

Listed by Saṁjaya among the northern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of the Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvaṁ janapadān nibodha*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*abhīsārāḥ kulūtās ca*) 6. 10. 52; Kṣemadhūrti, their king (*kulūtādhipatiḥ* 8. 8. 35), was killed by Bhīma (*nihatam nṛpatim dṛṣṭvā kulūtānām*) 8. 8. 45.

**Kuśadvīpa m.** : Name of one of the seven Dvīpas of the terrestrial world.

**A. Location** : They lie to the north (apparently of the Jambudvīpa) (*uttareṣu tu kauravya dvīpeṣu*) 6. 13. 1. **B. Distinctive features** as described by Saṁjaya to Dhṛtarāṣṭra 6. 12. 2 : (1) It has a bunch of Kuśa grass in the middle of the country (*kuśadvīpe kuśastambo madhye janapadasya ha*) 6. 13. 6; (2) There are six excellent mountains (*parvatottamāḥ*) in the Kuśadvīpa viz. : (1) Sudhāman, full of corals and unassailable (*vidrumaiś citāḥ ... durdharṣaḥ*), (2) Dyutimant, golden (*hemaparvataḥ*), (3) Kumuda, (4) Puṣpavant, (5) Kuśeśaya, and (6) Hari; the distance between these mountains doubles as one goes from one mountain to the other (*teṣāṁ antaraviṣkambho dviguṇaḥ pravibhāgaḥ*) 6. 13. 9–11. **C. Characteristics** common to all the seven Dvīpas : (1) All Dvīpas are progressively double the size of the Dvīpa preceding it (as one proceeds towards the north?) and they are all surrounded by mountains on all sides (*paraspāreṇa dviguṇāḥ sarve dvīpā narādhipa / sarvataś ca mahārāja parvataiḥ parivāritāḥ* ||) 6. 13. 3; (2) All Dvīpas receive different kinds of jewels from Jambudvīpa (*jambudvīpāt pravartante ratnāni vividhāny uta / dvīpeṣu teṣu sarveṣu*) 6. 13. 26; (3) The state of health and the duration of life

progressively doubles in these Dvīpas owing to *brahmacarya*, truth, and self-control of the Brāhmaṇas (*viprāṇāṁ brahmacariyeṇa satyena ca damena ea / ārogyāyuhpramāṇābhyāṁ dviguṇaṁ dviguṇaṁ tataḥ*) 6. 13. 27; (4) In these islands there is only one Janapada and even if in some there are many Janapadas there is only one *dharma* in all of them (*eko janapado rājan dvīpeṣv eteṣu bhārata / uktā janapadyeṣu dharmas caikaḥ pradṛśyate* ||) 6. 13. 28; (5) Prajāpati himself, raising his *daṇḍa*, protects the people of these Dvīpas, both dull and learned; he is their king, is kind to them, their father, and their grand-father (*īśvaro daṇḍam udyamya svayam eva prajāpatiḥ / dvīpān etān mahārāja rakṣaṁs tiṣṭhati nityadā || sa rājā sa śivo ... sa pitā sa pitāmahaḥ / gopāyati naraśreṣṭha prajāḥ sajadapaṇḍitāḥ* ||) 6. 13. 29–30; (3) People eat food received ready for use (*bhojanaṁ cātra kauravya prajāḥ svayam upasthitam / siddham eva mahārāja bhuñjate tatra nityadā* ||) 6. 13. 31. **D. Epic event** : Dhṛtarāṣṭra asked Saṁjaya to describe to him the different Dvīpas including the Kuśadvīpa 6. 12. 2. **E. Past event** : Upamanyu told Kṛṣṇa that the rulership of Kuśadvīpa was given to Vidyutprabha (Dānava) by the Unborn god (Śiva) (*kuśadvīpaṁ ca sa dadau rājyena bhagavān ajaḥ*) 13. 14. 57.

**Kuśabindu m. (pl.)** : Name of a Janapada.

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