

Suvaṇṇarehā (Suvarṇarekhā) is also met with in Vividhatīr-thakalpa.⁴⁷ Thus the first part of the river's name has remained unchanged for about two thousand years. The second part has been replaced by a new one. The exact derivative as suggested by Chatterji will be a form like Sonasītā or Sonasī.⁴⁸ The river was named Suvarṇasikatā because its sand contains particles of gold.⁴⁹

9. *Sindhu* (No. 20, L. 2) :

The river is mentioned in connexion with the description of the victories of king Candra who is said to have conquered the Vāhlikas after having crossed the seven mouths of the (river) Sindhu⁵⁰ in warfare. Sindhu in the Ṛgveda⁵¹ and the Atharvaveda⁵² often means simply a 'stream'. The Ṛgveda (VIII. 24.27) refers to 'Sapta Sindhavaḥ' or 'the seven rivers'.⁵³ But it is also ⁵⁴ used in the more exact sense of the 'stream' par excellence or 'The Indus'. We get a reference to Sindhu as a river in the Amara-kośa.⁵⁵ The territories adjoining it were famous for horses⁵⁶ and salt.⁵⁷

The term Sindhu was corrupted to Hindu in the old Persian inscriptions of Darius I (516-485 B. C.), and to Indus by the Ionian (=Pāṇini's Yavana) Greeks.⁵⁸ The word 'India' is derived from the river Sindhu or the Indus.⁵⁹ Taking its rise from the snows of Western Kailāśa in Tibet, the Sindhu first flows north-west of Kashmir and South of little Pamir, and then takes a southward course along which lay some of the important cities of north India. Emerging from the Darad high-lands, the river (Dāradī Sindhuḥ) enters the Gandhāra country until it receives its most important western tributary the Kabul river at Ohind, a few miles north of Attock.⁶⁰

The river Sindhu is mentioned in the Purāṇas along with the Gaṅgā, Sarasvatī, Satluj, Chinab and Yamunā.⁶¹

Vogel suggests that the expression 'Sindhora sapta mukhāni' may indicate the 'sapta sindhavaḥ' of the Ṛgveda, i.e. the river Indus and its tributaries. The term mukha would then be not taken in the sense of 'the mouth of a river', but as meaning a river-head.⁶² But the translation of the expression as done by Fleet (i. e. the seven mouths of the river Indus) is generally accepted.⁶³ The seven mouths of the river Indus thus represent the points of its confluence with its tributaries