I. INTRODUCTION

Names after the weapon, Bow and Arrow
Dhanaka, Dhanusa, Dhanushksha or
Dhanushakaha, or Dhanusha-Khya-(Uprichara)
Dhanushka, Satadhanoo, Satadhanu,
Satadhanush, Satadhanwan, Drghadhanush,
Sudhanush or Sudhanvan, Dhanuka,
Dhanuvakrt, Drghadhanvin, Dhanvin,
Sudhanva, Dhanurdhara, Uttamdhhanvin,
Ishudhara, Ishukara, Dhanak, Dhanka,

Hindu Iconography:

The Images of the Hindu Gods and Godesses, Ayudha, various kinds of weapons.

The Arrows:

Two kinds of arrows, i.e. Vainava and AyaSa.

The Quiver:

The Store-house of the arrows, known as Ishudhi, the companion of the bow.
The weapon - its three most essential limbs - the bow, the arrow, the quiver.
Its literary and archaeological accounts. Indigenous and foreign.

Ausanasa Dhanurveda Sañkalanañ
Kodanda Mandana or Bana-Vidyä

Dhanurveda Samhitä of Vaisista

Indian sculptures ornamented with bow and arrows

Wall paintings of Bows and Arrows.
The weapons -its association with the military personnels.
II. VEDIC AGE

The primitive man and his weapons
Invention of bow and arrow.

The word Ṛṣyudha—its meaning.
The chief weapons of the Vedic fighters: the bow and arrow.

The Dhanaks and their association with the ten Rigvedic Tribes.
The Purus ... Mathurakas or Šūrasenakas.
The Śivas — sons of Usínara—their town Śivapura, Later on Sehwan.

The Pakthas — ancient Pāctiyae, an Aryan tribe. Later on Pakthun, Pashtun and Pathan.

The Dahae: The argumentative statements about their origin, Rigvedic Dāsa or an Iranian tribe.

The Brāhmaṇas.
War weapons and missiles
Emergence of new castes based on varieties of professions.

Dhanush and Iṣu, or Śaṇa in the Upanishadic doctrine.

III. EPICS

The Rāmāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata
Bow and arrow continued to be the principal weapon during the Epic period.
The weapons — offensive and defensive.

Military Organisation.
The Dhanakas and their association with the Rāmāyanaic Tribes.

The Śūrasenas
The Kirātas
The Kīrātadesa
The Kīrār Dhanaks or Dhanuks (Archers)
The Cushwaha or Cutchwah
The Birgujjar or Badgujjar
The Mahābhārata:

The Mahābhārata war between the Kuruas the Pandyas and their allies.

The offensive and defensive weapons of the Vedic period continued with further development during this period. The bows and arrows, their material and other weapons used in the Mahābhārata.

The Cavalry

The elephant ridders
The Quiver
The Arrows

The first battle started in the first hour of the first day between the Kauravas and the Pandyas and their allies who were equipped with the chief weapons of the Vedic period, the bow and arrow; though they used other weapons also.

The war ended after eighteen days.

The fighting tribes of the Mahābhārata and their association with the modern Dhanaks or Dhanuks (Panini's Dhanushkas).

IV. PURANIC EVIDENCES

The principal weapon Bow and Arrow (Dhanush or Dhanvan and Iṣu or Śana) of the Rigvedic soldiers (Archers) was handed down to the late generations of the Indian archers (Dhanushkas or Dhanvins).

The Divisions of the Army

Arms, weapons and operational methods Agni Purāṇa and other sources.

Bows and arrows as offensive weapons.

The Science of Archery (Dhanurveda) Agni Purāṇam, recommends useful position and postures which help the warriors in expertising the art of archery (Dhanurveda)

The Samapāda, the Vaiśakha, the Mandala, the Alidha, the Pratalidha, the Vikata, the Sthanam, the Kischala, the Samputa, the Swastika.
The noosa and its eleven ways of manipulation.

The five ways of casting a noose

Discus (Chakra)

Shula (sula), Tomara, Gada, Paraśhu, Bhindipāla, Vajra, Pattisha, Sword, Kshepani, wrestling, the war-elephants

Material of weapons

Bow (Dhanush or Dhanvan)
String (Jya), wooden bow and Iron Bow.

The religious rites and their association with the war-strategies.

V. ASHTADHYAYI

Traditional four-fold divisions of the army in Pāṇini's time.

The Archers (Dhānushkas)

Arms and weapons

The arrows

The Art of War

Pāṇini's Āyudhajivi Saṅghas (Republcs)
Saṅghas in Vāhika

The Parvatiyas or Mountaineers

Jyābhāneysa, Jyā-hroda
Brāhmanāka

Pāṇini's Āyudhajivis and their association with the Dhanaks or Dhanuks (Dhānushkas)

A graphical sketch

Janapadas.

VI. JAINA AND BUDDHIST ACCOUNTS

The Jatakas

The Sage little bowman and Bhimasena (a weaver)

Prince Peerless, skilled in archer's craft

The story of four pretended wisemen and one real wiseman.
Army and its four parts

Weapons

The archers (Dhanuggaha=Dhanushkas)

The Dhanakas (Dhanushkas) and their association with the tribes of Buddha's time.

The Nagar Dhanaks (Dhanushkas)
The Birgujar and Cutchwah or Kachchwhah Dhanaka (Dhanushkas)
The Sehwan Dhanaks (Dhanushkas)
The Mathurya-Dhanuks (Dhanushkas)
The Kaith Dhanaks (Dhanushkas)

Army organisation during the Mauryan period.

The Indian kings and their contacts with foreign races

The Mauryan kingdom

Weapons and Engines

The immovable machines (Sthirayantram)
The moveable machines

Bow and Arrows - made of...

Sculptural description of arms and armour

Sanchi and Bharhut

Iconography

The Dhanaks (Dhanushkas) and their association with the tribes of Mauryan period.

The Morval Dhanaks (Dhanushkas)
The Panvar Dhanaks (Dhanushkas)
The Bagri, Shatti and Mahar Dhanaks (Dhanushkas)
The Dhanuks (Dhanushkas) as hereditary watchers on the city-walls during the Mauryan period.
VII. MUNISMATIC INFORMATION 231-240

Samudra Gupta - Tiger type Coins with bow and arrow.

Chandragupta-II - Archer type class I
Lion-slayer type class-I
Shooting with bow at lion.

Kumara Gupta-I : Archer type
Var - a Horseman type class-II with bow.

Skandagupta : Archer type.

Kumaragupta-II
Vikramaditya : Archer type class-I and others.

VIII. THE DHANAKA FAMILY (matrimonially connected with the Ikṣvāku-kings Andhradesa, c. 200-625 A.D.) 241-269

The Dhanak family of Nāga descent
The Deities Skanda and Viṣakha and their association with the Dhanaks family.

The Nāgas in the Vedic Literature.
Vedic Ahi (Serpent) Vṛtra
The Nāgas of Patālaloka (Saurāśthra)
The Nāgas in the Epics
The Nāgas in the Purāṇas

The Nāgas in the Buddhist literature
The sarpas or Nāgas (Serpent worshippers) and their origin.
The Nāgas in Indian History.
The foundation of Dhanakataka dynasty.
The Taks or Takkas (Skt. Takshacs=Nāgas) at the time of Alexander's Invasion.
The Dhanaka family of Nāga origin

The Nāgas as contributors to the art of Archery (Dhanurveda)

The Scythians or Sakas their origin and association with the Indian Archers (Dhanushkas).

IX. CONCLUSION 270-296

Scythes was born with bow (Dhanush)

Sak or Sacae meaning archer (Dhanushkas)

Scythes had two sons—Pālas and Nāpas or the Scythic Pali and the Takshacs or Nāgas.

Appollo, Prithu and Scythes were associated with the weapon bow and arrow.

The Nāgas as Rajputs—The Tutta, Takshac and Tak related to the Mori, Paramara, etc.

Indian archers (Dhanushkas) included many nationalities, Turks, Persians, Afghans, Mangols, Arabs and Indians.

Indian Archers (Dhanushkas = Dhanuks) in the provincial army of Bihar.

Bow and arrow (Persian: رامان ات ترا) with which the Mughal foot-soldiers were equipped throughout the Mughal period.

Indian Archers (Dhanushkas = Dhanuks) used the weapon bow and arrow against the Britishers in 1857.

Under the Delhi Sultanate cavalry formed the backbone of the military. The horsemen were equipped with two swords, a dagger, a bow and arrow. The archers were called Dhanuks.

The Bhils who were prowess in archery constituted the bulk of the forces of Maharāṇā Pratāp.

The Bhilavars and the Mināvars were
the original inhabitants of India.

Racial elements in Indian archers (Dhanushkas).

Endogamy and Exogamy, meaning
Divisions, subdivisions, sub-castes, amongst Dhanaks or Dhanuks.

The decadence of archery.

Tribal archery

Animal food, requirements of tribal people.

The distribution of bow types among modern primitives.

The existence of arrow-straighteners implies the existence of the arrow.

Human sacrifice among the tribal people.

Binda Parab (festival) and its association with the animal sacrifice.

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