

5. 80. 7.

Vārāṇasī f. : Name of a town, capital of Kāśī, hence referred to also as Kāśīpurī (5. 175. 17; 6. 14. 6; 13. 154. 23); Kāśīnagarī (5. 174. 11).

A. History : It was founded by Divodāsa, son of Sudeva, at the instance of Indra (*divodāsa tu ... vārāṇasīm mahātejā nirmame śakraśāsanāt*) 13. 31. 16. B. Location : On the northern bank of Gaṅgā, behind a protective wall, and to the south of the river Gomati (*gaṅgāyā uttare kūle vapraṇte ... / gomatyā dakṣiṇe caiva*) 13. 31. 18 (Nī. on Bom. Ed. 13. 30. 18 : *vapraṇte taṭasamīpe*). C. Capital town : Place of residence of the king of Kāśī (*kāśīpatī rājā vārāṇasyām*) 5. 49. 38. D. (1) Description : Crowded with all the four classes (*viprakṣatriyasambādham vaiśyaśūdrasamākulām*) 13. 31. 17; having heaps of many kinds of goods (*naikadravyocayavatī*) 13. 31. 17; having markets of prosperous shops (*saṃṛddhaviṇāṇāpanā*) 13. 31. 17. (2) Called purī 1. 96. 4; 12. 253. 45; 13. 31. 22; 14. 6. 27, 28, 29; (*kāśī*) purī 5. 175. 17; 6. 14. 6; 13. 154. 23; *nagarī* 5. 47. 40; 14. 6. 22; (*kāśī*) *nagarī* 5. 174. 11. E. Holy place : One who worships Vṛṣadhva (Śiva) at Vārāṇasī gets the fruits of a rājasūya sacrifice 3. 82. 69. F. Epic events : (1) Hearing that the three Kāśī princesses were holding a svayamvara, Bhīṣma, in a single chariot, went to the town Vārāṇasī (*rathenaikena ... / jagāma ... purīm vārāṇasīm prati*) 1. 96. 3-4; all the Kṣatriyas had then assembled at Kāśīpurī for the svayamvara 5. 175. 17; Bhīṣma's victory over the Kṣatriyas, single-handed, at Kāśīpurī referred to by Saṃjaya while reporting Bhīṣma's fall in the

war (*jigāyākarathenaiva kāśīpurīyām mahārathāḥ*) 6. 14. 6; this incident that occurred in Vārāṇasī is referred to by Yudhiṣṭhira while lamenting over the death of Bhīṣma 12. 27. 9; also by Gaṅgā (*saṃetaṃ pāṇthivāṃ kṣatraṃ kāśīpurīyām svayamvare / vijityaikarathenājau kanyās tā yo jahāra ha ||*) 13. 154. 23; (2) Ambā told the ascetics that it was impossible for her to go back to her father's house in Kāśīnagarī since she would be disrespected by her relatives (*na śakyam kāśīnagarīm punar gantum pitur gṛhān*) 5. 174. 11; (3) Dhṛṣṭadyumna in a battle at Vārāṇasī felled down with a bhalla arrow the son of Kāśīrāja, who was greedy for women, from his chariot (this event is not reported in the epic) (*yaḥ* (i. e. Dhṛṣṭadyumna) *putram kāśīrājasya vārāṇasyām mahāratham / samare strīṣu gṛdhyantaṃ bhallenāpaharad rathāt*) 7. 9. 56; (4) Kṛṣṇa had burnt the town Vārāṇasī which remained without a protector for a number of years (this incident is not reported in the epic) (*anena* (i. e. by Kṛṣṇa) *dagdhā varṣapūgān vināthā vārāṇasī nagarī sambabhūva*) 5. 47. 70. G. Past events : (1) The Hehayas attacked king Divodāsa who lived in Vārāṇasī, the city founded by him; Divodāsa came out of the town to fight with them 13. 31. 19-20; the battle lasted for a thousand days (*dinānām daśatīrdaśa*) (Nī. on Bom. Ed. 13. 30. 21 : *daśatīśabdo 'pi daśagunitān daśa brūte*); with his army killed and his treasury empty, Divodāsa fled from the town (*hatayodhas tato rājan kṣīṇakośaś ca bhūmipah / divodāsaḥ purīm hitvā palāyanaparo 'bhavat ||*) 13. 31. 21-22; (2) A merchant of great fame, Tulādhāra by name, lived in Vārāṇasī; the Piśācas told Jājali that even Tulādhāra did