+ There are some new characters: Bisawarna, Angganjali and Godhayitma, Pragota, Nagatatmala

+ One story mentions the 9 Gods, the ones not covered earlier are: Rudra, Iswara, Maheswara, Mahadewa, Sangkara, Sambuh. Are there equivalents in the Indian version?

Yes, these are all the names of Lord Shiva.

Rudra (The fearsome, the roarer), Ishwara (Supreme soul), Maheshwara (The Great One), Mahadeva (The Greatest of all devas), Shankara (he who dispels doubts), Shambu (The simple one, the ascetic)

+ Kresna is called Narayana in his youth. The then defeats a demon KudaKalaKresna from which Kresna gets his name and the Kingdom of Dwarawati.

In the Indian version, Krishna was addressed as such because Krishna means “black” in Sanskrit; Krishna is said to be dark complexioned. Krishna was known as such because of his dark complexion. Although there are stories of him slaying demons in his childhood when they are sent by his Uncle Kansa to kill him, there is no mentioning of KudakalaKresna as one such demon.

+ Godhayitma: described as younger brother of Bomanarakasura.

Although some sources say that Narakasura had siblings nothing is mentioned about them; they in fact get killed by Lord Shiva. Narakasura gets killed by Satyabhama, wife of Krishna who is also the reincarnation of Bhudevi, the Earth goddess.

+ In a famous story Sadewa cures Durga, returning her to her original shape as Uma. Is there an equivalent? Kalima is an ogress in this story that falls in love with Sadewa.

That’s interesting. In Mahabharata from what I know, none of the Pandavas cure a woman in particular. In fact Durga in Indian mythology is known as the warrior mother goddess and the Pandavas are also seens as Shivamsam (different forms of Lord Shiva). There is Kali, known as the fiercest form of the mother goddess; she however is not mentioned in the Mahabharata; she is the wife of Lord Shiva. There is one instance where Sahadeva and Nakul cure Karna actually when he gets wounded during war; they do it reluctantly but have no choice as their mother Kunti asks them to do so.

+ I found a source citing \* Kartamarma \* as Kritavarma, can you check?

There is a character known as Kritavarma who belongs to Yadava clan (which is the same clan as Krishna). He is the commander in chief of the Narayani Sena which is the army of Krishna. Prior to the war Krishna offers his help to the both the Pandavas and Kauravas with two options: they could take him as their charioteer or his strong Narayani sena army. Arjuna chooses Krishna while Duryodhana chooses Krishna’s army; this causes Kritavarma to fight for the Kaurvas.

+ Nagagini is the mother of Antareja (one of the sons of Bhima). He has three sons in Java: Antareja, Antasena and Gatotkaca. What about in India?

In India, Bhima is mentioned to have three sons, but the son mentioned the most is Ghatotkacha and Hidimbi is mostly mentioned as the wife of Bhima (apart from Draupadi).

+ In the description of Tambrapeta it says "He marries Karenumati, Princess of Chedi". Does this mean that the name Tambrapeta is found in the Indian version?

In the book Devlok by Devdutt Patanaik, Nakula is said to have married Karenumati, Princess of Chedi. They have a son named Niramitra. Is it possible that Nakula and Tambrapeta are the same person?

+ Udawa: I found that in India he is Uddhava or Pawanayadi. He is not Basudewa's son, but still accompanies Kresna.

Uddava comes in Srimad Bhagavata Purana as well which teaches bhakti yoga (that is renouncing the world and going in Sanyasa). After the Mahabharata war, Uddava meets Krishna who is his close friend. He asks Krishna questions such as why Krishna did not stop the game of dice which Yuddhishtra played with the Kauravas as well as about the war that took place within their own Yadava clan. These discussion become the Uddava Gita whereby Krishna guides Uddava on devotion and renunciation. While the Bhagavad Gita given to Arjuna focuses on Karma yoga (attaining salvation by doing ones duties as a householder with detachment), the Uddava gita focuses on bhakti yoga (renunciant).

+ Yamadipati: I found that Yama or Yamarāja, also called Imra, is a God of death in Hinduism.

Yama is known as the God of death and the God of righteousness hence making him known famously as Yama-dharma-raja. He is also known to be the son of the Sun god Surya and his wife Sanjana (daughter of Vishwakarma, the architect of Gods) and the father of Yudhishtra and Kunti.

+ If Kala Pracona and Sekipu are not mentioned, what is the story of the birth of Gatotkaca? Gatotkaca is said to be born in order to defeat an ogre king (Pracona) who is attacking the heavens.

Gatotkacha’s main role comes in the Mahabharata war where he fights for the Pandavas and when he helps Abhimanyu get married to Vatsala (This story however in mentioned in Telugu and Kannada literature).

+ Amarta is originally demon kingdom ruled by king Yudhistira. Yudhistira and his brothers decide to reincarnate into the bodies of the Pandawa. Hence, Puntadewa gets the name Yudhistira and the kingdom of Amarta. Is there any equivalent story?

No there is no equivalent story to this. However, a demon Maya who actually builds the Indraprastha palace for Pandavas.

+ If Saragupita is not mentioned, then who is the minister of Basudewa? Could also be called SARAGUPTA. His name sounds more Sanskrit than Javanese.

It is Vasudeva who actually works for King Ugrasena as a minister although he is born to a King himself. The reason for why he works as such is not mentioned.

+ If Basudewa only has two wives, please write the full description of Rohini as well.

Some sources seem to claim that Vasudeva had 16/18 wives. However Devaki and Rohini are the ones prominently mentioned. Rohini lives alone when her husband Vasudeva and Kunti get imprisoned by Kansa. When Kunti is expecting her seventh child (Balarama), it is said that the child gets transferred to Rohini’s womb (thus making her a surrogate mother). When Krishna is born and adopted by Nanda and Yashoda, Rohini moves to Gokul to watch over Krishna during the absence of his biological parents.

+ In a famous story Bhima meets a miniature version of himself... any equivalents?

There is no similar story to this narrative. However towards the end when the Pandavas visit both Dhritarashtra and Gandhari (their uncle and aunt) after the Mahabharata war Krishna creates a statue of Bhima and holds Bhima back when the blind Dhritarashtra comes to embrace him. He replaces Bhima with the statue of Bhima, placed in front of Dhritarashtra. It is said that hatred for Bhima was so great (Bhima had killed Dhritarashtra’s beloved son Duryodhana), that Dhritarashtra hugs the statue with so much of rage that it breaks in pieces leaving Bhima with a huge shock.

+ Panyarikan could also be called Parma and he is a God. Anything?

Parma sounds close to “Parama”. There is a mentioning of Parama Ishwara in the Bhagavad Gita 11.3. which means “Supreme Lord”. It could also be referring to Parameshwara, another name for Lord Shiva.

+ Does Baladewa also protect the heavens against an invasion of ogres or something equivalent? The ogre in question is called Nagaprasanta in Java.

In the Indian version, King Dushyanta, father of Bharata (ancestor of the Pandavas) is said to have went to Devaloka to fight against invasion by asuras. Balarama is known for killing Dhenukasura, a demon who comes in the form of a donkey during his childhood.