded in 1932’.

HANSA MEHTA (Mrs.)—A well known educationist and social worker; Parliamentary Secretary in the Bombay Govt. (1937-39); President, All India Women’s Conference 1945-46; the Vice Chancellor of Baroda University (1949-58); she was closely connected with associations and delegations visiting abroad; earlier she was a honorary magistrate of Bombay from which office she resigned when women were treated harshly in 1930.

HAR DEVI of Lahore—She organised meetings and collected funds to assist anarchists under trial in the beginning of the century.

HAR KAUR (alias Chandi)—Wife of Shri Hardeep Singh of Punjab; took part in nationalist movement; received bullet wound in indiscriminate machine gun fired by British troops on people attending a public meeting at the Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, on April 13, 1919 and died.

HARIYADEVI—A Huna lady married to Allata Guhila.

HARIYAKKA—A woman wrestler of the Vijayanagar kingdom (15th C.); she expired while fighting.

HASRAT BEGUM MOHANI—Noted for social and educational reforms; also, for demanding equal rights for women; she was a member of the delegation under Sarojini Naidu that met Mr. Montague in 1917 to ask for women's rights.

HATI VIDYALANKAR—A learned lady who strove for female education. (19th C)

HAURA—Mother of Sultan Sikandar of Kashmir (1189-1413 A.D.); a lady of remarkable personality and strength
of character; dealt with all opposition and struck terror into the hearts of malefactors; she went to the extent of putting an end to the lives of her daughter and son-in-law Shah Muhamad who tried to raise a rebellion against her.

HAVIRBUH—Daughter of Kardama and wife of Pulastya. (Purana)

HAYAT BAKSH BEGUM—Daughter of Muhammad Quli, the fifth Qutab Shahi Sultan of Golconda; married to Muhammad Qutb.

HAYAT-UN-NISSA—Wife of Aurangzeb.

HAYES SISTERS—Well known athletes.

HAYAT KHATUN—Baihagi Begum’s daughter; beloved queen of Sultan Hasan Shah of Kashmir.

HAZARAT BEGUM MAHAL—Queen of the last Nawab of Avadh who was practically a prisoner in Calcutta but his cause was upheld by his Begum. Her minor son Brijis Qadir was selected as Nawab on 7th July 1857. She was the chief authority in the preparation of coronation.

HAZRAT BEGUM—Daughter of Muhammad Shah, emperor of Delhi; married to Ahmad Shah Durrani.

HELEN—Daughter of Seleucus; wife of Chandragupta Maurya.

HEM NALINI—A Bengali nationalist.

HEMAMALA—Wife of Yama.

HEMLATA SHENOLIKAR—A student; entered the District Courts at Dharwar along with another student Gulgadi on 23rd October, 1942 and hoisted the tricolour on the Judge’s seat. Gulgadi addressed the members of the bar present in the court and summoned the Judge and asked him to resign. Police reached on the scene but Gulgadi escaped. Shenolikar was sentenced to pay a fine or to suffer imprisonment; she preferred to go to jail.

HEMPRABHA DASGUPTA—Vice President of the Nari Satyagraha Committee in Calcutta; took active part in Gandhi’s Satyagraha in the forties.

HEMPRABHA MAJUMDAR—A prominent political worker of Comilla; she was the President and Dictator of the Tippera Distt. Congress Committee; was arrested for anti-govt.
activities and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.

HEMU—Wife of Singhar, king of Sindh. She carried on the Govt. after her husband’s death. (See Hamun)

HIDIMBI—Sister of Hidimba; wife of Pandava Prince Bhima and mother of Ghatotkacha.

HIJAB IMTIAZ ALI—A Urdu writer; she was the first woman pilot of India in 1936.

HIMADEVI—Known for her theatrical movement in India. (20th C.)

HIMSA—(i) One of the wives of Kali. (Purana)  
(ii) Wife of Adharma and mother of Nikriti. (Purana)

HINDA—Daughter of Ulka and wife of Abu Sultan.

HIRABAI (also known as Zainabadi)—she was a dancing girl and concubine of Saif Khan, the governor of Burhanpur. Aurangzeb saw her and fell in swoon. She was exchanged by Saif Khan, for Chatterbai, a keep of Aurangzeb. (17th C)

HIRABAI BARODEKAR—A well known classical musician of India; awarded Padma Bhushan in 1970; wife of Gurunath Manik Rao.

HIRABAI TATA—Social and political reformer; a member of the delegation that met under Mrs. Sarojini Naidu Mr. Montague in 1917 to ask for women’s rights. She was the General Secretary of Bombay Women’s India Association and organized a number of meetings on political women’s sufferings. She with her daughter Mittu Bai Tata was sent by the Women’s Committee to U.K. to express Indian women’s feelings about women’s franchise.

HIRAKANI—A cow-herdess of Raigarh who one evening finding the Fort doors closed scrambled down the hillside to reach home the same night. This cautioned Shivaji who built a bastion to close the approach and thus made it safe from the enemy. The bastion is known as Hirakani Tower, after the woman. (17th C)

HOMAVATI DEVI—A Hindi short story writer. (20th C)

HONNAMMA—Sudra woman who attended upon queen of Chikklu Deva Raja; she was a pupil of Singaraja and wrote a book called *Hadbibadaya Dharma* (Duty of a Faithful Wife) in Kannada. (17th C)
HUDDEA SULTANA—Daughter of Ali Adil Shah of Bijapur and wife of prince Murtaza, son of King Hussain Nazim Shah of Ahmednagar. (16th C)

HULSI—Mother of Tulsidas, Hindi poet.

HUNKERI—Took part in the Quit India Movement (1942); received bullet wound in firing by a military patrol in her village in Bihar after crash of a Govt. aircraft on Sept. 2, 1942; died the same day.

HUSAINI KHANAM—A slave girl known as Begum in employment of Nana Fadnavis.

ICHCHHANIDEVI—The eldest queen of Prithviraja Chauhan and daughter of the Parmara Jaita, king of Mt. Abu. (12th C)

IDA—(i) In the Rig-Veda Ida is primarily food, personified as the goddess of speech; she is called the instructress of Manu. According to Sayana, she is the goddess presiding over the earth. A legend in the Satpatha Brahmana represents her as springing from a sacrifice which Manu performed for the purpose of obtaining offsprings. In the Puranas she is daughter of the Manu Vaivaswata, wife of Budha (Mercury) and mother of Pururavas. The Manu Vaivaswata instituted a sacrifice for the purpose of sons but the officiating priest mismanaged the performance and the result was a daughter—Ida or Ila. Through the favour of two deities her sex was changed and she became a man Sudyumna. Under the vedediction of siva, Sudyumna was again turned into a woman and, as Ila, married Budha. After she had given birth to Pururavas, she, under the favour of Vishnu, once more became Sudyumna. According to legends, Manu's eldest son was named Ila.

(ii) A Sakti of Maruta.

IDAVIDA—Daughter of Trinabindu and the apsaras
Alambusha. There are different statements about her in the Puranas. She is represented to be the wife of Visravas and mother of Kuvera or the wife of Pulastya and mother of Visravas.

IGNATIOUS AMMAT—Daughter of Vattiswan of Tamilnadu; took part in Quit India Movement, 1942; arrested and sentenced to jail.

ILA—(i) Mother Earth. Worshipped for gain of bodily strength, waited on Hari and saved by Hari in the form of Matsya. *(Purana)*

(ii) Wife of Rudra.

(iii) Sprang from a sacrificial ritual in Asvamedha of Vivaswatt Manu in honour of Mitra and Varna, who adopted her as daughter; seeing the father displeased at a daughter’s birth Vasishtha converted her to a male by name Sadyumna. By Siva’s curse he turned into a woman. According to some, a son Ila turned into a woman Ila; she consorted with Budha, son of Soma, and gave birth to Pururavas Aila. After this, she again became Sudyumna. *(Purana)*

(iv) Daughter of Daksa and one of the wives of Kasyapa and mother of Lata (creeper), Valli (creeping plant) and Virudha (a plant which grows again after being cut). *(Purana)*

(v) One of Vasudeva’s wives. Mother of Uruvalka and other sons.

(vi) Wife of Tapas in the Visvasri sacrifice. *(Purana)*

ILAVILA—Daughter of Trinabindu.

ILA MATA—An epithet of Urvashi; a generous and compassionate goddess. *(Rigveda)*

ILA MAZUMDAR—The first mechanical woman engineer of India.

ILA PALCHOUDHURI—Was member of Parliament and member of several important committees.

ILINA—Daughter of Yama; queen of Antinara, mother of a number of sons; interested in Brahmavada.


IND KAUR—Wife of Nand Singh of Punjab; took part in the Kuka Movement; joined the *jatha* of Kukas proceeding
to attack Maloud in 1872; she was captured and killed by soldiers at Moloud.

INDER KAUR—Young woman of a Jat family of U.P. Took part in the Great Revolt against British Rule in 1857; captured by the British and executed on the gallows in 1857. With her were executed 11 women and 258 women are believed to have died fighting against the British.

INDER PRABHA MAJUMDAR—A member of the Mahila Karma Samaj of Calcutta; on her appeal in the early thirties of this century, many women gave up their ornaments, broke their foreign bangles, and vowed that they would not wear these again.

INDERJIT SANDHU—Vice Chancellor of Punjab University. She is wife of Shri Gurdit Singh, a well known writer.

INDIRA—(i) Surname of Lakshmi, a Sakti, bearer of fly whisk to Lalita.

INDIRA BAI—(i) Wife of R. Madhava Rao, took part in Civil Disobedience Movement in 1931, arrested and sentenced.

(ii) Of Indore; known for her charitable activities and interest in uplift of villages.

INDER GANDHI—Prime Minister of India since 24 January 1966. Born 19 November 1917, at Allahabad, daughter of Kamala and Jawaharlal Nehru. The Nehrus were seriously involved in the nationalist movement and therefore she had to move to schools at different places which hampered her regular education. She was educated at Allahabad, Poona, schools in Switzerland, Shantiniketan and Somerville College, Oxford. As a child she 'longed to be a real soldier in the service of India' and once she even practised the role of Joan of Arc and yet at another time she formed a Vanar Sena (Monkey Brigade) of children which proved quite useful in communicating messages. While her mother was ill in Switzerland, she and a young Indian, Feroze Gandhi, attended on her which brought the two young persons together. Kamala Nehru died in 1936. A few years later Indira and Feroze Gandhi were married.

In 1942 both Indira Gandhi and Feroze Gandhi were arrested for participating in the Quit India Movement; were
released after sometime. When Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of free India, she moved to her father’s house at Delhi where she had to play the role of her father’s hostess. She also accompanied her father to foreign countries. Thus she had opportunities to see momentous events and great leaders from close quarters. She also took active interest in social welfare work and was a member of the All India Congress Committee. In 1959 she was elected as the Congress President. The first half of the sixties proved bad for her. She lost her husband in 1960 and her father in 1964.

On the persuasion of Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1964 she joined his cabinet as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. When Shastriji passed away in January 1966, after a contest with Morarji Desai, she became the Prime Minister of India. But soon she found that the old guard (later known as Syndicate) was opposed to progressive measures and was trying to depose her. She proposed a 10-point programme to be implemented and at the Faridabad session of the Congress criticised monopolies and concentration of economic power. Almost at the same time a conflict arose on the election of a new President on the death of Dr. Zakir Hussain. She supported V. V. Giri who was elected, much to the annoyance of her opponents. The conflict now came out in the open and finally it led to a split in the Congress.

In 1969 the Government nationalised banks after promulgating a Presidential Ordinance. Later the princely purses and princely privileges were derecognised by the President’s special powers. This had to be done because the ‘judiciary had proved a stumbling block’ to the progressive measures of her Government. She won elections with a thumping majority, her party securing 350 seats out of a total of 518 in the Lok Sabha. But the election results were soon clouded with the noise of war. An Indian plane hijacked from Srinagar was blown up in Lahore (Pakistan). In retaliation India banned flights of Pakistani aircrafts over Indian territory. A piquant situation was created by Pakistan when it tried to ruthlessly suppress the people of East Pakistan. About ten million refugees poured into India which threw a great burden on this country. To meet the expenditure, the Indian Government levied a refugee tax. Indira Gandhi sent diplomatic missions and herself
visited a number of countries so that Pakistan might realise and agree to take the refugees back and settle the dispute amicably. But nothing happened.

Then on 3 December 1971 Pakistani planes made a wanton attack on a few Indian airfields and on its ground forces. India gave a befitting reply to Pakistani aggression and was undaunted even by the presence of 7th Fleet in the Bay of Bengal. India also recognised Bangladesh Government. Finally the East Pakistan forces unconditionally surrendered in Bangladesh and on the western frontiers, India declared a unilateral ceasefire. The entire Nation showered encomiums on Indira Gandhi for steering the country safely during the crisis. They even called her Durga. Because of her astuteness and statesmanship, the Simla Agreement was concluded between India and Pakistan on July 2, 1972.

But in its wake, the war brought economic hardships. To improve national economy, the government nationalised the wholesale trade in foodgrains (rice and wheat) and took several other measures to stop inflation and rise in prices. The declaration of Emergency in 1975 has ushered in a sense of discipline among the people and done them tremendous good. Indira Gandhi’s 20-point programme for raising the standard of living is now being pursued vigorously.

INDIRA MAYADEO—Took up problems of unemployment and cottage industries.

INDIRANI-RAHMAN—An exponent of Bharatanatyam; revived and popularised Odissi dance; awarded Padmashri (1969).

INDIVARAKALIKA—A Sakti.

INDRABHATTARIKA—Queen of Nagabala. (5th C)

INDRA KUNWAR—Mother of Swai Jai Singh, daughter of Kashi Singh Jodha. (15th C)

INDRAMANASA—Wife of Bana and mother of Lauhitya. (Purana)

INDRANI—Wife of Indra, she is called Sachi and Aindri and is mentioned in Rigveda as the most fortunate of females for “her husband shall never die of old age.” It is stated that Indra chose her for his wife from a number of competing goddesses, because she surpassed them all in
voluptuous attractions. In the Ramayana and Puranas she appears as the daughter of the Daitya Puloman. She was ravished by Indra, who killed her father to escape his curse. According to the Mahabharata, King Nahusha became enamoured of her and she escaped from him with difficulty. Indrani has never been held in a very high esteem as a goddess. Indrani was mother of Jayanta and Jayanti. Satyabhama was against Indrani because of the latter’s pride over her possessions and riches.

INDRA-SENA—Daughter of Nala and Damayanti.

INDRASEN—Wife of Mudgala and mother of Bandhayasva.

INDUMATI—Sister of Bhoja, king of Vidrabha who chose prince Aja for her husband at her Swayamvara. Mother of Dasarath of Kaushal; she was killed by Narada’s garland falling upon her while asleep in an ashram.

INDUVATSAVA—A sakti.

IRA—(i) A name of Sarasvati.

IRAVATI—(i) Daughter of Uttara and wife of Parikshit.
(ii) Wife of Rudra.
(iii) Daughter of Krodhavasa and Anant and wife of Pulaha; in her womb was placed the **andakapala** by the progenitor and she gave birth to four kingly sons Airavats (Elephants). (Purana)

(iv) Wife of Bhauvana. (Purana)

IRAVATI KARVE Dr.—A well known sociologist. (20th C)

ISANAKALIKA—A sakti.

ISANI—A name of Yoga Maya, a Sakti.

ISASRI—Queen of Sarad-ritu.

ISIDASI—Beloved child of a citizen of Ujjain and an ideal wife. When she found that she was not liked by her husband, she took to the Buddhist Order.

ISTA—A Siddhidevi.

ISMAT CHUGHTAI (Smt. Shahid Lateef)—A well known Urdu writer. (20th C)

IVVY KHAN—Important functionary of the YWCA movement. (20th C)