MUTHULAKSHMI—Wife of S.A. Narayana Sastri of Tamilnadu; joined the movement in 1930; took part in boycott of foreign cloth 1932, was arrested and sentenced to jail. She was the first woman in the Legislature, the first Deputy President of the Legislative Council, the first Elder woman in the City Corporation; Vice President of the Women's Indian Association.

After a stint with politics, she concentrated on social reforms and founded several institutions e.g., the Avvai Home in Madras for destitutes and rescued women from brothels, immoral traffic etc. She presented bills for the abolition of the custom of Devadasis (dedicating girls to temples, which had degenerated into prostitution). She set up the Cancer Institute. She and her colleagues pleaded for woman's rights before Montagu Chemsford Commission in 1917, and the right to vote was given to women. She resigned her seat as well as her office when the authorities treated women Satyagrahis with harshness in 1930. She was honoured by the Govt. As chairman of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board, she intensified work for the improvement of the handicapped and for the spread of voluntary social services in villages.

MUTTA—A disciple of Buddha. She is an authoress of Therigatha. She induced her hunch-backed Brahmin lord to give his consent to her joining the Order. (Therigatha)

NABHASRI—Queen of Varsaritu. (Purana)

NAD(a)VALA—Daughter of the progenitor Viraja and queen of Chaksusa Manu.

NADIRA BEGUM—Dara's wife who faithfully shared her husband's misfortune.
NADRATA—Wife of Manu (also Maru) and mother of Puru. (Purana)

NAFISA BEGUM—Sister of Sarfaras, a Masnabdar of Ali Vardi Khan who took Masnad of Bengal. He treated her kindly and took her to Dacca.

NAGA—Cousin sister of King Harsha of Kashmir. When she chided Harsha for his scandalous behaviour with women, he first violated her and then punished her. (11th C)

NAGALATA—Sister of Harsha of Kashmir. The two were dancers. They attracted the King Chakravarman who married both of them.

NAGAMATI—Queen of Rana Ratan Singh of Chittor. Nagamati, Padmini and others performed Sati on the Rana’s death. (15th C)

NAGARATHHAMMA K. S.—Speaker of Mysore Assembly.

NAGNAJITA—Kosal princess and daughter of Nagnajit, wife of Krishna and mother of Bhadraminda and Mitrabinda.

NAIKIDEVI—Daughter of the Kadamba Paramardin, king of Goa, queen of Ajayapala Chalukya of Gujarat. She acted as regent for her son Mularaja II. In 1178 when Muhammad Ghauri attacked Gujarat, she taking Mularaja in her lap led her army against the invader and defeated him at Gadaraghatta, near the foot of Mt. Abu.

NAINA—Mother goddess.

NAIRRTI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

NAJAKIAMMA E. K. Dr.—Was Director of the Botanical Survey of India in Calcutta.

NAKULAMATA—A Buddhist lay believer. She understood the Buddhist doctrine and explained it to her husband Nakulapita, disabused his mind that she might remarry and saved him from the jaws of death. Buddha appreciated her and her understanding. (Ang.)

NAKULI (or NAKULESVARI)—Mind-born daughter of Lalita; riding on Garuda to vanquish Sarpini; was attacked by the five commanders of Bhanda. Nakuli cut off Karanka’s head. (Purana)

NALADI—Apsara. (Atharvaveda)
NALINBALA DEVI—Known for her erotic mysticism and devotional poetry in Assamese; also a social worker, was awarded Padma Shri in 1957.

NALINI—One of the wives of Ajamidha and mother of Nita. (Purana)

NALLAMUTHA RAMAMURTHI—Represented in the Round Table Conference from Madras on the recommendation of Simon Commission.

NAMIBAI—Shivaji’s daughter from his sixth wife Sogunabai.

NANDA—(i) Sakti; a goddess enshrined at Himalayan slopes.

(ii) Alms woman and disciple of Buddha who appreciated her excellent conduct.

(iii) Mother of Sitalanatha, arhat of the Jains by Dridharatha Raja.

NANDAGIRI—A writer of Talugu. (20th C)

NANDAMALA—A Buddhist lay woman who offered alms to the community of almsmen at Sravasti and invited them to a meal at her house.

NANDINI—Sakti, the goddess enshrined at Devikalata; a mother goddess. (Purana)

NANDINI SATPATHY (b. 1931)—Chief Minister of Orissa since June 1972; earlier Member of Rajya Sabha and Dy. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (1966-69) and later in 1971-72; also a writer of Oriya.

NANDUTTARA—A Great Buddhist and debator. She was converted from Jainism to Buddhism by Maha Moggalanna. She had a questioning mind and joined the Jains. She became a renowned speaker and taking her rose apple bough toured the country. Then one day she met Moggallana, debated with him and was convinced by his arguments and on his advice entered the order of Buddhist alms women. (Therigatha)

NANGA PENNU—A woman saint of Kerala. She was a devotee of Vishnu and attained God’s visit when she was a maiden. She came from a Malayali family of Tripunithura. A local temple there even now observes a festival after her.
NANAKI BIBI—Wife of Nanak.
NARA—Daughter of Suyagriva and wife of Bhangakara, an Andhra Chief of Bandhumani. (Purana)
NARADITTA—Yakshini of Munisuvrata; 20th arhat of the Jains.
NARASIMHI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)
NARAYANAM—Daughter of Balakrishnan of Tamilnadu; took part in Anti-War Activities 1939; arrested and sentenced to jail.
NARAYANI—Sister of Krishna.
NARAYANI DEVI VERMA—Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Rajasthan.
NARENDRA PRABHA—Wife of a merchant of Kashmir. King Durlabha Pratapaditya II was attracted towards her. On knowing of this, the husband offered her to the king.
NARGIS DUTT—A renowned actress; was awarded Padmashri; wife of Sunil Dutt, equally renowned an actor.
NARI—Daughter of Meru and queen Kury. (Purana)
NARMADA—(i) Wife of Purukutsa, a Rajarsi, and mother of Trasadasyu. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Yuvanasva son of Ambarisa. (Purna)
(iii) Mind-born daughter of Sompara Pitra, one of the 16 wives of Havyavahana. (Purana)
NARMAHISA—Daughter of Hamsakila. (Purana)
NAVA—One of the five queens of Usnara and mother of Nava. (Purana)
NASUDEVI—Grand mother of King Lalitasurdeva of Garhwal.
NATTA—Daughter of Jayasakti Chandela. She was married to the Kalchuri Kokkalla I. (9th C)
NAYAKA DEVI—Daughter of Jayarudra of Nepal; married to Harichandra belonging to royal family of Banaras who was poisoned after some years in A.D. 1335. Jagat Simha a native of Tirhut siezed the person of Nayakadevi and married her. Nayakadevi died after giving birth to a daughter Rajalla Devi in 1347.
NAYNA SUSHEEL ZAVERI—Dancer of repute, has performed in several dramas.

NAYANTARA SEHGAL—A well known writer, she has several works to her credit; daughter of Vijayalakshmi Pandit.

NAZAR SAJJAD HYDER—Editor of children’s weekly “Phool” in 1908. She also wrote children’s books.

NAZIB-UN-NISA BEGUM—Sister of Akbar and wife of Khwaza Hasan Naksabandi.

NAZUK BAHAR—Concubine of Sultan Sikandar. She was a very beautiful woman. After Sikandar’s death, she passed into the harem of his brother, successor Sultan Bahadur. He later murdered her in Mandu.

NEELAVATHIAMMAL—Daughter of Kaliyaperumal of Tamilnadu. She took part in Individual Satyagraha, 1941, was arrested and sentenced to jail.

NELLI SENGUPTA—An English woman. Wife of Deshpriya J. M. Sen Gupta. She was a revolutionary and actively participated in India’s freedom struggle.

NELLY HOMI SETHNA—A well known textile designer.

NIDHI—Goddess enshrined at Vaisravanalaya. (Purana)

NIHAL—A strikingly beautiful girl of Sonar caste of Mudkal who refused the hand of King Deva Raya I of Vijayanagar. She was captured and married by Firuzshah Bahmani to his son Hasan Khan. (15th C)

NIKAMBA MRS.—She set up a Married Women's Institute.

NIKASA—Mother of Ravana.

NIKKE DEVI (Alias Jwala Ditti alias Rani alias Baji)—of NWFP. She was elected a delegate for the 35th session of Indian National Congress held at Amritsar. In 1928 Frontier Gandhi was interred in her house. She was externed from Lahore and was interned in her house from 1932-36. She remained in the fore-front in the struggle for emancipation of the country along with other members of her family.

NIKRITI—Daughter of Dambha and Maya, the first wife of Kali. (Purana)

(ii) Daughter of Himsa and Adharma, mother of Bhaya and Naraka. (Purana)
NILA—Daughter of Kesini, a low type of Raksasi, she gave birth to Ksudra Raksasas called after her the Nila clan. (Purana)

NILAPATAKA—Aksaradevi, killed Jambukaksa, a commander of Bhand. (Purana)

NILIMA BARUA—A well known textile designer.

NILIMA DEVI—A talented woman, known printer, she successfully managed the Signet Press of Calcutta on her husband's death. (20th C)

NILINI—Mother of Nila. (Purana)

NIMA—Foster mother of Kabir.

NIMA KHATUN HAIDER—Once Minister-in-charge of Jails and Transport in Bihar.

NIMLOCHA—Apsaras with the sun in the months of Nabha and Nabhasya. (Purana)

NIRBHAYA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

NIRMALA—A saint, younger sister of Chokhamela, a well known saint of an untouchable caste of Maharashtra.

NIRMALA JOSHI—A well known musician.

NIRMALA RAJE BHONSLE—Deputy Minister of Revenue and Excise in Maharashtra.

NIRRTI—Daughter of Khasa and Raksasi. (Purana)

NIRUPAMA DEVI—Famous for her novel 'Didi' which portrays the sacrifice by one woman of her personal happiness for the sake of others.

NIRVANI—Yakshini of Santinatha, 16th Arhat of the Jains.

NISA—Daughter of Krodha. (Purana)

NISAK—A Brahmavādini.

NITA—Sakti of Vishnu (Anantsayanam).

NITYA—Aksara Devi. (Purana)

NIVEDITA, SISTER—Margaret Noble, an Irish woman, worked with Vivekananda.

NIYATI—Daughter of Meru and Dharani, wife of Vidhata, mother of Prana and Mrakandu. (Purana)
NIYUTSA—Wife of Prastava and mother of Vibhu.  
(Purana)

NOBALA—Wife of Yuvaraja I Kalchuri. She was a daughter of Chalukya Anantavarman, she built a Siva temple at Bilheri in Jabalpur District.

NOURAS BANU BEGUM—Wife of Wazir Shahnewaz Khan (died in 1650).

NRASIMA BHAIRAVA—A goddess following Bhavamalini.  (Purana)

NRIGA—Mother of Nraga, one of the wives of Usinara.  
(Purana)

NURJAHAN—Wife of Emperor Jahangir, a poetess, the epitaph on her tomb is written by herself, "On the tomb of us poor people there will neither be a light nor a flower, nor the wings of a moth, nor the voice of a nightangle." On love, she says, "Thy love has melted my body and it has become water. Antimony that might have remained has become the antimony of the bulbul's eye. The bud may open by the morning breeze which blows in the garden, but the key to the lock of my heart is the smile of my beloved."

NUR-UN-NISA—Daughter of Mirza Ibrahim Hussain and Gulrukh Begum, married to Prince Salim (Jahangir).

NYANA JHAYERI—Exponent of Manipuri dance.

O

OBAVVA—A watchman's wife of Chitradurga. She cut off the heads of many soldiers of Hyderali when they tried to make secret entry into the fort.

ODUVA TIRUMALAMBA—A versatile—poetess, musician, grammarian and scholar of Sanskrit drama and philosophy. Queen of King Achyutaraya of Vijayanagar. (14-15th C)

OGHAVATI—Daughter of Oghavat; wife of Sudarsana.  
(Purana)
OM PRABHA JAIN—Minister in the Haryana State Govt. for years.
OSA—Wife of Bhava; mother of Usana. (Purana)
OSADHI—Goddess enshrined at Uttarakasi. (Purana)

PADMA—Leader of the female converts of Anantajit, 15th Arhat.

PADMAJA NAIDU—Daughter of Sarojini Naidu. She participated in the national movement; was Governor of West Bengal; received Padma Vibhushan (1962).

PADMAPRIYA—Daughter of Gopal Deva of Assam; she composed several songs.

PADMASINIAMMAL—Wife of Srinivasa Varadaraja Iyengar of Tamilnadu; took part in Civil Disobedience movement, 1930, was arrested and sentenced to imprisonment.

PADMAVATI—(i) Daughter of Bhangakara and Vratavali and wife of Krishna.
(ii) Also known as Abhaya’s mother. She was a town-belle of Ujjain and a courtesan of King Bimbisar from whom she had a son. Abhaya made her believe in the impurity of the body and converted her to Buddhism. She later entered the Order and attained the Arhanship. (Therigatha) (5-6th C)
(iii) Mother of Munisuvrata, Suvrata or Muni, 20th Arhat of the Jains by Sumitraraja.
(iv) Yakshini of Parśvanatha, 23rd Arhat of the Jains.
(v) Wife of Asoka.
(vi) Chief of the dancing girls in the temple of Nilakanthesvara at Kalinjara during the reign of Chandela Madanavarman.
(vii) Queen of Bijnala, sister of Basava, a great Vaishnava saint. (12th C)
(viii) (Also known as Padmini). The queen consort of RanaRatan Singh of Mewar. She was exquisitely beautiful
and Alauddin Khilji was so infatuated with her that he invaded Chittor in 1303 so as to take forcible possession of her. The Rajputs offered resistance but failed in defending the Fort of Chittoor. When further resistance appeared impossible, Padmini and many other ladies performed Jauhär.

(ix) Disciple of Nabha, a sweeper, and author of beautiful collection of lyrics in the ‘Bhaktamala’. (15th C)

(x) Wife of Jayadeva, famous Sanskrit poet.

(xi) Padmavati S. Doctor; a well known heart specialist and Director Principal of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi. Awarded Padma Bhushan (1967).

PADMINI SENGUPTA—A great social worker, connected with YWCA movement; one of the first women of India who took journalism as profession. (20th C)

PADSHAH BEGUM—Dowager queen of Nasir-ud-din: king of Avadh. (19th C)

PADSHAH BIBI—Princess of Bijapur betrothed to a son of Aurangzeb. (17th C)

PADUNA—Wife of King Gopichandra of Patika. (Gopichandra’s mother Maynamati was a Siddha-dakini).

PAHINI—Daughter of Mahadeva and Jasdevi. The two women constructed a mandap of the temple of Bhanvadeswar.

PAJRA—Wife of Pajra, a sacrificer. (Rigveda)

PALAN BAI—Took part in Quit India movement, 1942; she was arrested and kept as detenu.

PANCHACHUDA—Apsara. (Purana)

PANCHAJANI—(i) Daughter of Visvarupa and queen of Bharata and mother of Dhumraketu. (Purana)

(ii) One of the wives of Daksa; she bore him 1000 sons, Haryasvas. (Purana)

PANDITA KSHAMA ROW—Renowned Sanskrit scholar and poetess; she started serious tennis in 1920 in Western India as Rajkumari Amrit Kaur had done in the North. (20th C)

PANJABALI PUNJAJI—of Mahrashtra; she took part in the popular movement demanding merger of Hyderabad State with the Indian Union (1947-48). She was shot dead by the Razakars during their attack on her village in 1948.
PANJIKASTHALA—Apsara mentioned with Krusthala. *(Yajurveda)*

PANKAJATHAMMAL—Wife of Muthusomal of Tamilnadu. She took part in picketing of foreign cloth shops and courted imprisonment.

PARAVAI—Wife of the great saint Sundaramurti of South India at Tiruvarur. She was a non-Brahmin. *(8th C)*

PARIJATHA NAIDU—A prominent social worker. *(20th C)*

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

PARIMAL DEVI—Daughter of Dahir, king of Sind. *(See Surya Devi)*

PARIVRTA—Daughter of Risa; brought forth oyster, conch, aineya, Sambuka and different kinds of poisons like Kalakuta. *(Purana)*

PARNASA—A river from Risyavan that got transformed into a girl and became the wife of Devavridha. *(Purana)*

PARTHASARTHY S.—Principal of a Womens' College, Madras; she was a well known educationist. *(20th C)*

PARUL MUKERJEE—A revolutionary; she had to undergo imprisonment.

PARVADHAVARDHINI—Wife of N. M. R. Subbaraman; cooperated with her husband in all his activities during the freedom struggle; she courted imprisonment during the Civil Disobedience movement.

PARVASA—Wife of Parvasa, the lord of all games; mother of Yajurbhama and Stambha Kasyapa and mother-in-law of Punya Sumati. *(Purana)*

PARVATI—(i) Uma, wife of Siva. *(Purana)*
(ii) Wife of Sahadeva and mother of Suhotra. *(Purana)*

PARVATI BAI—Mother-in-law of Lala Lajpat Rai; she was an ardent Congress worker.

PARVATI CHANDRASEKHAR—A pioneer for women's education. *(20th C.)*

PARVATI DEVI—(i) A head mistress of Hindi Girls School at Kanchivaram. In early 20th century, she started a
Kanchi Mahila Parishad for arousing public opinion among women for ‘matters national’.

(ii) Daughter of Lala Karam Chand. She was a steadfast congress worker. For her activities she had to suffer imprisonment.

(iii) Social reformer of Delhi. One of the prominent political leaders of Mahila Sangh; she picketed foreign cloth shops and worked for Bal Sena and with Seth Jamna Lal Bajaj she took active part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1930, and Quit India movement, 1942.

PARVATI DEVI BHONSALE—Grand daughter of Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda; was regent of the State till 1947. She took special interest in rural development and medical relief.

PARVATI KRISHNAN—A communist Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Tamilnadu; brilliant debator. (20th C)

PARVEZ BANO BEGUM—Daughter of Shahjehan and Kandhari Begum.

PASUPALATI RANGAJAMMA—A talented lady; of Tanjore; authoress of Mannarudasavilasamu etc. and many Padas in Telugu.

PATACHARA—Born in a rich family of Sravasti, she eloped with and married a person of her choice much to the dislike of her parents. She went to a distant place with her husband. But after some time the two left with their two sons to meet her parents. But on the way the husband and sons died. At the same time her parents also passed away. This left her totally disconsolate. The sorrow stricken woman told her tale to Buddha, who consoled her. She then took refuge in the Sangha and became a nun. She spent her life in the service of humanity. At one time 500 women who were listening to her became nuns. She attained spiritual joy and abiding peace and influenced others to lead good and noble life. (Therigatha) (6-5th C)

PATALA—Goddess enshrined at Pundravardhana. (Purana)

PATANGI—One of the daughters of Daksa and wife of Tarksy; mother of birds, snakes etc. (Purana)

PATHYA—Daughter of Manu and wife of Atharva. (Purana)
PATHYASVASTI—An Aryan lady, who through study attained scholarship and the title of Saraswati.

PATRICK—A Parsi lady from Gujarat. She was an educationist of renown. She conducted Sri Mitra.

PATTAMALL D. K.—A classical singer from Madras; awarded Padma Bhushan (1971).

PAULOMA—A daughter of Puloma and wife of Bhrigu, the sage. (Purana)

PAUMAVAI—A queen; a member of the order of Jain nuns.

PAURAVI—(1) One of Vasudeva's wives and mother of Subhadra and Durmada, daughter of Valmiki and sister of Bahlika. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Yudhisthira and mother of Devaka. (Purana)

PAURUKUTSA—Wife of Gadhi; mother of Visvamitra and Satyavati. (Purana)

PAVANI NANDA—Wife of Havyavahava; one of the three branches of the Ganga going to the east. (Purana)

PERIN CAPTAIN—Chief Commissioner of the Bharat Guides, and prominent social worker. She participated in Gandhi's Satyagraha. With Joshiben, Lilavati Munshi, Dani, Maniben, Mahtre sisters and others, she marched to the dealers of foreign cloth and asked them to abandon the trade which was impoverishing the country.

PERSIS KHAMBATTA—A well known model; has modelled for prominent textile and cosmetics manufacturing concerns in India and abroad.

PERTAL—Daughter of a farmer of village Mudkal. She was of such exquisite beauty that the creator seemed to have united all his prowess in making her perfect. Deva Raj Ray wanted to marry her but she refused and fled. Firoze Shah Bahmani declared war against Dev Raj Ray on this pretext, captured Pertal and gave her in marriage to his eldest son Hasan Khan. (15th C)

PHALGU—Leader of the female converts of Ajitanath, and Arhat of the Jains.

PHOOL KUNWARI—One of the 13 queens of Raja aswaut Singh of Jodhpur; she with 10 others became Sati.
PHUL KUMARI DEVI—Daughter of Ramautar Singh of Bihar; she took part in the Quit India Movement (1942), was arrested and detained in jail, where she died.

PHUL RENU GUHA Dr.—Took prominent part in freedom movement; social worker who took keep interest in refugee work; was Union Minister of State for Social Welfare. (1967-69)

PIARI BANO—Second wife of prince Shuja; famous for her wit and beauty.

PIARI BEGUM—Daughter of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the Moghul emperor. (19th C)

PICHCHHALA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

PICHAMUTHU—Daughter of Rev. Pichamuthu of Tamilnadu; she took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1930-32; was arrested and sentenced to jail.

PILA—Apsara. (Atharvaveda)

PILOO EDDIE BCHARUCHA—A well known paediatrician of Bombay.

PILAPICCHIKA—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

PINDAJIHKVA—Mother-goddess. (Purana)

PINGALA—(i) An aged prostitute of Videha. She spent her life as a public woman living by earning every day from one paramour or other. One night she did not get anyone though she waited till the middle of the night. She then grew disgusted with her life and turned her thought on Hari which resulted in her restful sleep. (Purana)
(ii) Mind-born mother. (Purana)
(iii) Mother of Mahapadma and Urmimati. (Purana)

PINGALESVARI—Goddess enshrined at Payosni. (Purana)

PIRAI RANI—Wife of Bigarha, the Sultan of Gujrat.

PISACHI—Mind-born mother. (Purana)

PITAMBARI DEVI—An Oriya fiction writer. (20th C)

PIVARI—(i) Wife of Vedasiras and mother of Markandeya, the sage.
(ii) Mind-born daughter of Barhisad Manas, who performed severe austerities and earned the title of Yogamata; wife of Suka, mother of Vyasa, Kirtiman and Prabhu.
(iii) Daughter of Pulaha and Ksama. (Purana)

PONNAMMAL—Wife of Ramasamy Gounder of Tamilnadu. She took part in August 1942 movement, was arrested and sentenced to jail.

POONAN DUCOSE, DR.—The first woman Health Minister anywhere in India in 1925; she was nominated to the Legislative Council of Travancore.

POOPUL JAYAKAR—A Director of the All India Handloom Board etc. (20th C)

POSANIBAI RAJBING—A farmer of Maharashtra; she took part in the popular movement demanding merger of Hyderabad State with the Indian Union (1947-48). She was burnt alive by the Razakars during their attack on her village on May 11, 1948. Eight other persons were also killed and a large number of houses were burnt down by the Razakars.

PRABHA—(i) Wife of Sagara; Yadavi and mother of 60,000 Sagaras. (Purana)

(ii) Daughter of Rahu; wife of Ayu (Svarbhanu) and mother of Nahusa and four other sons. (Purana)

(iii) Queen of Vatsara. (Purana)

(iv) Mother of Atmaja. (Purana)

(v) Queen of Pusparna and mother of Prata, Madhyandiva and Sayam. (Purana)

(vi) Wife of Vivasvat, mother of Prabhata; goddess enshrined in Surya Kiran; abandoned her consort for Soma with eight other Devis. (Purana)

PRABHAJOT KAUR—A well known Punjabi writer; awarded Padma Shri (1967).

PRABHASA’S WIFE—An ascetic and Brahmavadini; she practised Yoga.

PRABHAVATI—(i) Mother of Mallinath, 19th Arhat of the Jains by Kumbhara.

(ii) Daughter of Manilal Doctor of Gujarat; took part in the Quit India movement (1942). She was arrested and imprisoned but was released due to serious illness. However, she died soon after release.

PRABHAVATI GUPTA (4-5th C)—Daughter of Chandragupta II, chief queen of Rudrasen II. When her husband died leaving three minor sons, she ruled the country
for 13 years in the name of her son Dinkarasena. She issued a charter when she was more than 100 years old. The second charter was issued on the occasion of her pilgrimage to Ramtek, near Nagpur. She was a devotee of Bhagavat. (Vishnu)

PRABHAVATI NARAYAN—Wife of J.P. Narayan, the Socialist leader.

PRAHLADANADEVI—Wife of Uadi Singh, king of Jodhpur; she constructed edict of Sunder Parvat. (13th C)

PRAHRAKDI—(i) Wife of Visvakarma. (Purana)
        (ii) Wife of Trasta and sister of Virochana; mother of Trisiras. (Purana)

PRAJNAKALI—A Sakti.

PRAJNAPARAMITA—A deity mentioned in the Buddhist tantras.

PRAKASH KAUR Dr.—She was Deputy Minister in Punjab.

PRAKASHWATI SOOD—One time a Deputy Minister in U. P.

PRAMANDINI—An apsaras. (Atharvaveda)

PRAMILA—Queen of the remote eastern part of the country; she fought bravely against Arjuna.

PRAMLOCHA—Apsara, Mother of Marisa through Kandu; she left the child and went away. The child was nursed by Soma. She presides over the month of Nabh with the sun in the Nabhasya and in the months of Asvani and Purattasi in the Sabha of Hiranyakasipu. (Purana)

PRAMLOCHANI—An apsaras mentioned with another apsaras. (Yajurveda)

PRAMODA—Mother goddess. (Purana)

PRAPTI—(i) Queen of Kansa and daughter of Jarasandha. (Purana)
        (ii) Suddhi Devi. (Purana)

PRASNI—(i) Wife of Savita and Savitri Vyahrati. (Purana)
        (ii) Devaki in the epoch of Swayambhupa and wife of Sutapa II progenitor; mother of Hari by name Prasnigarbha. (Purana)

PRASTI—Daughter of Marichi and Sambhuti. (Purana)
PRASUTI—(i) Daughter of Swayambhuva Manu; married to Daksa.  (Purana)
(ii) An elephant daughter of the Dignagas.  (Purana)
(iii) Wife of Vasistha.  (Purana)

PRATIBHA PATIL—A Minister in the Maharashtra government.

PRATIBHA SINGH—Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Bihar.

PRATIMA DEVI—An artist.

PRATIRUPA—Daughter of Hari and wife of Kimpurusa.  (Purana)

PRATIVA DEVI—Active political and social worker; she organised and led women during the national movement; received bullet wound in firing by the police on a women’s procession at Calcutta in 1942 and died on the spot.

PRATYANGIRI—One of the nine Kalikas.

PRAUSTHAPADYESTAKA—The form taken by Achchhodamatsya on the earth. She is known as Satyavati and in the Pitraloka as Astaka.  (Purana)

PRAVIN RAY RATHU—A courtesan, the beloved of Hindi poet Keshav Das; she wrote numerous short poems in Hindi.

PREMA MATHUR—A woman pilot; she won an international award in aviation.

PREMABAI—A poetess of Marathi.

PREMALATA CHAVAN—Member of Parliament. (Lok Sabha) from Maharashtra.

PREMLATA SHARMA—Head, Musicology Deptt. in Banaras Hindu’ Varsity.

PRETAYANA—Mind-born mother.  (Purana)

PRITHA—A daughter of the Vrishni King Sura, and adopted by his uncle Kuntibhoja, as he had no child. She was a girl of manners and was given the name Kunti. While young, Rishi Durvasa was pleased with the girl’s hospitality and granted her a boon. He taught her an incantation on recital of which, any deva she thought of, would come to her. One morning in excitement she thought of the Sun and the Sun was there besides her. From the Sun, she begot a child whom
she drowned. But he survived and became famous as Karna. On coming of age, she married Pandu. When because of the curse of a sage (killed in the form of a deer by Pandu), Pandu decided to stay in the forest, Kunti and Madri stayed with their husband. There she gave birth to Yudhishthira, Bhima and Arjuna. After the death of Pandu, she went to Hastinapur with all the five children (Madri had become Sati with Pandu) where the children grew up. At a tournament she recognised Karna (Radhey). She looked well after her sons, went with them to Varnavata and in disguise lived in the forest and led eventful life at Ekachakra and later at Kampilya.

PRITHVI—(i) Adopted as daughter by the first King Prithu; mother of all creatures of different Janapadas. (Purana) (ii) Mother of Suparsvanath, 8th Arhat of the Jains by Pratishtharaja.

PRITHVIMAHADEVI (alias Tribhuvanamahadevi)—Daughter of Yayati Mahasivagupta I. She was a Kara queen.

PRITHVIPATHI—Daughter of Margi Yuvaraja of Orissa. (8th C)

PRITI—(i) Wife of Kama, the god of love; was in her previous birth a courtesan named Anangavati who observed Vibhutidvadasi Vratam. (Purana) (ii) Daughter of Daksa and wife of Pulastya. Mother of Danagni and Devabahu Atri. (Purana) (iii) Wife of Angirasa. (Purana)

PRITILATA WADDEDAR—Daughter of Jagat Bandhu Waddedar of Goalpara (Distt. Chittagong now in Bangladesh); while a student at Calcutta, she took part in revolutionary activities and worked under the leadership of Surya Sen. They were surrounded by the police in the house of another revolutionary Sabitri Chakrabarty but escaped arrest and remained underground. She then led an attack on the Pahurtali European Club at Chittagong on Sept. 22, 1932 but it failed. In order to avoid arrest, Pritilata committed suicide on the spot by swallowing cyanide.

PRIYA—Daughter of Daksa. (Purana)

PRIYAKARINI—Mother of Sri Mahavira Vardhmana, 24th Arhat of the Jains by Yasasvin.

PRIYAKARINISARVODYA—A Mudrdevi. (Purana)
PRIYAMUKHYA—An apsaras. (Purana)
PRAMILA NAG—An educationist from Bengal. (19th C)
PULAHÀ—Wife of Hari and mother of Dvipina, Marjara and Nila of Vanarajati. (Purana)
PULOMA—Daughter of Vaisvanara, wife of Bhrigu and mother of Chyavana. (Purana)
PULOMAKANYA—At first a Vaisya by caste; she became the queen of Purohuta by observing the Kalyanivratam. (Purana)
PUNDARIKA—(i) The eldest daughter of Vasistha and Urja; wife of Prana and mother of Dyutiman. (Purana)
(ii) Apsara. (Purana)
PUNJI (A) KASHALI—A distinguished apsara engaged in playing with balls and presiding over the month of Madhu and Madhava. She was sent to disturb Markandeya’s penance but in vain. (Purana)
PUNNA—(i) A female servant in the household of Ananathapindika and later a follower of Buddha. (Therigatha)
(ii) Maid-servant of Sujata who gave food to Gotama on a day before he attained Buddhahood.
PUNYA—(i) Daughter-in-law of Parvasa, the lord of all games. (Purana)
(ii) Daughter of Kratu and Sannati. (Purana)
PUNYAJANI—Wife of Manibhadra and mother of a number of Yaksas. (Purana)
PURANDHII—A woman protege of Asvins, who gave her a son, Hiranyabarta. (Rigveda)
PURANI—A prominent Arya Samaj lady worker of Hissar. She advocated the cause of Swadeshi and criticised caste restrictions. (20th C)
PURBI MOOKERJEE—M.P. (Rajya Sabha) from West Bengal; one time Rehabilitation Minister in West Bengal.
PURN TILAKAMMAL—Wife of Ramakottiah of Tamilnadu; she took part in Civil Disobedience movement, 1931, and was arrested and sentenced to jail.
PURUKUTSANI—Wife of Purukutsu and mother of Trisa-dasyu. (Rigveda)
Purvachi—An apsaras.
PURVACHITTI—A divine damsel sent by Brahma to serve Agnidhra as his spouse. After giving birth to nine sons, she went back to Brahma. *(Purana)*

PURANJANI—Wife of Puranjana; a charming woman protected by a serpent with five hoods. Mother of 1100 sons and 110 daughters, allegorically she is the buddhi or intellect.

PURNIA BEGUM—Daughter of Nawab Alivardi Khan.

PURUSHADATTA—Yakshini of Sumatinath, Arhat of the Jains. *(Dig)*

PURUHUTA—A goddess enshrined at Puskara. *(Purana)*

PURNACHITTI—An apsara mentioned with Urvasi in Yajurveda.

PUSHPA GUJRAL—She participated actively in the 1942 movement in Punjab and was imprisoned. She and all her family members were in jail in 1940.

PUSHPA TALWAR—A designer and manufacturer of decorative wooden furniture.

PUSHPABEHN MEHTA—A prominent social worker; she worked with Gandhiji in Sewagram. She developed her work into a chain of ‘shelters’ and education centres known as Vikasagrams in Maharashtra and Gujarat. *(20th C)*

PUSHPALATA SINGHAL—Managing Director of International Industries Ltd and Director, International Pictures.

PUSHPAVATI—Leader of the female converts of Munisuvrata, 20th Arhat of the Jains.

PUSHPACHUDA—Leader of the female converts of Parsvanath, 23rd Arhat of the Jains.

PUSKARAVATI—Goddess enshrined at Prabhasa. *(Purana)*

PUSHKARINI—(i) The queen of Vyustha and mother of Chaksus. *(Purana)*

(ii) Daughter of progenitor Virana, wife of Caksusa. *(Purana)*

(iii) Queen of Ulmuka. *(Purana)*

PUSPOTKATA—Daughter of Malyavan and one of the four wives of Visravas. She was mother of Mahodara, Mahaparsha, Prahasta and Khara. *(Purana)*
PUSTI—Daughter of Daksa and wife of Dharma and mother of Smaya. (Purana)

PUTAKRATA—Wife of Putakrata; mother of Dasyavavrka, a prince sage who was victorious over the dasyus; she was patron of singers.

PUTANA—(i) A demoness and a friend of Kamsa. She was deputed to kill all infants. Once she came to Vraja and changing her form to that of a fascinating lady, she tried to kill Krishna. (Purana)
   (ii) Wife of Sadrama, also known as Tamasi. (Purana)
   (iii) Raksasi and wife of Bhadra; mother of Nairrtas. (Purana)
   (iv) Daughter of Bali, mother of the Bhutas and a Graha. (Purana)

PUTLI BAI—(i) Second wife of Shivaji. She committed sati on her husband’s death. (17th C)
   (ii) A Gujarati lady who did some pioneering work in education. (19th C)
   (iii) Mother of M.K. Gandhi.

PUTRIKA—An apsara. (Purana)

PYARI DEVI—Wife of Mathura Prasad Singh of Bihar; She took part in the Civil Disobedience movement (1930) and the Quit India movement (1942). She was arrested and imprisoned in 1942, and died in the Phulwari Sharif Camp jail.

Q

QUDSIA BEGUM—(i) Mother of Moghul prince Akbar Shah,
   (ii) Nawab of Bhopal, a progressive lady. (18th C)
R

RABIA-UD-DAMANI—Wife of Aurangzeb.
RACHANA—Wife of Tvasta.  (Purana)
RADHA—(i) Mother of Radheya; wife of the charioteer Atiratha.

(ii) Beloved of Krishna while young; a lot of literature has been written about the love of Radha and Krishna. Some poets have depicted her as a soul in eternal love with the God.

(iii) Wife of Roopa Sonar of Rajasthan, participated in the agitation against enhancement of land revenue by 50 percent in 1924 and the seizure of waste land which served as pasture for their cattle. The village was besieged in May, 1925 by British troops, equipped with machine guns and artillery. The screams of the villagers dying of thirst were replied with machine gun firing. She was killed along with eighteen others.

RADHA PATANKAR—Daughter of Shri Ravaji Patankar of Maharashtra. She took part in the movement demanding merger of Hyderabad State with the Indian Union and was killed in 1948 while fighting against a combined attack by the Razakars and the Nizam’s police on the small town of Nilanga. Five other villagers were also killed and one was burnt alive by the police who destroyed all the houses and the market place.

RADHABAI—(i) Mother of the Peshwa Baji Rao. She was a religious lady.

(ii) A Gujarati poetess in the tradition of Mirabai.

RADHABAI ANANDA RAO—M.P. (Lok Sabha) from Andhra Pradesh.

RADHABAI SUBBAROYAN—She was invited to take part in the discussions of the Round Table Conference in London to examine India’s political needs and aspirations.
She was the first woman member of the Council of States in 1938.

RADHA DEVI—(i) Mother of the famous Sanskrit poet Jayadeva.
(ii) Wife of Lala Lajpat Rai. She was the chairman of the Reception Committee of the first women’s meeting in Punjab held on 6-7 December, 1922 and presided over by Kasturba Gandhi.

RADHARANI DEVI—A well known poetess. (20th C)

RADHINAMMAL—Daughter of Muthia Pillai of Tamilnadu, she took part in Civil Disobedience movement, 1932, and courted arrest and suffered imprisonment.

RADU BIBI—Member of the Mahila Karma Samaj of Calcutta; on her appeal in the early thirties of this century, many women parted with their ornaments, broke their foreign bangles and vowed not to wear these again.

RAGHU RAMIAH, LAKSHMI—President, All India Women’s Conference.

RAGINI—A foreigner who made her name as a dancer in India. (20th C)

RAHADA—Daughter of Lakshmanaraja Kalchuri. She was married to the Chalukya Vikramaditya IV.

RAHIMI—A young Muslim Rajput woman of U.P. She took part in the Great Revolt of 1857 against the British Rule. She was captured by the British and executed on the gallows.

RAHONEE BAI—Wife of Dada Saheb; she adopted Rao Saheb as her son.

RAI R.N. (Mrs.)—An educationist of Bengal. (19th C)

RAI BAGIN—Wife of Udaram Deshmukh. She was despatched by Shaista Khan, Moghul governor of Deccan, to escort revenue collectors. She lost the battle against Shivaji.

RAJ BAI—(i) Sister of Mahipat Rana and wife of Sultan Muzaffar II of Gujarat.
(ii) A Rajput lady of U.P. She took part in the Great Revolt against the British Rule, in 1857. She was captured by the British and executed on the gallows.

RAJ KAUR—Mother of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

RAJAI DEVI—Mother of Bana, famous Sanskrit author.
RAJADHIDEVI—Wife of Jayasena III and mother of two sons, Avantyas. (Purana)

RAJAI—Namadev’s wife. She composed blank verses.

RAJAM BHARATHI—Of Tamilnadu. She joined the movement in 1930 and took part in the picketing of foreign cloth shops in 1938 and Individual Satyagraha in 1941. She was arrested and served jail sentence.

RAJAMANJARI—A musical dancer at a public place. (Mrichchhkatika)

RAJANI TRAILOKYAMAHADEVI—Younger sister of Loka Mahadevi. (See Mahadevi.) She was one of the queens of Vikramaḍīya. She constructed a great temple of Siva under the name of Trailokyeshwar in the vicinity of Lokeshwar temple. (8th C)

RAJAS BAI—One of the wives of Rajaram, son of Shivaji.


RAJBANSI DEVI—Wife of the late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India. She was president of the Bharatiya Mahila Sangh.

RAJENDRA KUMARI VAJPEYI—A minister in the U.P. government.

RAJESWARI BAI—Wife of Balu Naidu of Tamilnadu; she joined the freedom movement, 1939, took part in Individual Satyagraha, 1941 and August movement 1942; was arrested and sentenced.

RAJIA—Daughter of the sister of Rana Kumbha Wairsi of Jaisalmer. Her father’s name was Rai Dhar Rai. She was betrothed by the Bhatti Chief to Mir Kasim when the latter defeated the Rajput force. (8th C)

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR—(see Amrit Kaur)

RAJPATI KAUL—A prominent political worker of Delhi, mother-in-law of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru. Grand mother of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

RAJ RANI—Wife of Dr. Yudhvir Singh. She helped in organising Congress and Charkha spinning during Quit India
movement. Her residence was a centre for distribution of national literature. She served jail sentence several times.

RAJULAMATI—Daughter of Ugrasena, king of Girinagara. She was to be married to Aristanemi or Nemi, the twenty second Tirthankara. When Aristanemi saw herds of cattle to be slaughtered for the marriage feast, he renounced the world.

RAJYA DEVI—Eldest daughter of Sundarasena, the chief of Rajauri. She was sent to Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin of Kashmir. When she arrived Kashmir, the king was engaged in sport on the Wular lake. Seeing the ladies' party coming, he asked one of his attendants, 'What mother's doli is that'. On hearing that it was Rajya Devi, the princess sent to him, he told, "Since I have already called her mother, I cannot receive her as a wife". She was sent to live with the other beauties of the harem where afterwards she became a Muslim. Rajauri Kandal, a bridge over Man Canal in Srinagar, was built by her.

RAJYAMATI—Daughter of Sri Harshadeva, king of Ganda, Odra, Kalinga etc. and wife of the Lichchhavi Kinga Jayadeva of Nepal. (8th C)

RAJYA SHREE—Daughter of Karni Singh of Bikaner; received Arjuna award for shooting (1969), has represented India in shooting championships.

RAJYASRI—Queen of Graha-Varman, the eldest son of Avanti-Vaman, Maukhar king. The marriage united the two brilliant lines of Pushpabharti and Muhara. She was sister of Harsh-Vardhan and took active part in religious ceremonies performed by the brother. (7th C)

RAJYAVATI—Queen of Dharmadeva of Nepal and mother of Manadeva. She resolved to give up her life on the funeral pyre of her husband but her son Manadeva told her that he too would give up his own life before she did so. This dissuaded the queen from her grim resolve and she performed the last rites of her husband along with her son. (5th C)

RAKA—Wife of Dhatri and mother of Prata. (Purana)

RAKMA—Wife of saint Tukaram. (17th C)

RAKSHA DEVI BADHWAR of Delhi—She suffered
imprisonment for taking part in the Quit India Movement, 1942, when she was only 18.

RAKSAKALI—A Sakti.

RAKSHITA—Leader of the female converts of Aranatha, 18 Arhat of the Jains.

RAMABHADRARAMBA—Authoress of Raghunath-ahhyudaya in Telugu. She came from Tanjore.

RAMABAI, PANDITA—Daughter of Ananta Shastri and Laxmibai; when her parents passed away in 1874, she with her brother moved from place to place. After her only brother also passed away in 1882, she married a lawyer of Calcutta, who too died. She started the Arya Mahila Samiti in 1882. She was a great scholar. She went abroad, became a Christian and took up the cause of women.

RAMA BAI RANADE—Born in Satara Distt. of Maharashtra in 1873. She was Justice M.G. Ranade’s wife. She became an active member of Arya Mahila Samaj under Pandita Ramabai’s influence and suffered at the hands of her family’s lady members for being progressive. She started a Hindu Lady’s club which provided relief when plague and famine spread. She started Poona Seva Sadan with branches all over Bombay Presidency with the object of teaching and educating women. She also established the Seva Sadan Nursing and Medical Association, wrote reminiscences, supported suffrage and organised pilgrims’ visit at Alindri.

RAMA CHOUDHRY—One time Vice-chancellor of Rabindra Bharati.

RAMADEVI—Daughter of a Chalukya king (perhaps Vikramaditya VI) and wife of Vallalasena. (12th C)

RAMA JAIN—Deeply interested in literary activities and the Bharatiya Gyan Peeth and its award. She died recently.

RAMARANI—Mother of Suvishninatha or Pushpadanta, 9th Arhat of the Jains by Sugrivaraja.

RAMANIKALIKA—A Sakti.

RAMBHA—(i) An apsaras produced from the churning of the ocean. Indra sent her to seduce Vishvamitra but she did not succeed.

(ii) Wife of Maya who was an Asura, the Lord of
Talatala; mother of Mayavi. *(Purana)*

RAMESHWARAMMA—A Youth League Leader of Madras.

RAMESHWARI NEHRU—A prominent social worker. She was connected with the Kasturba National Memorial Trust. *(20th C)*

RAMI—A Bengali Bhakti poetess. *(15th C)*

RAMPYARI—A doctor of Jaipur. She took keen interest in woman’s education.

RANBIRI—A sweeperess of U.P. She took part in the Great Revolt of 1857 against British Rule. She was captured by the British and executed on the gallows in 1857.

RANGA DEVI—Chief Queen of Rana Hammir Deva, a Chauhan prince of Ranthambhor.

RANGAMMAL—Daughter of Guruswamy Naicker of Tamilnadu. She took part in Individual Satyagraha, 1941, was arrested and sentenced to jail.

RANI BAI—Daughter of Chack and sister of Dahir. But Dahir, according to Arabs, made her his wife. *(Dahir’s wife was Ladi.)*

RANI BHITTANMANI—Regent of Raja Jai Prakash Singh of Chirgaon. *(19th C)*

RANI CHANNAMMA—(i) Of Bednur. She ruled for 15 years. She gave protection to Rajarama and for this fought, successfully, against Aurangzeb.

(ii) The first Indian woman crusader for independence against the British. She was queen of Malla Sarja of Kittur.

RANI CHUHAR—A heroine of the War of Independence of 1857.

RANI GOIDULU—An enemy of the British. She wedged war against the British rule.

RANI JASKARAN—Queen of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur. She was dissuaded by Rathor Sangram Singh from becoming Sati as she was pregnant.

RANI JAYAMATI—Wife of king Gadapani of Kamrup; she sacrificed her life for her husband. Even when she was tortured, she did not disclose the whereabouts of her husband.

RANI KARNA—Exponent of Kathak. *(20th C)*
RANI LADY HARNAM SINGH—From the royal family of Kapurthala. She was pioneer of social reform in Punjab. She started an Infant Welfare Centre at Jullundur, and sewing and knitting classes for women and founded a ladies’ club at Simla. (19th C)

RANI LAKSHMIBAI—See Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi.

RANI MUKHYAPAN DEVI—Widow of Narayana Singh of Sambhalpur. On his death, the Rani assumed the reins of the Government, but Governor General Lord Dalhousie set aside her claim as the ruler had died without any issue. Sambhalpur was annexed to the British dominion.

RANI NARUKI—Queen of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur; she was dissuaded by Rathor Sangram Singh from becoming Sati as she was pregnant.

RANI OF PHARYA—Took part in 1857-revolt.

RANI OF RAMGARH—She participated in the outbreak of 1857-58. On her husband’s death in 1850 the British Govt. finding the late Raja’s son of unsound mind annexed Ramgarh. The Rani protested against this but in vain. In 1857 a revolt started in the Mandi Distt. With Rani as the leader, she fortified the fort and contacted neighbouring Zamindars. Though she fought heroically, she was defeated by the British army and had to flee to the jungle. Since she did not want to be a prisoner, she plunged a sword into her own body. On her death bed she took the responsibility of having incited people.

RANI ROSAMAYEE—Founder of Dakshineshvara Kalibari.

RANI SWARNMAYI (or SHARNOMAYEE)—Widow of Raja Krishna Nath Kumar Rai Bahadur of Cassimbazar. She placed the state on a sound footing. She gave financial help to encourage education and presented a petition to the Bengal Government insisting upon it to pass a legislation banning polygamy. (19th C)

RANI TAN BAI—During the outbreak of 1857-58, she castigated her allegiance to the British authorities. She was a direct descendant of Raja of Jalaun, but the state had lapsed to the British Govt. and she was sanctioned a pension. After the outbreak, Tatyaa Tope put her son on the Gaddi and she
transferred her allegiance to Nana Sahib. On the fall of Jhansi, she fled to the interior but was captured by the British and deported to Monghyr. For 12 years she was a prisoner.

RANNADEVI—Daughter of Rashtrakuta King Prabala and wife of Dharmapal, king of Bengal.

RANUBAI—Mother of saint Ramdass, the preceptor of Shivaji. (17th C)

RASHID JEHAN—A well known Urdu fiction-writer.

RASOOLAN BAI—Of Banaras; known for her Thumbrees.

RATNABAI SRINIVAS RAO—M. P. (Rajya Sabha) from Andhra Pradesh.

RATI—(i) Consort of Kamadeva, the god of love and mother of Harsa.

(ii) Wife of Vibhu and mother of Pratulasena. (Parana)

(iii) Leader of the female converts of Padmaprabha, 6th Arhat of the Jains.

RATNA—Saibya's daughter married to Akrura. (Purana)

RATNA SHASTRI—Wife of Shri Hiralal Shastri of Rajasthan; a renowned social worker. Co-founder of Banashtali Vidyapeeth.

RATNAMALA—Queen of Salama-nagar (Samdhimatanagar), which subsequently merged into the Wulur Lake.

RATNAPRABHA—(i) A princess; she speaks of strict seclusion of women in Kathasarit Sagar. (11th C)

(ii) An enthusiastic Congress worker, she carried a national flag. The flag was snatched by a police official. When her grand mother came to help her, she was shot dead.

RATNAVATI—Wife of poet Tulsidas. In youth he was infatuated with her and followed her when she left for her parents' house. For this she chided him and asked him to do something better. Hurt, he went away and took to Sanyas.

RATTA—Queen of ruler of Deccan.

RAY P.K.—A pioneer for women's education. (20th C)

RAZIYA BEGUM—(13th C) She belonged to the Slave Dynasty and ruled India from 1236 to 1248. She was the first Muslim woman in India to write poetry in Persian.
REBBALADEVI—A scholar, painter and musician. She was deeply influenced by the Vedic Lore. (She came from Bellary district).

REGINA GUHA—Her legal action in 1922 paved the way for women to take up law as a profession. (20th C)

RENU CHAKRAVARTY—Trade Union leader and Parliamentarian.

RENUKA—Mother-goddess; wife of sage Jamadagni and mother of Parasuram who went round the country annihilating the Kshatriyas.

RENUKA RAY—First woman to sit in the Central Legislative Assembly.

RENUMATI—Wife of Nakula and mother of Niramitra. (Purana)

REVA—Daughter of Dantidurga Rashtrakuta; wife of Nandivarman Pallavamalla and mother of Dantivarman Pallava. (8th C)

REVATI—(i) Daughter of Kakudmin and wife of Balarama. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Mitra and mother of Pippala, Utsarga, and Arista. (Purana)

(iii) Goddess worshipped by the Madras.

REYANA—Wife of Fakira Gond of Madhya Pradesh. She took part in the forest satyagraha during the Civil Disobedience movement (1930-32) and was killed in firing by the police on a crowd of people in the forest on October 9, 1930.

RICHI—(i) Daughter of Nahusa; wife of Apravana; mother of Aurva born from her thigh. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Anuha. (Purana)

RIDDHI—Wife of Kubera and mother of Nalakubera. (Purana)

RIKSAKAMI—A Sakti.

RISA—Daughter of Krodhavasa and wife of Pulaha. She had five daughters after whom came Maina Gana. (Purana)

RISABHA—Wife of Jayanti and mother of Brahmavarta. (Purana)

RISIKULYA—Wife of Bhuman and mother of Udgitha. (Purana)
RITA DEVI—A well known dancer; She presented Mahari dance abroad; grand daughter of Lakshminath Bezbarua, father of modern Assamese literature.

ROCHANA—Grand daughter of Rukmini; married Aniruddha. (Rigveda)

ROHINI—(i) Wife of Vasudeva and mother of Balaram, also mother of Pindaraka, Nisata, Durdama, Bala.

(ii) Yakshini of Ajitanath and Arhat of the Jains according to Digambara.

(iii) Senseless girl who whilst swinging a pestle in an attempt to kill flies which had settled on her mother's head, accidentally killed her mother, only to lament her in vain. (Jataka)

(iv) Wife of Chandrama, the eighth tanu of Mahadeva; mother of Budha. (Purana)

(v) Wife of Anakadundubhi and mother of Mahatanu. (Purana)

(vi) Wife of Krishna and mother of Tamrapaksa and Diptiman.

ROMOLA SINHA—from Bengal. She played prominent role in the rescue of women. The All Women’s Union Home is the result of her endeavours. (20th C)

ROMASA or LOMAS—Wife of king Bhavayavya, credited with the authorship of a verse in Rigveda.

ROPUILIENI RANI—from mizo Hills, daughter of Zonold and wife of Zandula, a tribal chief. She took part in the resistance movement against the extension of British authority in the Mizo Hills and organised Mizo freedom fighters and led them in the fight against the British. She was captured by the British force led by an officer named Shakespear in August 1883. Her son Lalthuma was also captured and both were imprisoned in the Chittagong jail, where she died in January, 1895.

ROSHAN KUMARI—Exponent Of Kathak. She runs Nritya Kala Kendra a school of classical dance at Bombay; daughter of Faqir Mohammed and Zohra Begum; received the title of Nritya Shiromani. (20th C)

ROSHAN VAZIFDAR—Exponent of Bharatanatyam.

ROSHANARA BEGUM—Younger and second daughter.
of Emperor Shahjahan and his consort Mumtaz Mahal. During the war of succession, she helped Aurangzeb by supplying him secretly all information about developments in his father's court. She was a bitter opponent of Dara, whose execution she persistently demanded at his trial.

ROZA DESHPANDE—M. P. (Lok Sabha) for Maharashtra.

RUCHI—Married Atmavat. *Purana*.

RUDRAMMA—Daughter of king Ganapati Kaktiya. As the king had no son, he designated Rudramma married to Chalukya Virbhadreshvara by male name Rudradeva as successor and associated her with the government from 1258. After the assumption of royal powers, Rudramma encountered a series of problems. The Yadava Mahadeva invaded her territory and defeated her, but spared her life. She possessed high administrative qualities and designated her grand son (daughter's son) as her successor to the throne. Marco Polo describes her as a lady of discretion. An efficient administrator, she was a lover of justice, equality and peace.

RUH PARWAR AGHA—Foster sister of Mujahid Shah of Gulbarga who ascended the throne in 1377. On his brother's murder, she frustrated the assassinator's designs to usurp the kingdom. She placed on throne the youngest son of Hasan Gangu. (14th C)

RUKMABAI—(i) While a child she was married to one Dadaji of Maharashtra. On attaining puberty she refused to go to her husband who said was uncultured and illiterate. The case was taken to the court where the husband won the case. It stirred people and the question of child marriage gained prominence.

(ii) A doctor and educationist of Rajkot. She tried hard for women's education.

RUKMANI—One of the wives of Tukaram. She suffered from chronic asthma and therefore her father-in-law brought another woman for his son Tukaram.

RUKMANI AMMAL—Wife of T.N. Natarajan of Tamilnadu. She joined the freedom movement in 1930 and took part in foreign cloth boycott in 1930 and toddy shop picketing in
1931 and Individual Satyagraha 1941. She was arrested and sent to jail.

RUKMANI BAI—(i) Mother of Jnaneshvara.
(ii) Wife of Maharaj Chhatrapal in Madhya Pradesh. She took part in the Quit India movement (1942) was arrested and sentenced to jail. Died in jail.

RUKMANI MENON—India’s Ambassador in Austria. The First Indian woman to be an ambassador of her country.

RUKMAVATI—Wife of Pradyumna. (Purana)

RUKMINI—(i) Wife of Krishna and mother of Pradyumna, eldest son of Krishna. Krishna had taken her forcibly to Dwarka and married her.
(ii) Wife of Sisupala (Chaidya) and daughter of Bhismaka. (Purana)

RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE—An eminent dancer; she married Arundel and was closely associated with the Theosophical movement. She popularised Bharatanatyam and established Kalakshetra; was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.

RUKMINI LAKSHMAPATI—Arrested in connection with Salt Satyagraha. She was the president of the Tamil Nadu Provincial Congress Committee and Served as Health Minister of Madras Government in 1946-47.

RUKMINIAMMA—A champion for women’s education. (20th C)

RUMA—Daughter of Panasa a Vanara and wife of Sugriva. She followed Rama in his expedition to Lanka. (Purana)

RUPAMATI—Her love with Bazbahadur is legendary. She composed delightful Hindi songs for her husband. For seven years, they lived happily. In 1563 Akbar sent force under Adam Khan who succeeded in conquering Malwa. Bazbahadur was betrayed by his man who fled. The story says that she consented to receive Adam Khan. But when he went to see her, he found her beautifully dressed lying on her bed, dead. (16th C)

RUPSUNDARI—Wife of Madhava, the Prime Minister of king Karna Waghela of Gujrat. She was extremely pretty
and the king tried to seize her. This led to his downfall.

RUQIA BEGUM—Sister of Babur; daughter of Makhduka Sultan. (known as Qara Qur Begum).

RUQAIYA BEGUM—Daughter of Hindal was betrothed to Akbar.

RUQAIYA BANU—Wife of Tipu Sultan.

RUSATI—Maiden married to Syava. (Rigveda)
(ii) Wife of Narsada. (Atharvaveda)

RUSHMA—Defeated Indra.

S

SABARI—A disciple of Matanga engaged in hard work. She would wear bark of trees and matted locks and was greatly devoted to Rama. She attained high spiritualasim. (Ramayana)

SABITA CHATTERJEE—A crack shot.

SABU—A dancing girl of Kashmir in the court of Ranjit Singh. (19th C)

SACHI—(i) Wife of Maghvan, another name of Indra. (Purana)
(ii) Mother of Chaitanya.

SACHI RANI GURTA—A prominent Hindi writer.

SADA KAUR—She was a far sighted and ambitious woman, wife of Kanhey Chief Gurbax Singh who died fighting Maha Singh. She married her daughter Mehtab Kaur to her enemy Maha Singh’s son Ranjit Singh. Later she wielded considerable influence in the Sikh court. (19th C)

SADASIVA IYER—Social and political reformer. She was one of the pioneers who called for the legislation for women on the electoral roll. She was member of a deputation under Sarojini Naidu that met Montagu in 1917 and asked for women’s rights.
SADHARANI—A courtesan. *(Rigveda)*
SADVATI—Wife of Bharatagni and mother of Parajanya. *(Purana)*
SAGARIKA—A painter, she drew a picture of her lover. She is a character in the Ratnavali.
SAGUNABA—Sixth wife of Shivaji. She bore him a daughter Nanibai.
SAHADEVA—Wife of Vasudeva and mother of Puru. *(Purana)*

SAHIB KAUR, MATA—Wife of Gobind Singh.
SAHIBJI—Wife of Amin Khan, Governor of Kabul. She played important role in the affairs of the state.
SAHIFA BANU—Her fine and delicate painting of the portrait of Shah Tahmasp, the king of Persia, with whom the Emperor Humayun took refuge to preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. This is the only Mughal Miniature signed by a woman.
SAHIBA ZAMANI—Daughter of Emperor Mahammed Shah and Malika Jahan. Alamgir II wanted to marry her. Malika Jahan sought protection of Abdali. He took away both the ladies to Kabul.
SAHJANYA—Apsaras mentioned with Menaka as belonging to Vishwakarma. *(Yajurveda)*
SAHJOBAI—A Dadupanthi Bhakti poetess of Hindi. *(18th C)*
SAHODARABA RAI—M.P. (Lok Sabha) from Madhya Pradesh.
SAI BAI—Daughter of Vithoji Mohite Newaskar and wife of Shivaji. *(17 C)*
SAIBYA—Wife of Raja Harishchandra.
SAIVYA—Mother of Kausika and wife of Vasudeva. *(Purana)*
(ii) Wife of Jyamogha.
SAIYEDAH BIBI ZULAIKHA—Mother of Nizamuddin Aulia.

SAKINA BANO BEGUM—Sister of Mirza Mohammed Hakim, half brother of emperor Akbar.
SAKINI—Yogini in the Brahmanical tantras; female demon attendant on Durga.

SAKRANI—Wife of Indira.

SAKRU-UN-NISSA BEGUM—Daughter of Akbar and Bibi Daulat Shah.

SAKTI—Consort of Siva. She has two characters, one mild and the other fierce. In the milder form, she is celebrated as Uma (bright) and Gauri. In her fierce form, as a destroyer of many asuras and an accomplisher of mighty deeds, she is Kali or Chamundi. Devi Bhagavata describes her great exploits and Devi Mahatmya (in 700 stanzas) enumerates her victories over the various demons.

SAKULA—Wife of Prasenajit. She was gifted with higher vision amongst Buddhist followers. (Therigatha)

SAKUNI—Daughter of Bali. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Naka, a man-eater. (Purana)

SAKUNTALA—(i) Daughter of Vishwamitra from Menaka. She was left in a forest where she was found by Kanva who brought her up. She married Dushyanta and had son Bharata from him.

(ii) Daughter of Rama Reddy. While a student, she took part in Civil Disobedience. She was arrested and sentenced to jail.

S(H)AKUNTALA DEVI—(ii) Well known as a wizard of calculations and a human computer.

(iv) An Oriya fiction-writer. (20th C)

S(H)AKUNTALA MAUHUR—A modern Hindi poetess.

SAKWARBAI—4th wife of Shivaji. (17 C)

SALAVATI—Courtesan. In accordance with the prevalent practice, she cast away her newly born son in a winnowing basket. The baby was saved by prince Abhaya and later became a great physician. (MV)

SALIHA BANO—(i) Daughter of Kasim Khan and wife of Jahangir who gave her the title of Badshah Mahal.

(ii) Daughter of Sulaiman Shikoh and married to Prince Mohammed Akbar, fourth son of Aurangzeb.

SAIMA BEGUM—Daughter of Humayun's sister Gulrukh and wife of Bairam Khan. She wrote poems in Persian.
On Bairam Khan's murder by Afgan, she was brought to Akbar's court and Akbar married her. Her young son Abdur Rahim was brought up under emperor's care as Khan Khana. She performed pilgrimage to Mecca in 1582.

SALOME AARON—Miss Mannequin chosen by the Mannequin International at Bangkok in 1971; a fashion model of Bombay.

SAMA—Courtesan; she was cheated by her lover. This man was earlier a robber and she had tried to reform him. Instead he robbed and tried to kill her. She still tried to get the man back which he refused. (Jataka)

SAMASKAR—An educationist of Maharashtra. (19th C)

SAMAVATI—Daughter of merchant Bhaddavatiya. Orphaned by her mother's death, she was adopted by Mitta Ghoshaka. She was chief consort of King Udayan and converted him to Buddhism. She was herself converted by Khujjutara. (Dp. Comy)

SAMBHUTI—(i) Daughter of Daksha; wife of Marichi and mother of Purnamas, Prishthi and Trisa. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Agni and mother of Parjanya.

SAMITI—Daughter of a professor in the Commilla College; a revolutionary, she was sentenced to transportation for life for shooting the magistrate of Comilla in 1931.

SAMITI DAS—One of the important Congress workers of Calcutta and secretary of the Nari Satyagraha Committee.

SAMJNA—Daughter of Kalindi. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Trasta. (Purana)
(iii) Mother of Manu and wife of Vivasvat. (Purana)

SAMPATIA DEVI—Wife of Bhuto Gope of Bihar; she took part in the Quit India Movement (1942), received bullet wound in firing by British soldiers at Rohiyar after the crash of a government aircraft on September 2, 1942 and died the same day.

SAMROO BEGUM (see Begum Samroo)—Celebrated princess of Sardhana; her original name was Zeib-un-nissa. She was an adventurer par excellence. After marriage to 'Sombre' Sahib, she took the name 'Samroo'. From abject poverty she rose to be an independent ruler.
SAMUDRI (SAVARNO)—Daughter of the ocean (Samudra) and wife of Prachinabarhis and mother of ten sons Prachetasas. (Purana)

SAMJNA—Wife of Sun god, once she escaped to Uttara Kuru in the form of a mare. Asvins were born of this couple.

SAMYOGITA—One of the wives of Prithviraj Chauhan.

SANCHIYYA HONNAMMA—Authoress of Kannada, (See Honnamma.)

SANDILYA PAITRI—Brahmani who attained perfection in austerity. She adopted the vow of celibacy and purity, practiced Yoga and reached heaven. (Mahabharata)

SANGHAMITRA—She was daughter of the great King Asoka. The torch of truth and love lighted by her and her brother Mahendra burns to this day in Ceylon. Once when the prince was 20 (and she 18) a teacher came to Asoka and said, “He alone is true friend of the Dharma who can dedicate his children to it”. Asoka asked the children. “Are you prepared to take the vow of life-long honesty, chastity and service to the world?” The two replied, “It would be a great destiny for us if we could be instrumental in spreading the message of universal love as taught by Lord Buddha. If you will give us permission we will join the Order and achieve the end and purpose of human life.” Asoka then dedicated his children in the service of Tathagat. Mahendra was renamed Dharmapala and Sanghamitra as Ayupali. At 32 Mahendra went to Ceylon and a large population became his follower. When the princess Anula of Ceylon and 500 of her companions decided to renounce their homes, at Mahendra’s request Sanghamitra arrived in Ceylon. She established a nunnery and took charge of training of nuns. By their untiring efforts entire Ceylon became Buddhist and Aniruddhapura was built. Mahavamsa says, “When she died the king of Singhalan performed her last rites....as a fitting tribute to her memory.”

SANJNA—Daughter of Vishvakarma and wife of the sun; Mother of Manu Vaivasvat, Yama and Yami.

SANJUKTA PANIGRAHI—An exponent of Odissi dance.

SANKARSANI—A Sakti; one of the nine Kalikas.
SANKHA—Daughter of Rashtrakuta Amoghavarsha I, wife of Perundevavvar, author of Bharataventri. (9th C)

SANNATI—Daughter of Devala (V) and queen of Brahmadatta, the Panchala king. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Marichi. (Purana)
(iii) Wife of Kratu and mother of Punya. (Purana)

SANTA—(i) Daughter of Dasaratha; she was adopted by Dharamaratha, well known as Romapada; wife of Risyasringa, mother of Chitraratha. (Purana)
(ii) Yakshini of Suparsvanatha, 7th Arhat of the Jains.

SANTALADEVI—Queen of Hoyasala King Vishnuvardhana; a staunch devotee of Jainism, she made several donations to Jain temples. She died in 1131 by the Jain form of renunciation. (12th C)

SANThA RAMA RAU—A well known writer. (20th C)

SANTI—(i) Daughter of Daksa and one of the wives of Daksa. (Purana)
(ii) Daughter of Kardama and wife of Atharvan. (Purana)

SANTI DAS—Was M.L.C., daughter of Debendranath Ghosh, grand daughter on mother’s side of Swami Vivekanand. She took active part in students’ movement in 1929-30, participated in C.D. Movement in the thirties; joined revolutionary movement and was awarded life transportation in connection with the assassination of Mr. S. R. Stevens, Distt. Magistrate, Tripura. After 8 years of incarceration, she was released through the efforts of Mahatma Gandhi. Since release from jail, she was engaged in active Congress work and in social welfare of women and displaced persons.

SANTIDEVA—Wife of Vasudeva and mother of Pratisruta. (Purana)

SANTISHDA GHOSH—Revolutionary from Barisal; she was arrested while trying to encash a forged cheque of twenty seven thousand rupees in Grindlay Bank, Calcutta. The money was needed to carry on revolutionary activities.

SAPTAKSARA—A Sakti.

SAPTARNAKALI—A Sakti.
SARA CHACHO—Connected with the Y.W.C.A. movement. (20th C)

SARADA DEVI (1853-1920)—Also known as Sri Sarada-ma Devi and the Holy Mother. She was spiritually one of the most enlightened persons, like her husband Rama-krishna. Only after the age of 18 she lived at Dakshineswar from time to time with him. He performed the Sodash Puja seating her on the seat intended for the Divine Mother and after the Puja she went into deep samadhi. She was treated as a divine mother by his disciples and others. She underwent deep spiritual disciplines. From time to time she lived at her husband’s place and her parents’ place also. After her husband’s death in 1886 she went on pilgrimage and lived at Kamarpukur. In her later life she was disturbed by the insanity of two close women relations of hers.

Sarda Devi had a simple and unostentatious life. “The world has not seen a woman who lives with her husband like an ordinary woman. Sarda Devi was neither wife nor mother. Yet she was a mother in another and higher sense.” Her teachings were compiled by the disciples. These are simple but telling e.g. “Everything depends on the mind. Nothing can be achieved without purity of mind”. Sarda Devi combined in her personality an ordinary home life and the highest spirituality.

SARADA MEHTA—Vice Chancellor of the India Women’s University, Poona.

SARAGHA—Queen of Bindumat. (Purana)

SARALA DEVI—Younger daughter of Swarnakumari Devi, the elder sister of Rabindranath Tagore. She was a great patriot. She was married to the well known nationalist leader Ram Bhaj Dutt of Lahore and participated in the nationalist movement.

SARAMA—(i) Wife of Vibhishana.
(ii) Panis offered to make her their sister. (Taittariya Brahman)

SARANYU—Daughter of Twastri, the most skillful workman; wife of Vivasvats and mother of the Aswins.

SARASIBALA DAS—Of West Bengal, took part in the
Quit India movement; died of brutal assault by the police when she was pregnant in 1942.

SARASWATI—(i) Goddess of speech and learning; schematically associated with Brahma as his consort. Her other names are Bharati, Sarada, Vagiswari, Brahmini etc.
(ii) A goddess connected with the Bharatas. (Rigveda)
(iii) Wife of Purnamasas and mother of Parvasa. (Purana)
(iv) Wife of Devaghuya and mother of Sarvabhauma Hari. (Purana)
(v) Wife of Dadhichi. (Purana)
(vi) Wife of King Asanga Playogi who was a revealer of the Vedic wisdom and lived an ideal life of spirituality. According to a legend her husband lost his manhood and turned into a woman. But to the great delight of Sarasvati, by the intercession of a sage, the husband was transferred into a man.
(vii) Jain nun, sister of Kalaka charya, a famous Jain preceptor of Ujjain, she was carried off by King Gardabhilla of Ujjain.
(viii) Wife of Bhaskaracharya, the well known mathematician.
(ix) Wife of the great philosopher Mandan Mishra. She was herself a great scholar and in a contest between Mandana and Sankaracharya acted as a judge.

SARASWATI GIRI—Wife of V.V. Giri, a former President of India.

SARASWATI KANUNGO—An Oriya fiction writer. (20th C)

SARASWATI N.—A Malayali fiction writer.

SARASWATI PANDURANGMMA—Daughter of Varadharaja. She was the first lady in 1931 to court imprisonment in freedom movement. She joined the movement in 1929, took part in Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and Disobedience movement 1931-32, Individual Satyagraha in 1941 and August Movement in 1942. She was arrested and sentenced to jail many times and during this period lost her son and daughter.

SARASWATI PRADHAN—M.P. (Rajya Sabha) from Orissa.

SARASWATY—Secretary of the Women's Section, Indian Independence League, Singapore. She enlisted volu-
teers, collected funds and provided amenities to the soldiers of the Indian National Army (INA).


SARI—Mother of Sariputta, a famous Buddhist monk. Her three daughters followed the path of her son and joined the order. ((Therigatha)

SARLADEVI CHAUDHURANI (1872-1945)—Through her paper Bharati and a Yoga Centre that she set up at Calcutta, Sarla Devi advocated Hindu-Muslim unity, use of Swadeshi goods etc. By organising Suhrid Samiti, she tried to create a martial spirit among its members. She was daughter of Swarnakumari, a great patriot, and niece of Rabindra Nath Tagore. After her marriage with Ram Bhaj Chaudhary of Lahore, her activities shifted from Calcutta to Lahore. She opened branches of Arya Samaj and organised women's movement. It was in 1909 at the Pratapaditya Anniversary started by her at Calcutta that 'Vandemataram' was for the first time used as a national slogan. In 1919 she raised her voice against the tyranny of General Dyer. Because of her activities Sarla Devi was placed under surveillance. She remained an ardent patriot and political worker till her death in 1945.

SARLA DEVI SARABHAI—Prominent social worker. She was connected with Kasturba National Memorial Trust. (20th C)

SAIRINDHRI—Draupadi while in disguise as a maidservant of the king of Virata.

SARMISTHA—(i) Daughter of Asura king and appointed as maid servant to Devayani, wife of Yayati and mother of Puru.

(ii) Mother of Anu. ((Purana)

SAROJ JHA—Dr, Professor of Preventive and Social Medicine in T. N. Medical College, Bombay; known for her research.

SAROJINI BOSE—In 1905 at the Provincial Congress, she took a vow not to put on gold bangles till the prohibition on Bande Mataram was cancelled.
SAROJINI MAHARSHI—Was a Minister of state in the Central Government; M. P. from Karnataka.

SAROJINI NAIDU—The first woman Governor of U.P. in 1947. She was a renowned poet, known as ‘Nightingale of India’, ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity and champion of women’s rights. She was the first Indian woman to be the President of the Indian National Congress.

SARUPA—Daughter of Yaksa, wife of Bhuta and mother of Bhima, one of the eleven Rudras. (Purana)

SARVAHANA—Yakshini of Neminatha or Arishtanemi, an Arhat of the Jains. (Dig.)

SARVARI—(i) Wife of Dosa, a Vasu.
(ii) A devout woman who looked for the visit of Rama.

SASHIVRATA—One of the wives of Prithvi Raj Chauhan.

SASHTHI—Mother of Kartikeya, the protective deity of children.

SASIPRABHA—A Naga princess married to Sinduraja (brother of King Munja) in gratitude of the latter’s help to her father.

SASYASI—Daughter of Raja Rathivat and wife of Syavaswa.

SASSI—The famous heroine of Husn-O-Noor (Beauty and Coquetry) written by Mir Masum Bhakkari. She was born of Brahman parents named Naniya (father) and Mundhar (wife). While she was yet a child, it was predicted that the girl would marry a muslim. She was drowned in river but was rescued by a washerman who because of her beauty named her Sassi (Moon). The son of the chief of Kich named Punnu fell in love with her and he became her father’s apprentice. Finally the two were married.

SASSIBALA DEVI—She took part in the attack on the Keshpur (in West Bengal) police station in August, 1942. She received a bullet in the police firing and died.

SATADRUTI—Well accomplished daughter of Samudra and wife of Barhisad.

SATARUPA—(i) Daughter of Brahma and wife of Manu, mother of Uttanapada.
(ii) Mother of Mahan. (Purana)
SATI—(i) Daughter of Daksa. She practised Dharana, a special form of Samadhi. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Siva. She dedicated all her life to the service of her Lord.
(iii) Daughter of Daksa, married to Angiras. (Purana)
SATI-UN-NISA KHANUM—Adviser and lady-in-waiting of Mumtaz Mahal. She was a scholar of Persian and taught Quran and Persian language to Jaharara Begum. She became superintendent of the harem.
SATKRI—Wife of Mahayasa and mother of Gurudhi and Rantideva. (Purana)
SATYA—(i) Wife of Brahanmanas and daughter of Saibya, the Chedi king. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Manthu and mother of Bhauvana. (Purana)
(iii) Daughter of Nagnajit, king of Kosala, and wife of Krishna. (Purana)
SATYABHAMA—(i) Daughter of Bhangaraka and Vratavati, and wife of Krishna and mother of Pratibana. She refused to part with the jewel Satadhanvan.
(ii) Author of ‘Kamala’, ‘Saguna’ etc. (20th C)
SATYASANDHI—Mother of Sankaradeva, the saint poet of Assam. (15th C)
SATYAVATI—(i) Fisher girl who exuded fragrance. She married King Santanu on the condition that her son would be the king. Bhisma, the son of Santanu, renounced his rights for his step brother Vichitravirya born of her. Later she renounced the world with Ambika and Ambalika, and with Kunti and her five sons went to the forest. (Mahabharata)
(ii) Daughte of Gâhi (Kausika), a royal sage, who knew the Yoga power of Hari; wife of Brahmana Richika.
(iii) Wife of Parashar and mother of Vyasa.
(iv) Daughter of Paurukutsa. (Purana)
(v) Grand-daughter of Swami Shraddhanand; she worked incessantly for her country’s freedom and was many times in jail.
(vi) Delhi’s first lady Satyagrahi; one of the founders of Congress Socialist Party, she awakened political consciousness among women, and took part in the Civil Disobedience movement 1930, the Individual Satyagraha 1940 and Quit India
Movement, 1942 and was every time sentenced to imprisonment. She was released on account of her serious illness. Her mother Shrimati Ved Kumari and sisters also took active part and were arrested and convicted. In 1945 she died in hospital in detention.

(vii) Exponent of Bharatanatyam.

SATYAVATI MALIK—A Hindi writer.

SATYAVATI MEHTA—Freedom fighter. She was injured in a direct burst of gas cylinder by police in 1942 at Bombay.

SAUDAMINI (also known as B. Rajyalakshanamma)—A Telugu writer, her name is counted amongst those who inaugurated the modern movement in Telugu.

SAU (T) ATI—Daughter of Daksa, wife of Kratu. (Purana)

SAVALADEVI—Queen of the Kalachuri Somadeva of Kalyan, she was well known for her skill in music and dancing and displayed her accomplishment in public.

SAVARNA—Wife of Surya and mother of Manu.

(ii) Wife of Prachinabharhis and mother of the ten Prachetasas.

SAVASABARI—A Sakti.

SAVITHRI AMMAL—(1899-1961) She joined the freedom movement in 1928 and took part in toddy shop picketing (1931), Individual Satyagraha (1940) and Quit India Movement. She was arrested and jailed. She was an ardent Khaddar worker.

SAVITRAMMA—A Kannada fiction-writer. (20th C)

SAVITRI—Daughter of Asvapati, the king of Madra, and wife of Satyavan. She proved a true wife. Because of her devotion, Yama was constrained to restore life to Satyavan.

SAVITRI BAI—Widow of commandant Bellari. She kept Shivaji's attack at bay for 26 days. Shivaji showed her courtesy on surrender.

SAVITRI TEJUJA—Known for her researches; with (I.C.M.R.)

SAVITRIBAI PHULE—A social worker.

SAVITRI DEVI SURI—Of Lahore. Took part in the
Salt Styagraha (1930) and Quit India Movement (1942). Her property was confiscated and she was detained along with her husband and children at Saidpur in Distt. Rawalpindi. Every Sunday she had to report to the Police Station, Gotra at a distance of 12 miles. She gave shelter to 100 girls at her residence in Lahore for 24 days during the partition of the country.

SAVITRI NIGAM—Member of Parliament. Took up the work of prohibition in India.

SAVITRI SHYAM—M.P. (Lok Sabha) from Uttar Pradesh.

SAYDA BEGUM—Begum of Oudh; she wrote to Wajid Ali Shah about the courage shown by Hazrat Mahal in fighting against the British in 1857.

SCHARLIEB DAME MARY—The first Indian woman to study medicine in the medical college at Madras. She founded the Victoria College and Gosha Hospital, now known as Kasturba Gandhi Hospital at Madras.

SEETAKARALAMMAL— Wife of Karmega Servai; she took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932, and was arrested and sentenced to jail.

SEETA PARMANAND Dr.—Organised the Women Legislators’ Club and launched into all aspects of vital social legislation, particularly the controversial.

SEMBIYAN MAHADEVI— Malwa princess and queen of Gandaraditya. A pious lady, she built temples of architectural beauty. (10th C)

SENAMATA—Mother of Sambhavanatha, the 3rd Arhat of the Jains.

SESAMANTRA—One of the nine Kalikas.

SESIKA—One of the nine Kalikas.

SHAFI, LADY—A progressive woman who supported women's education in the first decade of this century.

SHAH BEGAM—(i) Wife of Malik Ahmed, Prime Minister of Kashmir; she set up a school.

(ii) Daughter of Mohammed Mukim, brother of Shah Beg Arghun; married to Kasim Koka who was killed in war by Babur. She was taken to Kabul.
(iii) Daughter of Bhagwan Dass; wife of Jehangir and mother of Sultan Khusro. Jehangir disliked her and she took poison.

SHAH KHANAM—Half sister of Aliverdi Khan, Nawab of Bengal, married to Mir Zafar.

SHAH TURKHAN—Mother of Sultan Ruknuddin. She was a Turkish hand maid and rose to be the queen of Iltutmish. She was very ambitious and seized all power while his son indulged in enjoyment.

SHAKUNTALA—Brought up by Kanva; King Dushyanta fell in love with her. When she went to her court, he refused to accept her. But he accepted her later.

SHAMA—A disciple of Buddha, authoress of Therigatha.

SHAM KUMARI NEHRU—Worked for freedom movement at Allahabad.

SHAMS-UN-NISA BEGUM—Daughter of Hakim Kamaruddin of Banaras; wrote a small Diwan.

SHANKAR DEVI—Sister of Bahadur Singh, the Raja of Kishtwar; married to Yaqub Khan, became later on Fath Khatun.

SHANTA GANDHI—A Gujarati writer and dancer; founder-member of the Indian People’s Theatre.

SHANTA RAO—Dancer of classical style; noted exponent of Mohini Attam of Malabar; one of the finest exponents of Bhartanatyam.

SHANTABAI VENGSAKAR—A dictator of War Council.

SHANTA DEVI—(i) Daughter of Ramananda Chatterjee, founder editor of the Modern Review; probably the first in Bengal to portray an educated girl and the difficulties she faced in a conservative society.

(ii) Of N.W.F.P. Took keen interest in social welfare, worked for uplift of Harijans and participated in Quit India Movement, 1942.

SHANTALA DEVI—(i) Saintly queen of the Hoyasala King Vishvadhanadeva. She was a noted singer and dancer and was instrumental in building several Jain shrines.
(ii) Famous as human computer for her prompt calculations of intricate mathematical problems.

SHANTA RAO—A renowned dancer. (20th C)

SHANTA SHELKE—A Marathi writer. (20th C)

SHANTI GHOSH—A well known pediatrician of Delhi.

SHANTI KABIR—A prominent social worker. Her husband Humayun Kabir was a renowned educationist and Union Minister of Education. (20th C)

SHARAN RANI—Hindustani Classical Sarod instrumentalist.

SHARADA BABURAO DIVAN—a renowned educationist and social welfare worker of Bombay.

SHARMA, ARCHANA Dr.—Specialist in CytoChemistry in the Calcutta University.

SHARMISHTA—She composed a difficult dance Chhalika.

SHASHIKALA KAKODKAR—Chief Minister of Goa.

SHASHIYASI—Wife of Taranta. She presented lot of wealth to Shyavashva, son of a Rishi. (Rigveda)

SHEIKH RANGREZIN—A dyer by trade, she wrote Hindi poetry. Once a Brahmin poet named Alam gave her his turban for dyeing. She found a slip of paper tied at one end with an incomplete verse written on it. She completed the verse, dyed the turban and sent them to the owner. The poet was amazed that his verse had been completed. He gave her an anna for dyeing the turban and a hundred gold coins for the verse. In the end, he became a Mohammedan and married her. She was a clever and witty woman. Once prince Moazzam asked her, “Are you the beloved and wife of Alam (meaning world)?” Her reply was, “Your Majesty I am the mother of Jahan (i.e., ‘world’), Jahan being her son.” (18th C)

SHEILA BHATIA—Pioneer of Indian Opera.

SHERA V. VAJIFDAR—Keenly interested in welfare of blinds and in activities of Forward Block.

SHIRIN VAZIFDAR—Exponent of Bharatnatayam.

SHIVA KAMU—The first person who left the Medical College of Madras (as a student) in protest against the internment of Annie Besant. She was the sister-in-law of Mr. Arundale.
SHIVARANI DEVI—Wife of Hindi novelist Prem Chand. She herself was a prose-writer in Hindi.

SHIVA RAU—A prominent lady social worker. She held important office in the Indian Cooperative Union. (20th C)

SHOBHA DEVI—A Brahmin woman of U.P. She took part in the Great Revolt against the British rule in 1857. She was captured by the British and executed on the gallows in 1857.

SHOBHARANI DUTTA—A Bengali revolutionary who had to undergo imprisonment in early forties.

SHOELABALA DAS—She was an M.P. She did a lot for the women’s cause. Her field of activity was Bihar and Orissa. She started an industrial school for girls, organised the first girls high school, took active part in the National Council of Women.

SHRIDEVI—Wife of Vimla, Minister of King Bhimadeva of Patan. She helped her husband in getting one of the splendid marble temples erected at Mount Abu. (11th C)

SHRUNGARAMMA—A Bhakti poetess of Karnataka. (17th C)

SHYAM KUMARI DEVI—M. P. (Rajya Sabha) from Madhya Pradesh.

SHYAM KÜMARI KHAN—Member of Parliament (1963-68); social worker of U.P.

SHYAMABAI—Wife of Bira Dhangar of Maharashtra; took part in the popular movement demanding merger of Hyderabad state with the Indian Union, killed by the Razakars on May 22, 1948, during their attack on Nandgaon village. Twelve other persons were also killed by the Razakars.

SHYAMALA PAPPU—The first woman to be the Government’s senior Standing Counsel in Supreme Court.

SIDDHAKALI—One of the nine Kalikas.

SIDDHARTHAA—Mother of Abhinandana, 4th Arhat of the Jains.

SIDDHAYIKA—Yakshini of Sri Mahavira, 24th Arhat of the Jains.

SIDDHESWARA DEVI—A musician of repute. She
specialised in Thumri, Dadra, Tappa and Khayal; received Padma Shri in 1967.

SIDDHI—(i) Daughter of Daksa and one of the wives of Dharma. *(Purana)*
(ii) Wife of Bhaga and mother of Asis and Mahimna. *(Purana)*

SIDDHILAKSHMI—A Sakti.

SIDDHIMATI—Wife of Matanga, a sage, and mother of Lañhusyama or Matangi. *(Purana)*

SIGALAMATA—The chief amongst the Buddhist who were emancipated through faith. *(Therigatha)*

SIHA—She became believer on hearing Buddha speak and obtained her parents’ permission to join the order. Later she thought, “better for me a friendly gallows’ tree” because she was driven to think of it from despair of gaining arhanship even after seven weary years. But at the last moment her heart was set at liberty. *(Therigatha)*

SIKANDAR BEGUM—Mother of Shah Jahan Begum of Bhopal.

SIKATANNIVAVARI—A rishika.

SIKHANDI—Born daughter of King Drupad. But by the kindness of a Yaksha she lost her sex and became a man. He was later responsible for the killing of Bhishma. *(Mahabharata)*

SIKHANDINI—Wife of Antardhana. *(Purana)*

SIKITA NIVAVARI—A learned lady of Vedic times.

SHILABHATTARIKA—Daughter of Vishnuvardhana IV and Queen of Dhruva, a Rashtrakuta prince. She was a poetess of repute, ranked with Bana in point of style.

SILAVATI—(i) Queen of King Okkaka. Since she bore him no child, the king was advised by his counsellors to send out some dancing girls to streets so that one of these could give birth to a child who could be given the reign of the state. *(Jataka)*
(ii) Mother of famous poet Rajasekhar.

SILAVI—Queen; her husband thought that a wife is the “ascetic’s home.” *(Jataka)*

SIMHIKA—Mother of Andhaka and wife of Viprachitti. *(Purana)*
SIMKIE—A foreigner who made her name as a dancer in India.

SINHIKA—(i) Daughter of Daksha and wife of Kashyap. 
(ii) Daughter of Kāshyap and wife of Viprachitti. 
(iii) A Raksasi who tried to swallow Hanuman but he rent her body to pieces.

SINDI BEGUM—Daughter of Mohammad Baki, a prince of Sind (15th C.) He sent the princess as a present to King Akbar but the latter returned her to her father.

SINIVALI—Goddess also called Svaupasa, meaning one in the plaits of hair.

SIPPI MILANI (or Sipahi Malani)—was elected Deputy Speaker of the Sind Legislative Assembly when the Congress Ministry was formed in 1937.

SIRIMA—A malicious courtesan. On being asked by her disciple Uttara to act as her husband’s concubine for a fortnight, while she herself went away to hear the Buddha preaching, she became angry and injured Uttara. She, however, sought for Uttara’s pardon. They both benefited from the Buddhist order. (Dph. Cmy)

SIRIYA DEVI—Daughter of king Bijnala Kalachuri; wife of Sinda Charunda II of Emambaraga. (12th C)

SISODANI LAD KUNWARI—One of the 10 queens of Raja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur who became Sati.

SISODANI PRATAP or RUKMAVATI—Mother of Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur. (17th C)

SITA—Daughter of Janaka, king of Mithila and wife of Rama. Sita literally means furrow.

SITA DEVI—A daughter of Ramananda Chatterjee; she was the first lady in Bengal to put forth the problems of the educated women.

SITALA—Goddes of small pox.

SITALAKSHMI KUMARASWAMI—Social worker; wife of V. N. Kumarswami. She joined the freedom movement in 1931 and took part in Individual Satyagraha in 1941. She was arrested and sentenced to imprisonment.

SIVA—(i) Daughter of Hari, married to Anala; had two
sons born with qualities of fire. She attained perfection. *(Purana).*

(ii) An ascetic learned in Vedas. She attained spiritual perfection.

SIVADEVI—Mother of Neminatha or Arishtanemi, 22nd Arhat of the Jains by Samudravijaya.

SIVALOGAMMAL, R.—Daughter of Ramaswami Iyer; she took part in Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932; was arrested and sentenced to jail.

SMRITI—Wife of Angiras; had two sons and four daughters; flourished in Swayambhuva antara, a Devarshi. *(Purana)*

SNUSA—Daughter of Jyamagha and Saivya; she was married to her own brother, as was decided by her father; mother of two sons Kratha and Kausika. *(Purana)*

SOBHAGYADEVI—Wife of Rana Mokal and mother of the famous Rajput warrior and scholar Rana Kumbha.

SNEHLATA BHATTACHARYA—An Assamese fiction writer. *(20th C)*

SOFIA SOMJEE—A prominent social worker of Bombay; she participated in Gandhi’s Satyagraha in the thirties.

SOHODRA BAI RAI—She played a heroic role during the non-violent march on Goa.

SOHAN DEVI—Wife of Lala Amirchand Mehra, the first General Secretary of Lahore District Congress Committee. She assisted him in Swadeshi Store in early twenties and suffered with him at the Govt’s. hands.

SOLAMMAL—Wife of late Perumal Konai, she joined and took part in Freedom Movement in 1942; was arrested and sentenced to undergo two years’ imprisonment.

SOMA—(i) Queen of king Prasenajit of Kosala and reputed as an author of one of the verses of Therigatha. She was convinced of the inherent equal capacity of the sexes to gain arhanship. She was converted by Buddha at Rajagriha. *(Therigatha)*

(ii) Leader of the female converts of Suparsvanatha, 7th Arhat.
SOMALDEVI—Queen of Ajayaraja, the Chahamana of Sakambari. (12th C)

SOMANATHAIYA—She acted as a minister to Queen Sriyadevi of Bhor in Maharashtra. (11th C)

SONA—A Buddhist preacher; on her husband’s renunciation of the world, she inherited wealth from him which she distributed among her sons and became an alms woman. (Therigatha)

SONABAI—Wife of V. Srinivasan. She took part in toddy-picketing in 1932; was arrested and sentenced to jail.

SONAL MANSINGH—A well known dancer.

SONAWALA—A prisoner of the Civil Disobedience Movement. (1930)

SOORYAVATHI AMMAL—Daughter of Adhikesavalu Naidu. She took part in August 1942 Movement.

SONNAMMAL (Chinnakond)—Daughter of Lakshmana Iyer, she took part in Individual Satyagraha of 1941; was arrested and sentenced to one year’s imprisonment.

SOYARABAI—Wife of a well known saint named Chokhamela of Maharashtra. She wrote a large number of verses. Though the couple was persecuted, they never lost their poise and visited Pandharpur regularly. She says, “The body only can be impure or polluted, the soul is ever clear pure knowledge.”

(ii) Queen of Shivaji. (17th C)

SRADDHA—(i) Wife of Manu. (Purana)
(ii) Daughter of Daksa and wife of Dharma. (Purana)
(iii) Daughter of Kardama and wife of Angiras. She had two sons named Utathya and Brahaspati. (Purana)
(iv) Wife of Sraddhadeva and mother of Kavi. (Purana)
(v) One of the daughters of Daksa and one of the wives of Dharma. (Purana)

SRAMANI SABARI—A low caste woman who was a celebrated ascetic. She had her hermitage at the bank of lake Pampa. She wore bark and matted locks and was honoured by great ascetics. (Ramayana).

SREENIVASAN—Smt. A widow who toured extensively and then opened the way for other women to move. (20th C)
SRI—(i) Consort of Vishnu (Narayana), the Creator-God; she also figures as Vibhuti of Vishnu.
SRIKIDEVA—Wife of Vasudeva and mother of Mandaka. (Purana)
SRIMAT SIDDHA KARALIKA—One of the nine Kalikas.
SRIRANGAMMA—(i) Member of the deputation under Sarojini Naidu that asked for women's rights and met Mr. Montagu in 1917.
(ii) A Kannada writer of 17th century. She wrote Padmini Kalyana.
SRIVALLI—Wife of Kartikeya.
SRI-VIDYA—Also known as Tripura; a deity of the Saktas.
SRIYADEVI—Queen of Lakshmanasena of Bengal.
SRIJAYYA—Wife of Bhajamana and mother of two sons, Bhaya and Bahyaka. (Purana)
SRUTADEVI—Married Krita. (Purana)
SRUTI—Daughter of Anasuya, wife of Kardam and mother of son Sankhopada and daughter Kamya.
SRUTSRAVA—Wife of Damaghosa, king of Chedi, and mother of Sunita and Patusrava. (Purana)
STEHIE (D'SOUZA)—Athlete; member All India Council of Sports.
STUTI—Wife of Pratiharta and mother of Aja and Bhuman. (Purana)

SUBBULAKSHMI M.S.—A renowned Carnatic vocalist; known for her devotional songs; awarded Padma Vibhushan.

SUBHA—(i) A rich goldsmith's daughter and herself possessing much wealth. She turned her back on riches and the advantages of the household life and joined the Buddhist Order. She found the calm steadfastness of Nirvana. (Therigatha)
(ii) A very beautiful woman who realised that safety lay in renunciation. (Therigatha)

SUBHADRA—(i) Sister of Sri Krishna and wife of Arjuna and mother of Abhimanu. (Mahabharata)
(ii) Mother of Pauravi (Purana)
(iii) Of Cochin Royal house; she composed devotional hymns. (19-20th C)

SUBHADRA BAI—Wife of Kisangir Gossavi. She took part in the popular movement demanding merger of Hyderabad state with the Indian Union (1947-48). She was shot and killed by the Razakars inside her house on the Dussehra day in 1948. Her husband was also killed. Her house and their bodies were burnt to ashes.

SUBHADRA JOSHI—M.P. from Delhi; a prominent politician.

SUBHADRA KUMARI CHAUHAN—A poetess of Hindi. Her poem ‘Jhansi Ki Rani’ was very popular and created nationwide urge amongst the young people for freedom of the motherland.

SUBHADRIRKA—Hailed from Kampala and was the chief queen of the king of the tribe that lived in the neighbourhood of her class. (Vajasaneyi Samhita)

SUBHALAKSHMI SISTER—Championed the cause of Women’s education. (20th C)

SUBHADRANGI—Mother of King Asoka.

SUBHAN DEORANJ—Queen of Chach king of Sind Subhan Deo.

SUBHANGI—An epithet of Rati and also of Yakshini. Subhangi means fair limbed.

SUBHATA—Queen mother of infant Sikandar who ascended the throne of Kashmir.

SUCHARU DEVI—Maharani of Mayurbhanj; a revered figure in Calcutta and a leader of women’s movement until she died in 1961.

SUCHI—Leader of the female converts of Santinatha, 16th Arhat of the Jains.

SUCHHAYA—A daughter of Agni; wife of Sista who was son of Dhruva. (Purana)

SUCHETA KRIPALANI—Wife of Shri J.B. Kripalani; was Chief Minister of U.P. (1963-1967); In 1942 she organised an underground movement with Usha Mehta and Aruna Asafali.
SUCHITRA SEN—A renowned Bengali actress; received Best Actress Award at Moscow Film Festival for role in Seat Pakey Bandha.

SUDESNA—Wife of Bali; a great Yogini. (Purana)
SUDEVI (or Merudevi)—(i) Mother of Risabha. (Purana)
(ii) Mother of Anurupamaya; wife of Dharma and mother of Nivriti. (Purana)
(iii) Queen of Sudas given to him by the Ashvins.

SUDHA KUMARI SHARMA—Daughter of Sukhdeo Sharma of Bihar. She took part in the Quit India movement 1942; was arrested and imprisoned along with her mother. Died in 1943 in the Bankipore jail.

SUDHALATA DUTTA—She organised women in Assam in the 1942 movement.

SUDHANA—Queen of Arnoraja; daughter of a chief of Arichi. (12th C)

SUDRA—A Sudra woman. (Atharvaveda)

SUGANDHA—Wife of King Sankarvardhana of Kashmir. On her husband’s death, she carried on the state administration on behalf of her minor son Gopalavarman. She fell in love with her minister Prabhakar. On her son’s death, she assumed royalty on her people’s wishes. But she was deprived of the throne by Tantrin and put to death.

SUGANDH1—Wife of Vasudeva and mother of Pundra. (Purana)

SUJANGHI—Wife of Agastya. (Purana)

SUJASA—Leader of the female converts of Sitalanatha 10th Arhat.

SUJATA—(i) Daughter of a chieftain who came to offer worship to the tree and supposing Buddha to be the tree-god offered to him the milk rice. This was the day on which he became Buddha.

(ii) Buddha’s follower. She was Ananthapindika’s daughter-in-law. Proud and rude, she gave no alms. Buddha’s teachings changed the woman and her attitude towards her in-laws and husband. (She was younger sister of Visakha.) She realised Buddha’s saying that no layman without shedding the turmoil of house and home had got to heaven. She went
home and obtained her husband's and parents' consent and by the command of the Master was admitted to the Order of alms women. An authoress of verses, she attained Arhanship even as a laywoman. (Therigatha)

SUKUMARI DEVI—An artist.

SUKHSEJRAI—A niece of Gulabrai, a keep of Raja Ajay Singh of Jodhpur. She was to be married to Raja Man Singh but the marriage was stopped by the Chief of the State.

SUKKA—A rich merchant's daughter, she found faith in Buddha in her own house and became a lay disciple. Later she became a great preacher of Buddhism and people flocked to her. (Therigatha)

SUKANYA—(i) Daughter of Saryata with whom Chyavana was annoyed. To appease the sage Saryata gave his daughter in marriage to the Rishi. On Sukanya's suggestion, the Ashvins obtained a share in the sacrifice. The Ashvins tried to seduce her but failed. They advised how Chyavan could become young.

(ii) Wife of Ayavana and Mother of Sumedha.

SULABHA—A Brhamavadini of immortal fame. She belonged to the clan of Rajasri Pradhana. Since she was a great scholar and no suitable bridegroom could be found for her, she roamed about alone from place to place in search of knowledge.

SULABHAMAITREYI—One of the great vedic teachers whose memory was honoured at the time of Brahmayajna. She showed special interest in Mimansa. She was a wandering nun and great Yogini. In Janaka's court she exhibited great powers and wisdom which she had acquired through Yoga. (Mahabharata)

SULAKSHANA—Wife of Nanak, daughter of Mulachand Khatri. (15th C)

SULASA—A courtesan of Benaras who benefitted the Buddhist order. One day as she was watching from her window she saw a robber being taken away for execution. Thinking that she could marry him, she paid 1000 coins to the Chief Constable and got him freed. They lived in harmony, Later
he wanted to rob her and she threw him over a precipice.  
(Jataka)

SULOCHANA JOSHI—Wife of Shri Ram Chandra Joshi of Maharashtra. A social worker, she took part in the Quit India movement 1942. She was arrested and sentenced in the Yervada Jail, Poona, in April, 1943.

SULTAN BEGUM—Wife of Askari, brother of Humayun who brought up Akbar when Humayun left him.

SULTAN RIKIA—Daughter of Mirza Hindal; the first and chief wife of Akbar; she had no child; she brought up Shah Jahan.

SULTANA BEGUM—Daughter of Mirza Hindal (brother of Humayun); married to Shah Kuli Mahram.

SULTAN JAHAN BEGUM—Begum of Bhopal, she started new progressive movement in Bhopal.

SULTANA IYENGAR Dr.—Scientist in NPL known for her research in crystal structure etc.

SULTAN-UN-NISA BEGUM—Eldest daughter of Jahangir.

SUMAN—BADMINTON player; sister of Tara Deodhar and daughter of famous cricketer Deodhar.

SUMANA—(i) Daughter of Ananthapindika; a rich merchant; follower of Buddha. On her grand mother’s death, she joined the Order. She was an authoress of the Therigatha.

(ii) Leader of the female converts of Chandra prabha, 8th Arhat of the Jains.

SUMANGALAVILASINI—Mother of Ajatasatru.

SUMATI—(i) One of the two wives of Sagara (Purana) from whom he had 60,000 sons. The other wife Kesini had one son Åsamanjas.

(ii) Wife of Parvasa, lord of all ganas. (Purana)

SUMATIBEN MORARJEE—A well known name in the world of shipping. She holds high position in the Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

SUMEDHA—(i) Daughter of Ayavana and Sukanya, wife of Nidhruva and mother of Kundapayins.

(ii) She entered into Buddhist Order to the grief of her
father. Later she converted many people to the faith (Therigatha)

SUMITHRA AMMAL—Daughter of Sundaram. She took part in Civil Disobedience Movement (1932) and was arrested and sentenced to jail.

SUMITRA—Wife of Dasarath and mother of Lakshmana and Shatrughna; step mother of Rama.

SUMITRA CHARATRAM—Chairman, Bharatiya Kala Kendra.

SUMITRA KULKARNI—Member of Parliament from Gujarat.

SUNADEVI—Wife of Varuna and mother of Kali. (Purana)

SUNANDA—(i) A princess of Chedi and friend of Damayanti when she was deserted by Nala.

(ii) One of the wives of Risabha, the first Tirthankar, and mother of Bahubali, Bharata and Brahmi.

SUNDARAMMAL—Wife of Nachimuthy Gounder of Tamilnadu. She took part in Individual Satyagraha, 1942. She was arrested and sentenced to jail.

SUNDARI—(i) One of the nine Kalikas.

(ii) Buddhist preacher who renounced the world on her brother’s death.

(iii) Sundri Mata—Wife of Guru Gobind Singh.

SUNDARI DEVI—Youngest sister of Lal Bahadur Shastri; widow of Shambhu Saran Verma, a co-worker of Mahatma Gandhi. She took active part in Salt Satyagraha and courted jail in 1942. She was elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1946 and 1952. Piloted the Anti-Dowry Act in 1950-51. She was the first elected lady Member of Patna University Syndicate and was connected with many educational institutions, INTUC and many other public organisations.

SUNDARI HENSMAN Smt.—Pioneer of women’s education in India. (20th C)

SUNDARI NANDA—Beautiful Buddhist lay woman. She joined the Buddhist order when every one in her family had done. She remained conscious of her beauty even after renunciation. (Therigatha) Visakha’s father-in-law Salho
initiated the whole chapter to a meal at his house perhaps with a view to seeing the beautiful Sundari Nanda alone.

SUNIPA—Wife of Angiras and mother of Brahaspati. *(Purana)*


(ii) Ugly daughter of Mrityu; married to Anga-Prajapati, and assistant of Yama. *(Purana)*

(iii) A Bengali revolutionary who was sentenced to transportation for life for shooting the Magistrate of Comilla. She participated in national movement in the thirties. She was a secretary of Nari Satyagraha Comittee.

SUNITI DEVI—Wife of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, There was severe criticism and controversy over her early marriage.

SUNRITA—Daughter of Dharma, wife of Uttanapad. She had four sons Dhruva, Kirtiman, Ayusman and Vasu.

SUNYANI DEVI—An artist.

SUPPAVASA—Buddha’s follower. She was in great labour pains for seven days and sent her husband to Gautama. The moment Buddha said, “Let it be well with her” she brought forth a healthy son. *(Jataka)*

SUPRABHA—Daughter of Svarabhanu and wife of Namuchi. *(Purana)*

SUPRIYA—Daughter of a rich man called Anantha pindaka of Sravasti. She was a brilliant child and remembered and narrated incidents of the previous life. At 7, she was initiated by Mahaprajapati Gautami. She was known for her wisdom and spiritual knowledge but she also nursed and looked after the poor and the destitute. When famine visited Sravasti and the rich cared not for the dying poor, Buddha who was staying in Jata-vana asked the rich to help the poor, but none moved. Supriya, present there, said, “To be able to serve man is a great blessing even if it be at the sacrifice of one’s life.” When asked how she would feed the poor, she said, “By the grace, my begging bowl will never be empty. It will feed the hungry and bring the dying back to life and the famine of Sravasti will be a thing of the past.” Buddha blessed
her. The news spread like wild fire. A wave of enthusiasm arose which softened the heart of people. They decided that Supriya's bowl would not remain empty. Her radiant personality brought to people renewed faith and hope to every heart. The famine came to an end. (Ang.)

SURA—(i) Wife of Bhoja and mother of Devasrava. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Kali and mother of Mada. (Purana)

SURABHI—(i) Wife of Gautama Dirghatmas. His elder brother practised Godharma on her. (Purana)

(ii) Wife of Kasyapa and mother of Mrityu, one of the eleven Rudras. (Purana)

SURAJ—Wife of one Gopi of a village in Gujarat. He sought king’s permission to change the name of the place to Suraj. The latter changed it to Suraj, a heading of a few chapters in Koran.

SURENU—Sister of Maya, the architect of the Asuras. (Purana)

SURMYA—Wife of Anuhrada and mother of Mahisa. (Purana)

SURPANAKHA—Beautiful demoness, sister of Ravana. She was enchanted by Rama in the jungle but he refused her approach and his brother Lakshmana insulted her. Enraged at this, she provoked Ravana to fight with Rama. (Ramayana)

SURASA—A Rakshasi who tried to swallow Hanuman when he was on way to fetch medicine for Lakshmana.

SURSARI—Disciple of Nabha, a sweeper and author of a collection of lyrics. (Bhaktamala) (15th C)

SURSEE—Of Madhya Pradesh. Took part in the Great Revolt in 1857 and helped her son Bhima Naik in his anti-British activities. Captured by the British near Saloda after an encounter with the Bhil rebels escorting her, she was imprisoned in Mandaleshwar Fort, where she died on February 28, 1859.

SURUCHI—Wife of Uttanapada; mother of Uttama, she hated Dhruva, her step son. (Purana)

SURUPA—Daughter of Marich; wife of Agniras and mother of Utathya and nine other sons. (Purana)
SURYA—A Brahmana who best illustrated the ideals of Sadyovadhuv.

SURYA DEVI—She and Parimal Devi were the two daughters of king Dahir of Sind. They were sent by Kasim to Khalifa at Baghdad. When they were brought to the Khilifa, Suryadevi told him, “I am not worthy of the king’s bed because the Commander-in-Chief Kasim kept me three days near himself. Perhaps this is a common thing among you but such ignominy should not be suffered by kings.” This enraged Khalifa at whose order the body of Kasim was sewn in a hide and brought to Baghdad. Then she disclosed that Kasim had not even touched her but that to avenge her family’s ruin by Kasim, she had taken the revenge on him. The Khalifa ordered both the sisters to be enclosed between walls.


SURYAMATI (also known as Subhata)—Princess of Jalandhara and queen of Ananta of Lohara dynasty of Kashmir. She helped her husband in the administration of the kingdom, thus enabling him to launch expedition against his neighbour. In 1081 he committed suicide. She followed him to the funeral.

SUSHAMA SEN—Daughter of P.N. Bose, (the discoverer of Gurmaharani Mines) and Kamala Bose. She married Dr. P.K. Sen, a pioneer in social-educational works; she was president of Women’s Conference in 1947. She gave evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Commission, London, 1933, on Indian Constitutional Reform on Indian women’s franchise; was delegate to International Council of women and World Congress of Faiths, Cambridge, 1933 and Oxford 1951; Member Bihar Legislative Assembly (1946-52), Member of Parliament 1952.

SUSHILA—Wife of Yama.

SUSHILABAI BAL—(1901-1943) of Poona, Maharashtra. Took part in the Quit India movement and was arrested in September, 1942 and detained in the Yervada jail, Poona. She died in the Hindalag jail in 1943.

SUSHILA BEHN PAI—A prominent social worker, she was connected with the Kasturba National Memorial Trust. (20th C)

SUSHILA DEVI—Of Sialkot. In a series of lectures,
she attacked the Govt. and exhorted the women to rise to the occasion.

SUSHILA NAYAR—A close associate of Gandhi; she was Health Minister in the Union Ministry (1962-67).

SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR—Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Maharashtra.

SUSIMA—Mother of Padmaprabha, Arhat of the Jains by Sridhara.

SUSONDA—Wife of King Tamba of Banaras. She was not a woman of character and fell in love with Garud (hidden Bodhisatva) and Sagga.

SUSRAMATA (or Susramateya)—One of her descendants was a famous person. (Rigveda)

SUSUMA—Wife of Sukra and mother of Devayani.

SUSYASA—Wife of Prajesvara. (Purana)

SUTANU—Wife of Vasudeva and daughter of Kasiraja and mother of Paundraka. (Purana)

SUTARA—Daughter of Upamadugu. (Purana)

SUVARCHA—Wife of Prachinagarbha and mother of Udaradhi. (Purana)

SUVARCHATA—Wife of Pratiha, an adept in Atmavidya. (Purana)

SUVRATA—Daughter of Kakudmi and wife of Baladeva (Balbhadra). (Purana)

SUVRITA—Mother of Dharmanatha, 15th Arhat of the Jains by Bhanuraja.

SUYASA—Queen of Divodasa. (Purana)

SUYASAH (or Sujsa)—Mother of Anantanath or Anantosit, 14th Arhat of the Jains by Simhasena.

SVADHA—(i) Daughter of Daksa, married to Angiras, mother of Pitris and Mena.
(ii) Married to Kavi; is Usiragni. (Purana)

SVAHA—(i) Daughter of Daksa; married Agni. (Purana)
(ii) Wife of Laukikagni and mother of Pavamana. (Purana)

(iii) Wife of Pasupat and mother of Skanda. (Purana)
SVARACHALA (or Varchala)—Wife of Parameshti and mother of Pratiha. (Purana)

SVETA—Daughter of Pu ru and Brahati. (Purana)

SWADESH KUMARI ZUTSHI—Daughter of the famous Lado Rani Zutshi. She was arrested for picketing educational institutions.

SWARNAMMAMAL SUBRAMANIAM GUHAPRIYA—
A Tamil writer. (20th C)

SWARN KUMARI !DEVi (1867)—A famous social reformer and writer of Bengal. She was a sister of Rabindra Nath Tagore. In 1884 she took over a journal and was the first Indian woman editor. In 1886 she started a ladies' association; in 1900 she attended Congress Session in Calcutta. She was the first woman to attend the session as a delegate. Her two daughters distinguished themselves as editors and political workers.

SWARN LATA DEVI—Mother of Aurobindo.

SWAROOP RANI—Wife of Moti Lal Nehru and mother of Jawahar Lal Nehru. She inaugurated the campaign by preparing salt in front of the Police Station. The Police lathi-charged, as a result of which Swaroop Rani got a blow on her head and fainted.

SYAMA—(i) Yakshini of Padmaprabha, 6th Arhat of the Jains.
(ii) Mother of Vimalanatha, 13th Arhat of the Jains by Kritavarmaraja.
(iii) Leader of the female converts of Sambhavanatha.
(iv) Name of goddess Kali.
SYAMALA P.R.—A Malyalam writer. (20th C)
SYASVASVA—Daughter of King Rathaviti Darabhya.

(Rigveda)