

Prācyā m. (pl.) : General designation of the eastern people.

A. Location : Listed by Samjaya among the southern Janapadas of Bhārata-varṣa (*athāpare janapadā dakṣiṇā bhārata-rṣabha*) 6. 10. 56, 5; (*draviḍāḥ keralāḥ prācyā ...*) 6. 10. 57; also mentioned while listing the twelve Janapadas (*dvādaśaite janapadāḥ*) 6. 114. 77. B. Description : Expert in the use of all kinds of weapons and missiles (*sarvaśāstrāstrakuśala*) 6. 16. 17; excellent fighters (*pravīra*) and expert in fighting while riding elephants (*gajayodhin*) 8. 17. 2; (*gajayuddheṣu kuśalāḥ*) 8. 17. 3; (*mātāṅgayuddheṣu kuśalāḥ*) 12. 102. 4; Prācyas employed deceitful means while fighting (*śaṭhayodhin*) 12. 102. 4. C. Social status : According to Karṇa, Prācyas were Dāsas (*prācyā dāsā ...*) 8. 30. 73. D. Epic events : (1) Yudhiṣṭhira asked Samjaya to inform the Prācyā and other kings who had joined Kauravas that he enquired about their welfare (*kuśalamī tāta prccheḥ*) 5. 30. 23-24; (2) According to Samjaya, in the war, Prācyas would be killed by Bhīma (*prācyāś ca ... bhīma-senasya bhāgataḥ*) 5. 56. 14; (3) Duryodhana's royal army (*rājacamū*) included Prācyas 5. 158. 19-20; a part of them were to form the second division while marching out of Hāstinapura to Kurukṣetra (*dvitīye nirayayur bale*) 5. 196. 7-8; (4) In war, Prācyas and others were assigned the duty of protecting Bhīṣma 6. 16. 14, 17; (5) On the second day of war, Bhīṣma, protected by Prācyas, Sauviras and others, suddenly rushed towards Arjuna 6. 48. 21; (6) On the third day, at the instance of Bhīṣma, Prācyas, Sauviras and others rushed towards Arjuna; they

were killed by him, that was his great feat, unequalled by others (*mahat kṛtam karma dhanamjayena kartum yathā nārhati kaścid anyah*) 6. 55. 74, 130; (7) On the ninth day, Sauviras, Prācyas and others did not abandon Bhīṣma although they were struck by sharp arrows (*vadhyamānāḥ sitaiḥ śaraiḥ*) 6. 102. 7; (8) On the tenth day, instigated by Duryodhana (6. 112. 102-106), Prācyas and others attacked Arjuna as moths jump on fire (*pataṅgā iva pāvakam*) 6. 112. 109-110; a little while before the fall of Bhīṣma, when others ran away, Prācyas were among the twelve Janapadas who, though pierced by arrows and afflicted due to wounds (*śarārtā vranapīditāḥ*), did not leave Bhīṣma alone 6. 114. 76-77; (9) On the eleventh day, they followed Karṇa who marched out at the head of all archers (*pramukhe sarvadhanvinām*) 7. 6. 8; (10) On the twelfth day, Prācyas were stationed at the 'neck' (*grīvāyām*) of the Suparṇavyūha of Kauravas 7. 19. 4, 7-8; (11) On the fourteenth day, at the instance of Duryodhana, Prācyas and others, riding huge elephants (*kuñjaraiḥ parvatopamaiḥ*), attacked Arjuna; he cut off their heads and arms adorned with ornaments 7. 68. 32-33; (12) On the sixteenth day, Samjaya mentioned Prācyas among those who, during the first fifteen days of war were killed by Arjuna 8. 4. 47; on that day, as ordered by Duryodhana, excellent Prācyā warriors, riding elephants, attacked Pāṇcālas and showered them with arrows, *tomaras* and *nārācas* (*śara-tomaranārācair vṛṣṭimanta ivāmbudāḥ*) 8. 17. 1-4; (13) On the seventeenth day, Arjuna, while boasting in the presence of Yudhiṣṭhira, said that it was he who had