

- on the surface of the Ganges when invoked by Vyāsa. (M.B. Āsramavāsika Parva, Chapter 32, Verse 12).
- SOMADHEYA.** An ancient country in east Bhārata. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 30, Verse 10, that Bhīmasena defeated the people of this country.
- SOMAGIRI.** A mountain. This mountain ought to be thought of every morning and evening. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 165, Verse 33).
- SOMAKA I.** It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, Verse 40, that all the Kṣatriyas of the Somaka dynasty are called Somakas.
- SOMAKA II.**
- 1) *General information.* A King of Pāñcāla. This generous King was the son of Sahadeva and the grandson of Subhāsa. In accordance with the advice of Brahmins, the King once sacrificed his son. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 128 that on completion of the sacrifice he got one hundred sons.
 - 2) *Other details.*
 - (i) This King Somaka travelled with his priests, through the holy worlds and hell and returned. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 128, Verse 11).
 - (ii) King Somaka made offerings of cows as alms and attained heaven. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 76, Verse 25).
 - (iii) Never had he eaten flesh in his life. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 115, Verse 63).
 - (iv) Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 8, Stanza 8, that this Somaka stays in the palace of Yama praising him.
- SOMAKĪRTI.** One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Verse 99).
- SOMAPA I.** A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 70).
- SOMAPA II.** An eternal god of offerings to the manes. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Verse 34).
- SOMAPĀ (SOMALA).** One of the seven Pitṛs. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11, Verse 49, that this god dwells in the palace of Brahmā.
- SOMAPADA.** A holy place. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 34, Verse 119, that those who bathe in the particular holy bath called Māheśvarapāda in this place will obtain the fruits of a horse-sacrifice.
- SOMAŚARMĀ I.** A brahmin. (See under Guṇādhyā).
- SOMAŚARMĀ II.** Son of the brahmin Śivaśarmā. (For detailed story see under Śivaśarmā).
- SOMĀŚRAMA.** A holy place. He who visits this holy place will be praised by others. (Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Verse 157).
- SOMAŚRAVAS.** A hermit. His father was Śrutaśravas. Once King Janamejaya approached Śrutaśravas and requested him to let him have Somaśravas as sacrificial priest. (For further details see under Śrutaśravas III).
- SOMĀŚRAYĀṆA.** An ancient holy place situated in the basin of the Gaṅgā. The Pāṇḍavas visited this holy place while they were on their way to Pāñcāla from Ekacakrā. It was in this place that Citraratha the Gandharva who had been defeated by Arjuna, had enjoyed bathing sports with girls. It was because of these two facts that Somāśrayāṇa became a holy place. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 169, Verse 3).
- SOMATĪRTHA I.** An ancient holy place situated in Kurukṣetra. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 83, Verse 19, that one could attain the fruits of the sacrifice of royal consecration by bathing in this holy bath.
- SOMATĪRTHA II.** Another ancient holy bath situated in Kurukṣetra. In Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 83, Stanza 114, it is mentioned that by bathing in this holy place, one could attain the world of Candra (Moon). (See under Prabhāsa Tīrtha also).
- SOMAVARCAS.** An eternal god of offering to the manes. (Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Stanza 33).
- ŚOṆĀ NADĪ.** A river famous in the Purāṇas. Some important facts about this river are given below :-
- (i) River Śoṇā remains in Varuṇa's assembly worshipping him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 21).
 - (ii) Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa crossed this river on his way from Indraprastha to Rājagṛha. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 20, Verse 27).
 - (iii) There is a sacred place called "Vamśagulma tīrtha" in river Śoṇā. By bathing in it one gets the benefit of Aśvamedha Yāga. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 85, Verse 8).
 - (iv) River Śoṇā is regarded as the source of Agni. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 222, Verse 25).
 - (v) Viśvāmitra, Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa took rest for a night on the banks of river Śoṇā. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bāla Kāṇḍa, 31st Sarga).
- ŚOṆITAPŪRA.** The capital city of Bāṇāsura. This city was protected by Śiva, Kārttikeya, Bhadrakālī, Agni and other divinities. In the battle between Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Bāṇa, the former defeated all the sentries and entered the city through the northern gate. Within the fort, Bāṇa was defeated. Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Dākṣiṇātya Pāṭha, Chapter 38 mentions that Śrī Kṛṣṇa released Aniruddha and Uṣā from their prison.
- ŚOṆITODA.** A Yakṣa. He remains in Kubera's assembly and worships him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 10, Verse 17).
- ŚRADDHĀ I.** A daughter born to Dakṣa Prajāpati by his wife Prasūti. Twentyfour daughters were born to them. Of them, thirteen were the wives of Dharmadeva including Śraddhā. Dharmadeva had a son named Kāma by Śraddhā. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part 1, Chapter 7).
- ŚRADDHĀ II.** Sūrya's daughter. She had several other names such as, Vaivasvatī, Sāvitrī, Prasavitrī etc. (For more details, see under Sāvitrī I).
- ŚRADDHĀ III.** Wife of Vaivasvata Manu. (See under Vaivasvata Manu).
- ŚRADDHĀ IV.** Daughter born to Kardama Prajāpati by Devahūti. She became the wife of Aṅgiras. They had two sons, Utatthya and Bṛhaspati and four daughters, Sinivālī, Kuhū, Rākā and Anumati. (Bhāgavata, 3rd Skandha).
- ŚRĀDDHA.** The offering given to Pitṛs. According to the Purāṇas Śrāddha is a very important ceremony. Here, "Pitṛs" does not mean "the souls of the dead". Pitṛs belong to a special class of gods.
- ŚRĀDDHAPARVA.** A sub-division of Strī Parva in Mahābhārata. It comprises Chapters 26 and 27 of Strī Parva.
- ŚRADDHĀVATĪ.** A city of Varuṇa. (See under Aṣṭadikpālakas).