

deśaḥ paraḥ smṛtaḥ | muntideśāt paraś caiva procyate dundubhisvanaḥ); all the Deśas of Krauñcadvīpa were frequented by gods and Gandharvas (*devagandharvasevītāḥ*) 6. 13. 22-23.

Mūṣaka m. (pl.) : Name of a Janapada.

Listed by Samjaya twice among the southern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of Bhāratavarṣa (*athāpare janapadā dakṣiṇā ...*) 6. 10. 56, 5; (*vikalpā mūṣakās tathā*) 6. 10. 57; (*mūṣakāḥ stanabālāś ca*) 6. 10. 62.

Mekala m. (pl.) : Name of a Janapada and its people.

A. Location : Listed by Samjaya among the northern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvaṃ janapadān nibodha*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*mekalāś cotkalaiḥ saha*) 6. 10. 39; (perhaps in the east, since they are mentioned along with Utkalas).

B. Description : Their warriors skilled in fighting while riding elephants (*gajayuddheṣu kuśalāḥ; gajayodhinaḥ*) 8. 17. 3, 2. **C. Social status** : Characterized as *mlecchas* 8. 17. 9; originally Kṣatriyas, they were degraded to the status of *vṛśalas* since they disregarded Brāhmaṇas (*mekalāḥ ... vṛśalatvam anuprāptā brāhmaṇānām adarśanāt*) 13. 35. 17-18.

D. Epic events : (1) On the second day of war, Droṇa supported by Mekalas and other warriors followed Bhīṣma who led the Mahāvīyūha of the Kauravas (*vidarbhair mekalaiś caiva*) 6. 47. 13, 10; (2) On the eighth day, Bṛhadbala along with Mekalas and others followed Bhagadatta (who followed Droṇa and Bhīṣma) in the Mahāvīyūha of the

Kauravas (*mekalaiś traipuraiś caiva*) 6. 83. 9, 5; (3) On the sixteenth day, as ordered by Duryodhana, angry Mekalas and other warriors attacked Dhṛṣṭadyumna with elephants in order to kill him (*hastibhis tu mahāmātrās tava putreṇa coditāḥ | ...kruddhāḥ pārśatam abhyayuh || ...mekalā ...*); they showered him with *tomaras* and *nārāca* arrows; Dhṛṣṭadyumna repulsed their attack with *nārāca* arrows by hitting each elephant with six, eight, or ten arrows (*ekaikam daśabhiḥ śadbhir aṣṭābhir api bhārata | dvitradān abhivivṛdha*) 8. 17. 1-6; later they attacked Nakula with elephants showering arrows and *tomaras* on him; the battle that ensued between chariot- and elephant-fighters described 8. 17. 20-28.

Mauka m. (pl.) : Name of a Janapada.

Listed by Samjaya among the northern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvaṃ janapadān nibodha*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*bodhā maukāś tathaiva ca*) 6. 10. 38.

Mauleya m. (pl.) : Name of a people.

Their Kṣatriyas and those of Vasātis and others brought wealth in hundreds as tribute for Yudhiṣṭhira's Rājasūya (*vasātayaḥ samauleyāḥ ... || āhārṣuḥ kṣatriyā vittaṃ śataśo 'jātaśatrave*) 2. 48. 14, 16.

Mauṣṭika m. (pl.) : Name of a people.

As told by Karṇa to Śalya, according to the Rākṣasa Kalmāṣapāda, Mauṣṭikas were as good as the dirt of Mlecchas, and Śaṇḍas were the dirt of Mauṣṭikas (*mlecchānām mauṣṭikā malam | mauṣṭikānām malam śaṇḍāḥ*) 8. 30. 70 [See P. L.,