

A. Description : All Nārāyaṇas acted as warriors (*sarve saṁgrāmayodhinaḥ*) 5. 7. 16; as warriors, equal to Kṛṣṇa in firmness (*matsaṁhananātulya*) 5. 7. 16; difficult to be assailed in war (*te vā yudhi durādharṣā ...*) 5. 7. 17; fierce in war (*yuddhadurmada*) 9. 2. 36; in wars, they fought with weapons of different kinds (*vividhāyudhapāṇi*) 7. 18. 7. **B. Epic events :** (1) A large number of Gopas called Nārāyaṇas, an *arbuda* strong, were taken by Duryodhana to fight from his side (*gopānām arbudam mahat / nārāyaṇā iti khyātāḥ*) 5. 7. 16; (*sahasrāṇām sahasraṁ tu*) 5. 7. 20-21; (2) On the twelfth day of war, the fleeing Nārāyaṇa Gopālas who formed a part of the army of the Samśaptakas, incited by Suśarman, returned to the battlefield determined to fight till death (*saṁśaptakagaṇāḥ punaḥ / nārāyaṇāś ca gopālāḥ kṛtvā mṛtyum nivartanam*) 7. 17. 31; the angry Nārāyaṇas surrounded Arjuna and covered him with arrows; they made both Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna invisible for a while; Arjuna employed *tvāṣṭra astra* against them; bewildered by the *astra*, they killed each other; the *astra* reduced to ashes the arrows released by Nārāyaṇas and killed them 7. 18. 7-8, 11-15; later in the day, Arjuna fought with the remainder of the Samśaptakas and Nārāyaṇas stationed to the right side of the army (*dakṣiṇena tu senāyāḥ kurute kadanam balī / saṁśaptakāvaśeṣasya nārāyaṇabalasya ca*) 7. 30. 29; (3) On the fourteenth day, the Nārāyaṇa Gopālas tried to check the march of Arjuna in the direction of Jayadratha; they were determined to risk their lives while fighting with Arjuna (*nārāyaṇāś ca gopālāḥ ... tyaktvātmāno 'rjunam prati*)

7. 66. 38-39; (4) On the sixteenth day, the army of the Nārāyaṇa Gopālas stood at the left foot of the Makaravyūha (8. 7. 14) of the Kauravas; they were led by Kṛtavarmaṇ (*kṛtavarmā vyavasthitaḥ / nārāyaṇabalair yukto gopālair ...*) 8. 7. 17; they (*nārāyaṇabalaṁ ca yat*) and the Samśaptakas attacked Arjuna 8. 19. 2; (5) On the seventeenth day, Arjuna killed the army of the Nārāyaṇas (*nārāyaṇabalaṁ ca yat*) and the Kosalas and the Samśaptakas 8. 37. 2; (6) Mentioned by Dhṛtarāṣṭra among those who were killed in the war (*nārāyaṇā hatā yatra gopālā ...*) 9. 2. 36.

Niṣadha m. (pl.) : Name of a Janapada and its people; the people also called Naiṣadha (3. 58. 18).

A. Location : Listed by Samjaya among the northern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of the Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvaṁ janapadān nibodha*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*niṣādā niṣadhāḥ*) 6. 10. 50. **B. Description :** Skilled in fighting while riding elephants (*gajayuddheṣu kuśalāḥ*) 8. 17. 3; (*gajayodhin*) 8. 17. 2. **C. Epic events :** On the sixteenth day of war, the Niṣadha warriors, incited by Duryodhana, attacked Dhṛṣṭadyumna 8. 17. 3; they showered arrows, *tomaras* and *nārāca* type of arrows on Dhṛṣṭadyumna 8. 17. 4 (the war described in 8. 17. 5 ff.). **D. Past events :** (1) Indra once took resort to a hermitage on a mountain in the Niṣadha country and lived there in disguise in order to subdue his enemies (*indreṇa niṣadhān prāpya giriprasthāśrame tadā / channenoṣya kṛtam karma*) 3. 299. 11; (2) The swan returned to the Niṣadha country and reported to Nala his meeting with Damayanti