

in the use of missiles (*kṛtāstra*) 6. 20. 15; fond of battles (*yuddhaśaunḍa*) 8. 31. 14; great chariot-fighters (*māhāratha*) 1. 1. 131; 7. 26. 10, 18; famous, widely known (*prakhyāta*) 3. 240. 22; (*nāmalabdhānām viditānām samantataḥ*) 8. 40. 94. B. Epic events : (1) Samsaptakas took away Arjuna from the main battle-field; after Abhimanyu's death, Arjuna killed all the surviving Samsaptakas — these two chief points of the epic events mentioned while listing the contents of the Droṇaparvan in the Parvasamgrahaparvan 1. 2. 160, 163; (2) Dānavas informed Duryodhana who was taken to Rasātala by a *kṛtyā* that the Samsaptakas were Daityas and Rākṣasas in hundreds and thousands appointed to kill Arjuna and they would kill him; then Duryodhana felt assured that (Karna and) the Samsaptakas were meant to kill Arjuna and that they were capable of accomplishing the task; the mind of the Samsaptakas was under the spell of Rākṣasas and, overcome by the qualities *rajas* and *tamas*, they were eager to kill Arjuna (*sāmsaptakāś ca te vīrā rākṣasāviṣṭacetasaḥ | rajastamobhyām ākrāntāḥ phalgunasya vadhaiṣiṇaḥ ||*) 3. 240. 22, 30, 33; (3) Samjaya told Dhṛtarāṣṭra that in the ensuing war the five Kekaya brothers would take on the two chief Trigartas of the Samsaptakas (*trigartānām ca dvau mukhyau yau tau sāmsaptakāv iti*) 5. 56. 18; (4) An *ayuta* of Samsaptaka chariot-fighters were meant to fight with Arjuna resulting either in the death or victory of Arjuna; they followed Arjuna wherever he went (*sāmsaptakānām ayutaṁ rathānām mṛtyur jayo vārjunasyeti sṛṣṭāḥ | yenārjunas tena ... prayātā vai te*) 6. 20. 15 (NI. on Bom. Ed. 6. 20. 15; *yena*

yatra tena tatra); (5) Śuśarman, king of Trigartas, and his five brothers Satyaratha, Satyadharman, Satyavarman, Satyeṣuḥ and Satyakarman together with their army of Trigartas, as well as Mālavas, Tuṇḍikeras, Mācellakas, Lalitthas, Madrakas and many other Janapadas took the oath (*śapatha*) to kill Arjuna 7. 16. 11, 15–21; the mode of oath, also called *pratijñā*, in which offerings were given in fire, described 7. 16. 22–37; in the description of the war, in the context of Samsaptakas, besides some of those groups of people mentioned above, also occur Nārāyaṇas, Gopālas (7. 17. 31; 7. 18. 7), and Yaudheyas (7. 18. 16); (6) On the twelfth day of the war, Droṇa planned a battle between Arjuna and the Samsaptaka troops and when Arjuna left the main battle-field to fight with them, he arranged his army in the *Suparṇavyūha* against Pāṇḍavas (*vidhāya yogam pārthena sāmsaptakagaṇaiḥ saha*) 7. 19. 2–4; the Samsaptakas arranged their chariots on even ground in the *vyūha* called *Candrārdha*; they were delighted to see Arjuna approaching them for a fight; they roared loudly; Arjuna was surprised to find that they were delighted when actually they should have been grieved; or, he thought, perhaps, they were delighted because they would go to excellent worlds (after death) which were otherwise difficult to be obtained by bad people 7. 17. 1–6; hearing the sound of Devadatta conch blown by Arjuna, the army of Samsaptakas became motionless; regaining consciousness they started fighting with Arjuna by showering *kaṅkapatrin* arrows against him 7. 17. 9–11; the battle described in which Subāhu, Sudharman and Sudhanvan also participated 7. 17. 12–22;