

Listed by Samjaya among the southern Janapadas (also called Deśas 6. 10. 68) of the Bhāratavarṣa (*athāpare janapadā dakṣiṇā ...*) 6. 10. 56, 5; (*tathaiva vindhyapalakāḥ pulindāḥ ...*) 6. 10. 60.

Vitahavya : See Vaitahavya.

Vīraka m. (pl.) : Name of a people.

According to a Brāhmaṇa reporting to the Kuru assembly, a certain Rākṣasi described Vīrakas as those who followed bad *dharma* and therefore should be completely avoided (*karkoṭakān vīrakāṃś ca durdharmāṃś ca vīvarjayet*) 8. 30. 41, 45-46.

Vṛṣṇi m. (pl.) : Name of a people, occasionally referred to as Vārṣṇeyas; often mentioned along with Andhakas and sometimes also with Bhojas.

A. Location : They lived in the city Dvārakā; the city is referred to as *vṛṣṇipura* 3. 21. 4; 3. 180. 25; *vṛṣṇyandhakapura* 3. 16. 19 (see below Epic events No. 17). B. Origin : The origin of the Vṛṣṇi race is sought in the extensive race of Prajāpati known as the progeny of Śaśabindu (*prajāṃ ācakṣate viprāḥ paurāṇīm śaśabindaviṃ / sa vṛṣṇivamśaprabhavo mahāvamśaḥ prajāpateḥ* ||) 12. 201. 13 (Comm. Arjunamiśra on 12. 201. 11 : *śaśabinduḥ vṛṣṇinām pūrvajāḥ / so 'pi prajāpatiḥ*); see Editor's note, Cr. edn. Vol. 16, p. 2166). C. Greatness : While narrating the descent of the first generations (*ādivamśavatāra*), Vaiśampāyana told Janamejaya that the all-pervading Puruṣa took birth (as Kṛṣṇa) among the Vṛṣṇis and Andhakas for furthering the cause of *dharma* (*puruṣaḥ sa vibhuḥ ... / dharmasamvardhanārthāya prajāṃ 'ndhakavṛṣṇiṣu*) 1. 57. 87; Nārāyaṇa

was born as Kṛṣṇa in the family of Vṛṣṇis and Andhakas 2. 33. 17; 2. 34. 15. D. Description and characteristics : Of good nature (*sumanas*) 5. 84. 4; very fortunate (*sumahābhāga*) 12. 82. 8; having all enjoyments (*bhogavant*) 5. 28. 12; prosperous (*sphīta*) 5. 84. 3; prosperous because they were always active (*nityotthānena sampannāḥ*) 12. 82. 8; magnanimous (*mahātman*) 1. 213. 53; 3. 119. 2; 16. 9. 26; of great lustre (*sumahaujas*) 1. 211. 5; spirited (*manasvin*) 5. 28. 12; brave (*sūra*) and proud like lion (*simhādarpa*) 16. 9. 9; heroic (*vīra*, *vīryavant*) 2. 13. 59; excellent heroes (*uttamavīrya*) 1. 213. 55; strong, very strong (*balin*) 2. 17. 27; (*mahābala*) 2. 13. 59; 5. 28. 12; 16. 9. 9; (*balavant*) 12. 82. 8; powerful (*sāmarthyavānt*) 2. 13. 53; great archers (*maheśvāsa*) 2. 72. 29; 3. 48. 6; tigers among men (*puruṣavyāghra*) 1. 212. 14; immensely powerful like tigers (*vyāghraitva baloṭkaṭaiḥ*) 5. 154. 17; proficient in all *śāstras* (*sarvaśāstraviśārada*) 3. 119. 2; difficult to be attacked (*durdharṣa*) 2. 4. 26; (*durāsada*) 12. 82. 8; of true valour (*satyaparākrama*) 5. 28. 12; bringing together people (?) (*lokasamihanana*) 2. 13. 59; having long arms, like iron bars (*bāhusālīn*, *parighabāhu*) 16. 9. 10-11; their arms were capable of resisting maces, iron bars and *śaktis* (*gadāparighaśaktinām sahāḥ*) 16. 9. 10; they were like Indra (*indrakalpa*) 5. 28. 12; like gods (*devarūpin*) 2. 4. 26; attached to Kṛṣṇa (*tvayy āsaktāḥ*) 12. 82. 29; Vṛṣṇis and Andhakas followed the advice of Kṛṣṇa (*yasya prajñām upāsate*) 5. 84. 4; following Kṛṣṇa's advice, Vārṣṇeyas and Bhojas restrained their enemies and gave delight to friends (*vārṣṇeyabhojāḥ*).