

2. *Hariṣeṇa* (No. 1, L. 32) :

He is given several titles indicating offices held of a *Khādya-tapākika*,⁵⁸ a *Sāndhivigrahika*, a *Kumārāmātya* and a *Mahādaṇḍanāyaka* of Samudragupta. He is also the composer of this inscription which has been termed as a *kāvya*.⁵⁹

Hari is Viṣṇu or Kṛṣṇa and *seṇa* is to be obtained from Sanskrit *senā*. The name can be explained in two ways. That Hari is his personal name and *ṣeṇa* or *seṇa* his surname. We may also explain it is, 'one with Hari as his army'. The Mahābhārata informs us that there was big army on the side of the Kauarvas and there was only Hari, i.e., Lord Kṛṣṇa on the side of the Pāṇḍavas. The Pāṇḍavas could get Hari on their side by foregoing the Yādava army to the Kauravas.

3. *Vīrasena* (No. 6, L.4) :

Hailing from Pāṭaliputra he was Candragupta II's minister for peace and war by hereditary right⁶⁰ and accompanied the king on his far-reaching military expeditions. The first part is *Vīra* which means 'brave' and the second is '*seṇa*', the whole literally meaning 'one with a brave army'. Pāṇini refers to *Senānta* names in his Aṣṭādhyāyī.⁶¹ We find many such names as *Vārisena*, *Ṛṣṭiṣeṇa*, *Bhīmasena* and *Ugrasena*.⁶² U.N. Roy conjectures the possibility of the composition of the '*Praśasti*' inscribed on the Meharauli Iron Pillar Inscription by Śāba alias *Vīrasena* who was an accomplished poet and a favourite minister of Candragupta II, Vikramāditya.⁶³ It is possible that he outlived his patron and when during a *Dharmayātrā* he revisited the spot where the lofty banner had been raised as a mark of homage to Lord Viṣṇu after the victory over the Vāhlikas, was moved to compose and inscribe this *Praśasti* on the Meharauli Pillar.⁶⁴

Names of Commanders

1. *Dattabhaṭa* (No. 32, L.7) :

A son of Vāyurakṣita, himself also a general of the armies of king Prabhākara (appointed by him). We find here the word 'datta' used as the first part of the name. The second part is '*bhaṭa*' which means a 'warrior'.

2. *Dhruvabhūti* (No. 1, L. 32) :

He was a mahādaṇḍanāyaka and is mentioned in the