vaiśampāyana describes sahadeva’s journey to drāviḍa and pāṇḍya kingdoms as answer to janamejaya’s question

janamejaya said:
O the best among the twice-borns! (O vaiśampāyana!) I wish to hear about the coming of the son of hiḍimbā (ghaṭotkaca) and his journey to laṅkā. O Brahman! Please tell me about his meeting with the son of pulastya (king of laṅkā, vibhiṣaṇa). Also about the sighting of the river kāveri (by sahadeva).

vaiśampāyana said:
O king! Please hear about the difficult work done by sahadeva in detail, about his victories in the battles in forests, islands as well as villages.
After conquering the (kingdoms in the) southern direction, sahadeva proceeded towards the cola kingdom.

There sahadeva saw the sacred waters of kāveri, the best among rivers. The river was with many varieties of birds. The river was shining with the sages living along its banks.

The banks of the river was full of sal, lodhra (symplocos racemosa), arjuna (terminalia arjuna ), bilva (aegle marmelos), jambhū, śāla (vatica robusta), kimśuka (butea frondosa), kadamba (nauclea cadamba), saptaparnā (alstonia scolaris), kaśmarya and āmalaka (emblic myrobalan) trees.

He also saw nygrodha trees with huge brances and also plakṣa (fig tree, ficus infectoria) and audumbara (ficus religiosa) trees. The land was covered by śamī (prosopis spicigera or mimos summa), palāśa (butea frondosa) as well as aśvattha (ficus religiosa) and khadira (acacia catecu) trees.
The land, covered by badari (jujube, zizyphus jujuba) trees, was beautified by aśvakarṇa (vatica robusta) trees. The land with mango (cūta) trees and puṇḍrakapati trees was covered by forests of kadali (banana) plants.

There were groups of cakravāka birds, plava (gātra samplava, kāranḍava, jalavāyaṣa, jalakāka or jalakukkuṭa) birds, aquatic birds, sea fowls and krauṇica birds. The land was full of the sounds of water cocks.

There were many kinds of birds and other aquatic animals. There were many hermitages decorated by caitya trees.

Some places on the banks were adorned with brāhmīns, dressed in white who were experts in vedas.
In some places, trees ascending on the banks of the river embellished like garlands. There were trees with flowers at some places. There were fragrant blue lotus (nymphaea caerulea) flowers at some places. Some places were beautiful with white water lily (nymphaea lotus) and lotus flowers in blossom.

Seeing the (beautiful) river kāverī in this manner, the son of pāṇḍu (sahadeva) thought: The river kāverī is auspicious like the auspicious river gangā in our country.

sahadeva, along with his followers, took bath in the holy place of pilgrimage in the river (kāverī) and reached the southern bank of the river to proceed further.

Hearing that the son of pāṇḍu (sahadeva) has arrived there, the people of the land went there to see him due to curiosity.
O king! (janamejaya! vaiśampāyana continued): The men as well as the women, beautiful in appearance, went there, to see the son of pāṇḍu (sahadeva), happily.

sahadeva was tender, delicate, beautiful having wide eyes, comparable in beauty to devas, the best to see among people as though not closing one’s eyelids.

All the people of dramidā came to see the wonderful sahadeva. Seeing sahadeva, comparable subrahmanya (mahāsena), they honoured him.

They presented many varieties of jewels and other eatables liked by him. They praised the younger brother of nakula with hymns, suitable for the success of his journey.
Seeing the men of dramiḍā land who arrived, sahadeva met them happily. Leaving them, the one with powerful arms (sahadeva) proceeded towards the southern direction.

After winning over the king of dramiḍā, sahadeva sent a messenger to cola kingdom. After acquiring the jewels, sahadeva proceeded towards the pāṇḍya kingdom.

The men were not at all satisfied by seeing sahadeva. With curiosity, they followed sahadeva who was leaving.

Then O king! (janamejaya! vaiśampāyana continued) the son of māḍri (sahadeva) saw a group of deers, elephants, other wild animals, tigers and many black antelopes.
sahadeva saw parrots, peacocks, vultures and also forest fowls. O the ruler of earth! (janamejaya! vaiśampāyana continued), then sahadeva reached the (pāṇḍya) kingdom of the father of the wife (of arjuna).

Then the son of mādri (sahadeva) sent messengers to the pāṇḍya king. The king, malayadhvaja accepted his (sahadeva’s) orders.

The beautiful wife of jiṣṇu (arjuna), the auspicious daughter of the pāṇḍya king, the one who is famous as citrāṅgadā, the dramiḍā princess, the best among women,

pleased to hear the news from the women’s quarters of her father that sahadeva has arrived, dispatched many items and jewels for honouring him.
The pāṇḍya king also gave many jewels and pearls, to the messenger, for sahadeva, having great fame.

O king! (janamejaya! vaiśampāyana continued) Seeing his unparallel reception, the son of pāṇḍu became happy. He gave many jewels to the son of his brother, babhruvĀhana.

The dramidā king, the pāṇḍya king malayadhvaja, the lord of manālūra, the father of the wife (of arjuna), presented many jewels to sahadeva through the messenger.

After getting the jewels sahadeva proceeded further, accompanied by the people of dramida, to the residence of agastya, divine, equal to the world of devas on the mountain (agastya).
O the bull of the bharata race! (O janamejaya! vaiśampāyana continued)
Circumambulating the malaya mountain, the son of mādri crossed over the auspicious river tāmraparṇī.

The river (tāmraparṇī) had pleasing water, which was divine, cool and beautiful. The son of pāṇdu (sahadeva) then arrived at the sea shore and camped there.

Electronic version of the text and the translation prepared by A. Purushothaman, purushu55@gmail.com