

by wind' : *yad varṣasya dvāraṁ eṣo 'nubhūyamāno vātikaṣaṇḍo vātānītaḥ padmādīśa-mūho nātyavartata ... / anena vāyor apy asmin varṣe praveśo nāsti kimutetarasyeti /* NI. coustrues the stanza quite differently. He connects it with the *varṣam* of the preceding stanza (12) and according to him the stanza is intended to reveal the prowess of (Paraśu)Rāma.

Vāraṇā f. : Short for Vāraṇāvata ?

One of the places to which the army of the Kauravas, gathered for the war, spread out since it could not be contained in Hāstinapura (*na hāstinapure rājann avakāśo 'bhavat tadā* 5. 19. 28; *vāraṇā vāṭadhānaṁ ca / ... eṣa deśaḥ suvistīrṇaḥ ... babhūva kauraveyāṇāṁ balena susamākulaḥ*) 5. 19. 30-31.

Vāraṇāvata nt. : Name of a city.

A. Description : Pleasing (*ramya*) 1. 131. 2, 5; (*ramaṇīya*) 1. 131. 14; more pleasing than any other town (*ramaṇīyataram loke*) 1. 131. 7; attractive place for men (*puṁsām deśe manorame*) 1. 131. 4; full of all kinds of jewels (*sarvaratnasamākīrṇa*) 1. 131. 4; full of people (*janākīrṇa*) 1. 131. 14; usually referred to as *nagara* 1. 131. 2, 3, 5, 7, 14; 1. 132. 15, 18; 1. 134. 1; 1. 137. 12, 17; 2. 69. 12; 10. 11. 23; the people of the town called *nagara* (*nāgarāṁ janam*) 1. 133. 30; (*nāgaro janaḥ*) 1. 131. 1; (*nāgarāḥ*) 1. 137. 9; (*narāḥ nagaravāsinaḥ*) 1. 135. 21; on a few occasions referred to as *pura* 1. 134. 6; people of the town called *paura* 1. 134. 5, 8; *puranivāsin* 1. 134. 10; called *grāma* when listed among the places for which the Pāṇḍavas were ready to settle with the Kauravas 5. 31. 20; 5. 70. 14; 5. 80. 7. **B. Place of festival** : A famous festival in

honour of god Paśupati (Śiva) used to be held at Vāraṇāvata which attracted visitors; it used to be the talk of the nearby towns like Hāstinapura (*kecit kuśalamantriṇaḥ / kathayāṁ cakrire ... ayaṁ samājaḥ sumahān ramāṇiyataro bhuvi / upasthitaḥ paśupater nagare vāraṇāvate*) 1. 131. 2-3, 8 (NI. on Bom. Ed. 1. 143. 3 : *samājaḥ paśupateḥ pūjārtham melakaḥ*). **C. Epic events** : (1) Duryodhana suggested to Dhṛtarāṣṭra to persuade the Pāṇḍavas to visit Vāraṇāvata and stay there for some time; they would return from there to Hāstinapura when Duryodhana felt established in the kingdom (*vivāsayitum arhati mṛdunaivābhyupāyena nagaram vāraṇāvataṁ*) 1. 130. 10-11; there would be no fault in removing the Pāṇḍavas and their mother to Vāraṇāvata (*nātra doṣo bhaviṣyati*) 1. 130. 19; at the instance of Dhṛtarāṣṭra his clever ministers began to praise Vāraṇāvata 1. 131. 2-5; hearing the description of Vāraṇāvata, the Pāṇḍavas desired to go there; Dhṛtarāṣṭra permitted the Pāṇḍavas to go to Vāraṇāvata to see the festival and enjoy themselves there; they might give gifts to Brāhmaṇas and singers as desired and then return to Hāstinapura 1. 131. 7-10; Yudhiṣṭhira told Bhīṣma and others his wish to live in Vāraṇāvata for some days and prayed for their blessings so that no harm would come to them (*āśīrbhir var-dhītān asmān na pāpam praśahiṣyati*) 1. 131. 14-15; after receiving the blessings the Pāṇḍavas left for Vāraṇāvata 1. 131. 18; (2) Duryodhana told Purocana that the Pāṇḍavas were sent away to Vāraṇāvata by Dhṛtarāṣṭra for the festival there; he asked Purocana to rush to Vāraṇāvata the same day in a chariot drawn by don-