



# **I**DOL

## **Institute of Distance and Online Learning**



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**B.A.**

# HISTORY AND CULTURE OF PUNJAB

Course Code:	BAQ-103
Semester:	First
SLM Unit :	7
e-Lesson:	7



HISTORY AND CULTURE OF PUNJAB

# HISTORY AND CULTURE OF PUNJAB

## OBJECTIVES

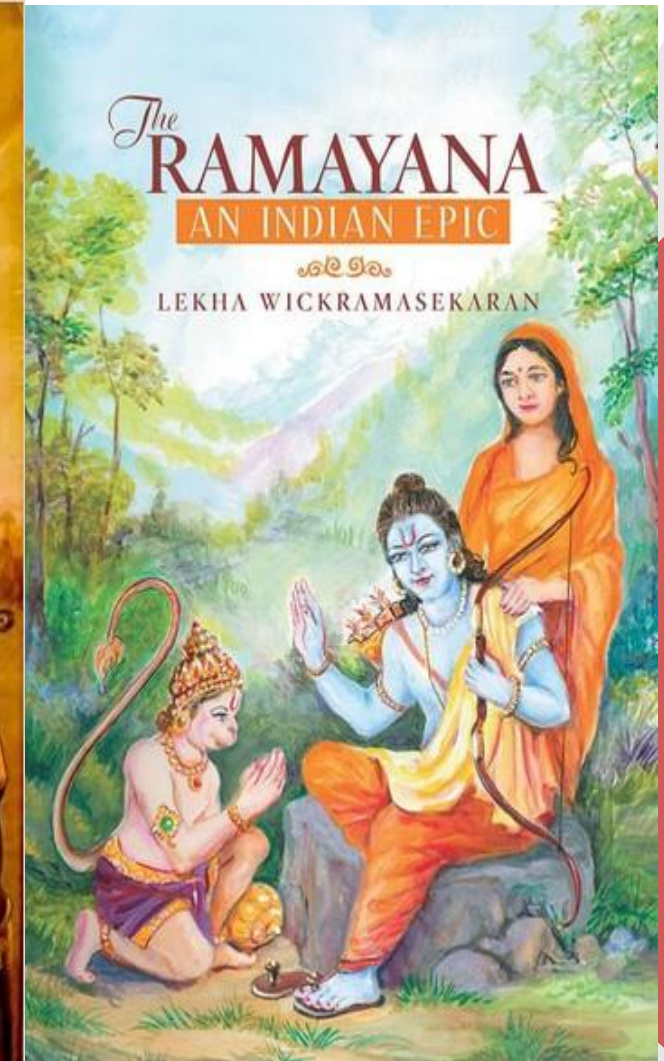
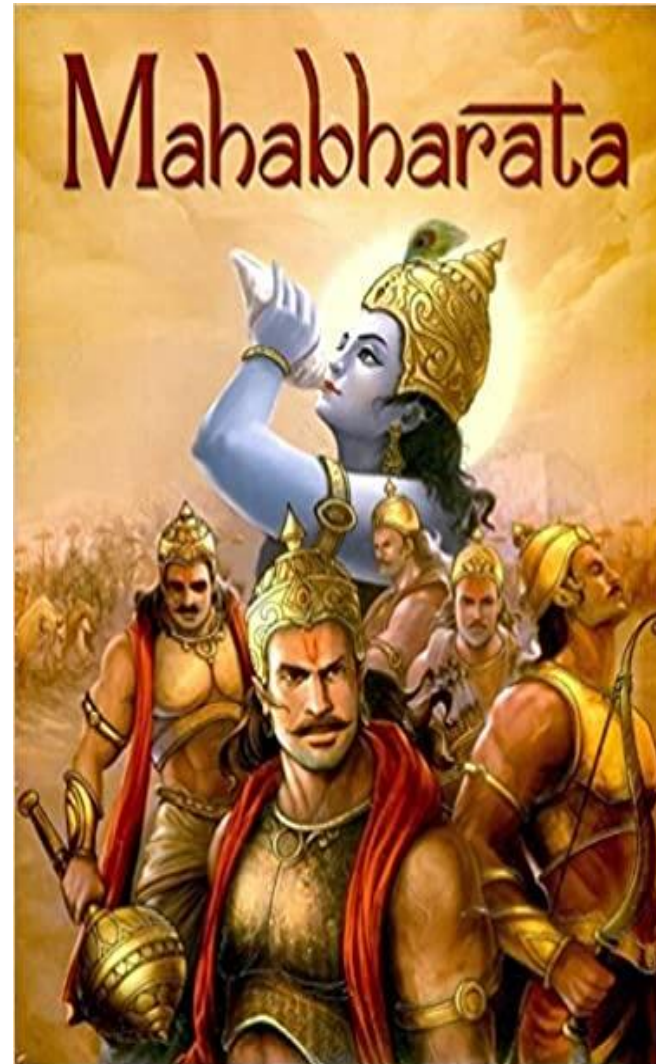
- After studying this unit, you will be able to:  
Acquaint students Ramayana And Mahabharta  
about the Epic Age
- Impact Epics on these had left on the life of  
common people

## INTRODUCTION

- Ramayana is historical epics with the central  
character as Rama.
- Importance of Mahabharta and Ramayna

# Topics to be covered

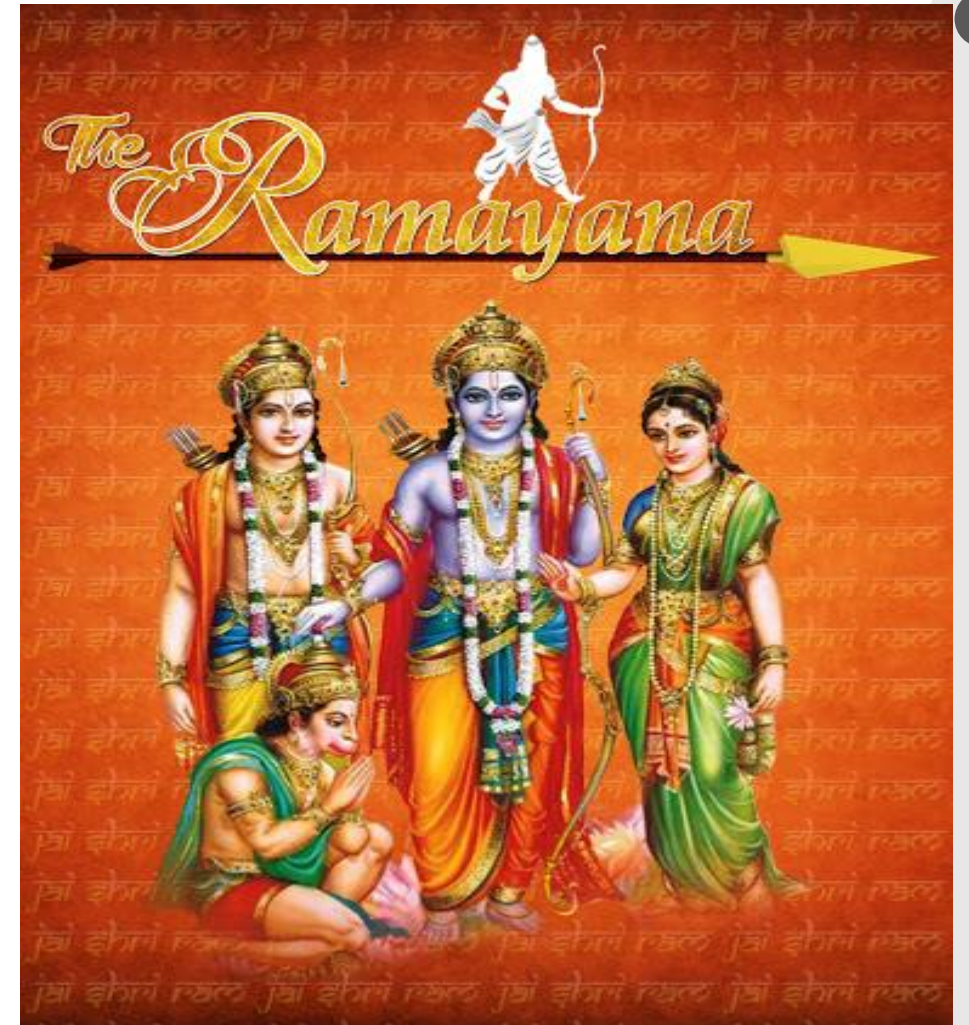
- > **The Ramayana**
- > **Historical Importance of the Ramayana**
- > **Historical Importance of the Mahabharata**



<https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/the-ramayana-14>

# THE RAMAYANA

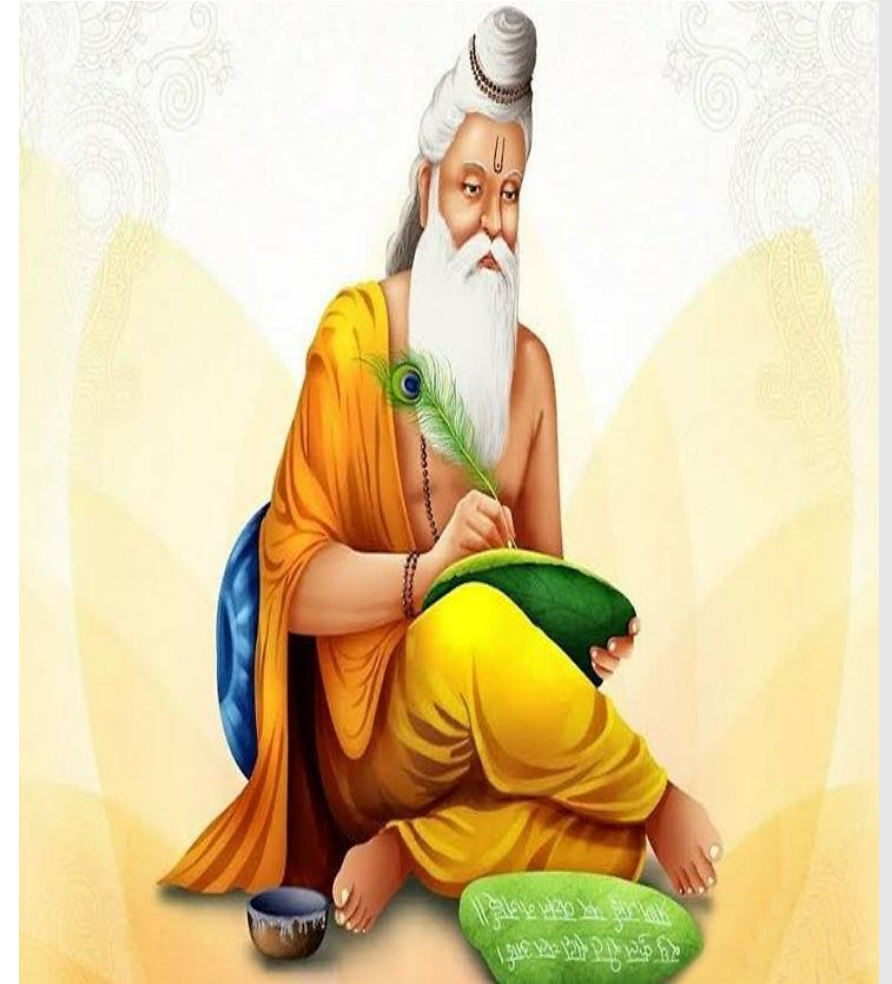
- **The Ramayan** is an ancient Sanskrit and the oldest epic about Rama. The epic was originally written by sage (rishi) Valmiki of Ancient India.
- The book has about 96,000 verses and is divided into seven parts.
- The story of the Ramayana is about Prince Rama who has been exiled from his kingdom of Ayodha, and his victory over the evil (Ravana)
- The epic, traditionally ascribed to the Maharshi Valmiki, narrates the life of Ram, the legendary prince of the Koshal Kingdom.



<http://blog.ithinksolutionsonline.com/?p=128>

# DIFFERENT VERSIONS

- Different versions of the book are available. It has been translated into all the major languages of the world.
- The different parts of the Ramayana are also called books. These seven parts or books are noted below:
- The first book is Balakand, meaning the book of the childhood.
- The second book is Ayodhyakanda, meaning the book of Ayodhya.
- The third book is Aranyakanda, meaning the book of the forests.
- The fourth book is Kishkindhakanda, meaning the book of Kishkindha.
- The fifth book is Sundarakanda, meaning the book beautiful.
- The sixth book is Yuddhakanda, meaning the book of the war.
- The seventh book is Uttarakanda, meaning the book of after events.



<https://www.bhaskar.com/religion/dharam/maharshi-valmiki-ja>

# THE RAMAYANA

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- There are many versions of Ramayana in Indian languages, besides Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain adaptations.
- There are also Cambodian, Indonesian, Filipino, Thai, Lao, Burmese and Malaysian versions of the tale

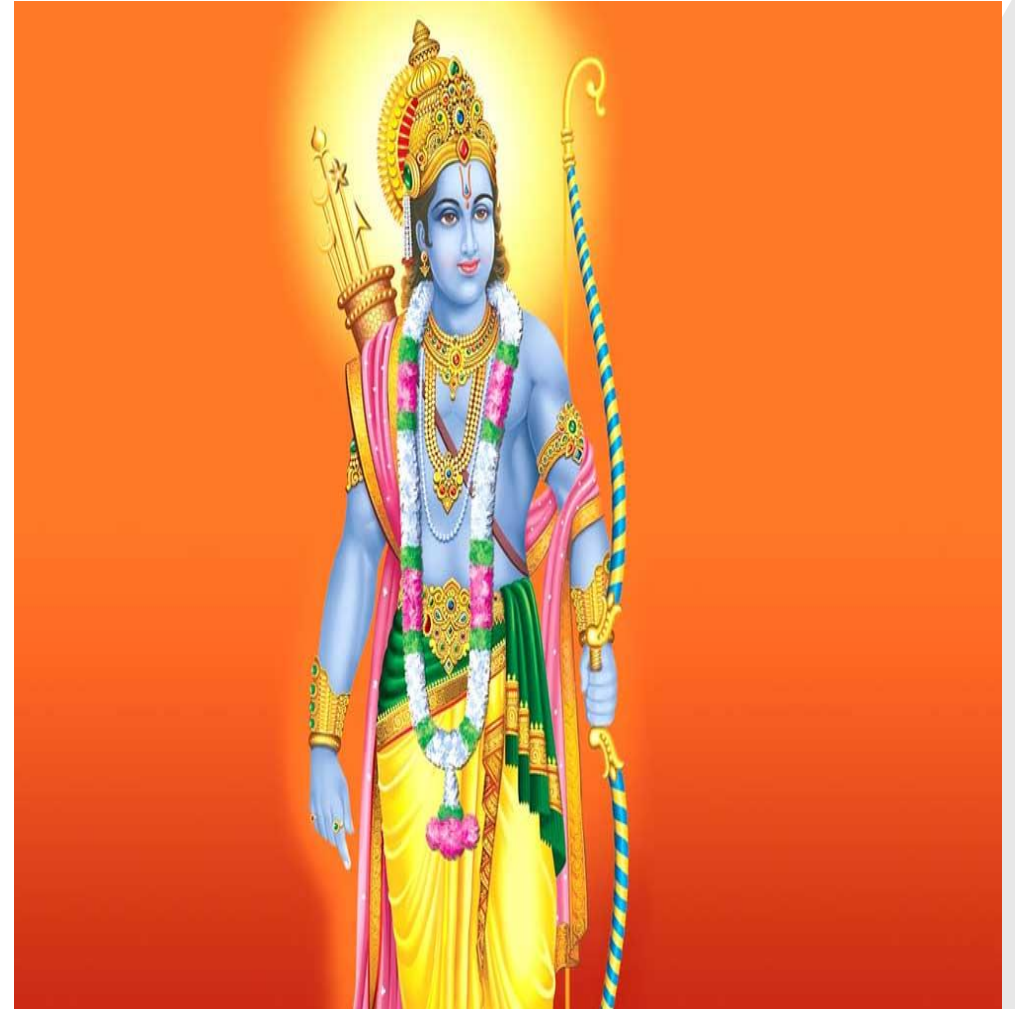


<https://www.indiatoday.in/fyi/story/india-asean-ramayana-valmiki-malaysia-indonesia-cambodia-sanskrit-1085141-2017-11-13>

# LORD RAMA

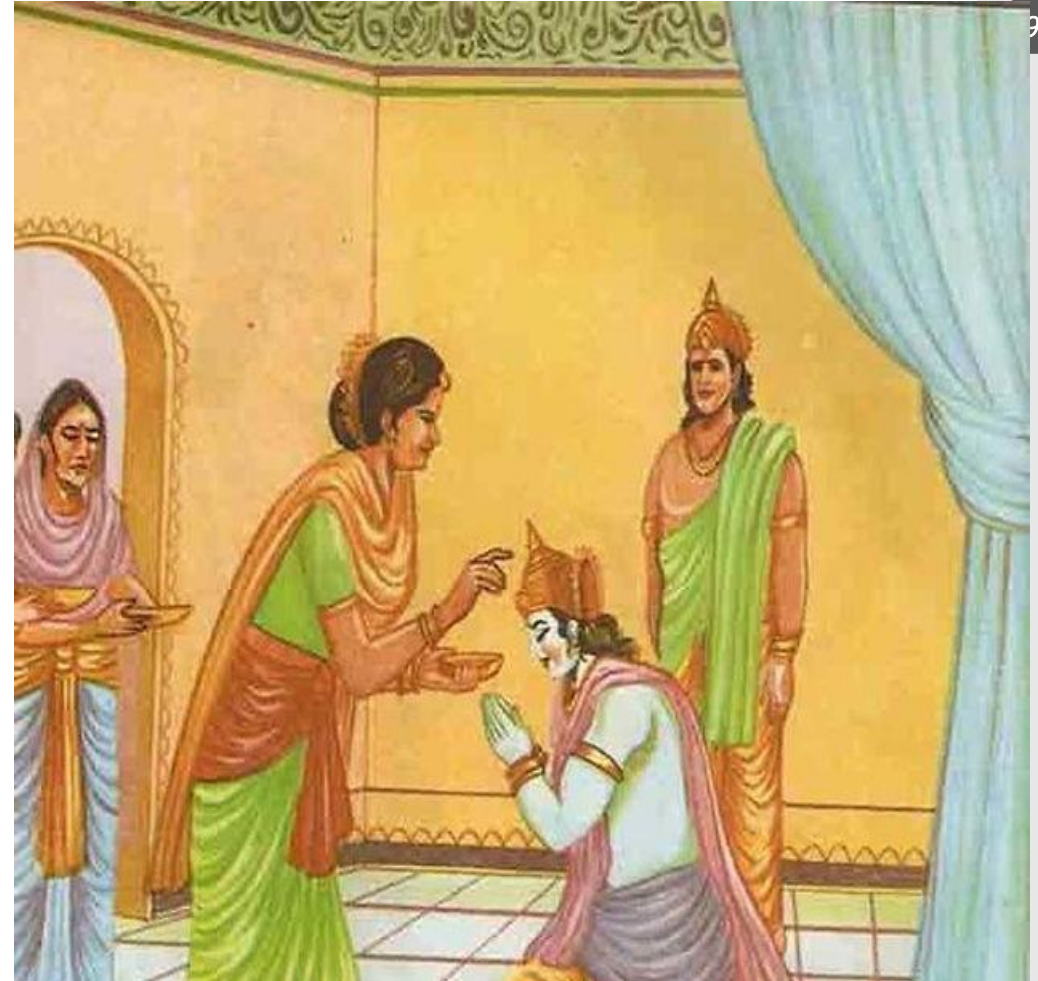
Rama was the eldest son of the great king Dasharatha. The gods had declared that he was born for the specific purpose of defeating the demon-king Ravana.

- He is considered to be the seventh incarnation of the great god, Vishnu.
- Rama won the hand of his wife Sita in an archery contest, in which he was the only contender able to bend a bow that had once belonged to Shiva.
- Sita had been born of a furrow in the earth (this is what her name means).
- The two were extremely happy together, and returned to live in Rama's home, in Ayodhya.



<https://openthemagazine.com/columns/guest-column/what-does-the-name-rama-mean>

Rama's stepmother, Kaikeyi, wanted to promote her son Bharata as heir to the throne of her husband, Dasharatha; Rama was eldest, and the honor rightly was due him. Kaikeyi called in several favors her husband had promised her, and forced Dasharatha, who could not go back on his promises to his wife—to exile Rama for fourteen years. Rama's brother Lakshman and his wife insisted on accompanying him, and they left together. Dasharatha died of grief, and Bharata attempted to persuade his brother to return. Rama, also bound not to go back on his word, refused. Bharata pledged to rule in Rama's name until his return.



<https://daily.bhaskar.com/news/JM-10-things-you-didnt-know-about-ramas-mother-kaushalya-4852771-PHO.html>

# VANWAAS

Rama, Sita, and Lakshman wandered in the forest until Rama was seen by an evil spirit, who fell in love with him. Rama rejected her and she attacked with her allies, only to meet defeat at the hands of Lakshman and Rama. She appealed to her brother Ravana, the strongest and most dangerous demon on earth at that time, for help. Ravana decided to kidnap Sita, the wife of Rama



<https://www.quora.com/Why-did-Urmila-not-accompany-Lakshman-in-the-exile-as-Sita-accompanied-Rama-for->

# KIDNAPING EPISODE

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- One of Ravana's demon followers assumed the form of a splendid deer, who aroused the interest of Sita.
- She asked Rama to retrieve the deer.
- Lakshman drew a line or circle around Sita to protect her magically, and went to aid his brother.
- While he and his brother were thus engaged,
- Ravana came to Sita in the guise of a holy man.
- Tricking her in this way to cross the protective line, he kidnapped her and took her to his palace on the island of Lanka



<https://www.quora.com/Is-there-any-proof-that-Ravana-kidnapped-Sita>

# RESCUE EPISODE

Upon returning and finding Sita gone, Rama despaired. Accompanied by his brother, he went in search of her. On the way the two killed a demon whose liberated spirit told them to seek the help of Sugriva, the monkey-king. The brothers sought out the king, and helped him to regain control of his kingdom, which had been usurped by his half-brother. In gratitude, Sugriva dedicated his armies and his finest general—Hanuman, the son of the wind—to the quest to retrieve Sita. Hanuman discovered Sita's location and visited her there, reassuring her that Rama would save her. He suggested that a huge bridge to the island be constructed to allow the siege of Lanka. After great battles and acts of heroism, the siege was completed and Ravana defeated. Sita was rescued.



<https://www.tune-up.co.in/five-things-to-learn-about-leadership-and-teamwork.html>

# MAHABHARATA

The Mahabharata is an ancient Indian epic where the main story revolves around two branches of a family - the Pandavas and Kauravas who, in the Kurukshetra War battle for the throne of Hastinapura. Interwoven into this narrative are several smaller stories about people dead or living, and philosophical discourses. Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa, himself a character in the epic, composed it; as, according to tradition, he dictated the verses and Ganesha wrote them down.



<https://www.ancient.eu/image/5519/karna-in-the-kurukshetra-war/>

# MAHABHARATA

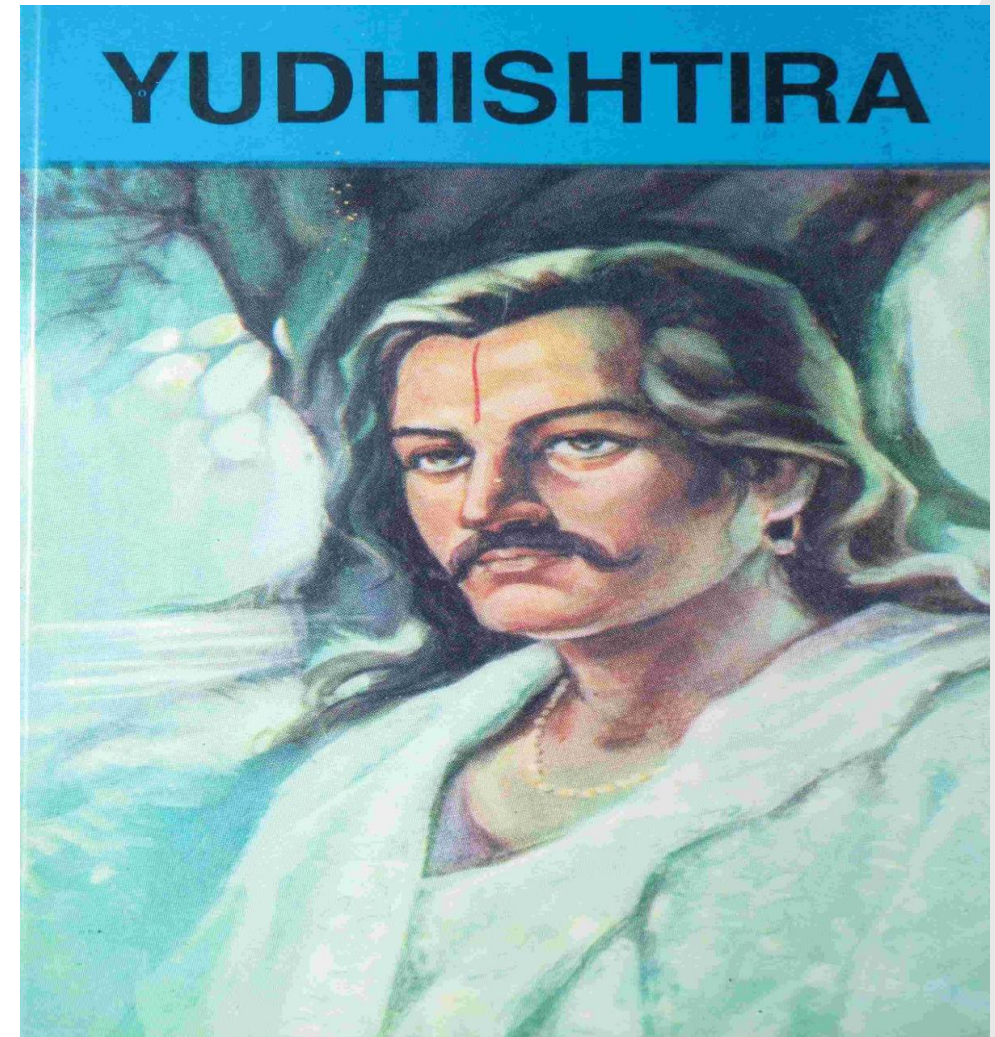
At 100,000 verses, it is the longest epic poem ever written, generally thought to have been composed in the 4th century BCE or earlier. The events in the epic play out in the Indian subcontinent and surrounding areas. It was first narrated by a student of Vyasa at a snake-sacrifice of the great-grandson of one of the major characters of the story. Including within it the *Bhagavad Gita*, the *Mahabharata* is one of the most important texts of ancient Indian, indeed world, literature.



<https://aajtak.intoday.in/education/story/11-stories-from-mahabharata-that-you-still-dont-listen-1-809317.html>

# THE FIRST EXILE

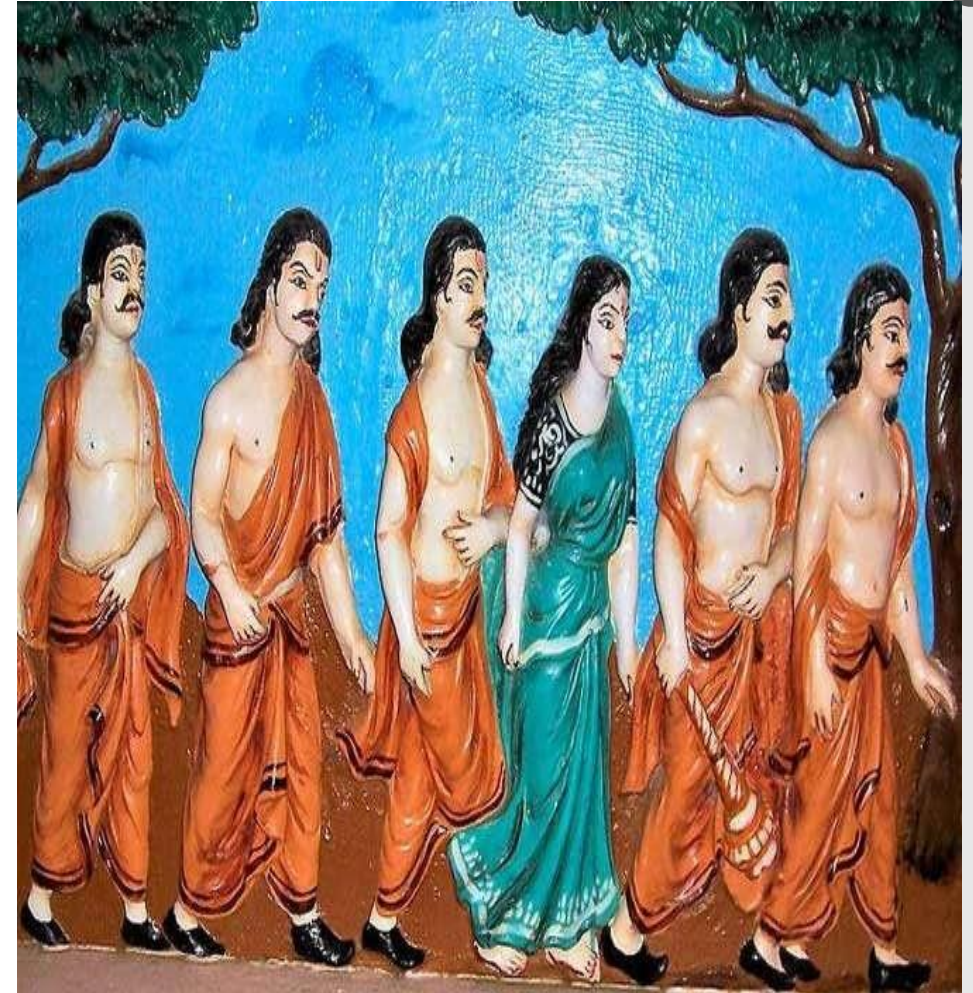
- Yudhishtir's being the crown prince and his rising popularity with the citizens was extremely distasteful to Duryodhan, who saw himself as the rightful heir since his father was the *de facto* king.
- He plotted to get rid of the Pandavas. This he did by getting his father to send the Pandavas and Kunti off to a nearby town on the pretext of a fair that was held there.
- The palace in which the Pandavas were to stay in that town was built by an agent of Duryodhan, the palace was made entirely of inflammable materials since the plan was to burn down the palace - together with the Pandavas and Kunti - once they'd settled in.



<https://www.kobo.com/my/en/ebook/yudhishtira>

# THE PANDAVAS

- The Pandavas, however, were alerted to this fact by their other uncle, Vidur, and had a counter plan ready; they dug an escape tunnel underneath their chambers. One night, the Pandavas gave out a huge feast which all of the townsfolk came to.
- At that feast, a forest woman and her five sons found themselves so well-fed and well-drunk that they could no longer walk straight; they passed out on the floor of the hall. That very night, the Pandavas themselves set fire to the palace and escaped through the tunnel.
- When the flames had died down, the townsfolk discovered the bones of the forest woman and her boys, and mistook them for Kunti and the Pandavas. Duryodhan thought his plan had succeeded and that the world was free of the Pandavas.



<https://www.quora.com/How-many-days-does-the-Pandavas-go-for-Vanvaas>

# HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MAHABHARATA

## ❖ Arjuna and Draupadi

Meanwhile, the Pandavas and Kunti went into hiding, moving from one place to another and passing themselves off as a poor brahmin family. They would seek shelter with some villager for a few weeks, the princes would go out daily to beg for food, return in the evenings and hand over the day's earnings to Kunti who would divide the food into two: one half was for the strongman Bheem and the other half was shared by the others.

## ❖ Arjuna at the Draupadi Swayamvar

One by one, the kings and princes tried to shoot the fish, and failed. Some could not even lift the bow, some could not string it. The Kauravas and Karna were also present.

## ❖ Places in the Mahabharata

After the wedding ceremonies at Panchal were over, the Hastinapur palace invited the Pandavas and their bride back.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaurava>

# LEARNING ACTIVITY

1. You are suggested to prepare the summary of the history of “The Ramayana”.

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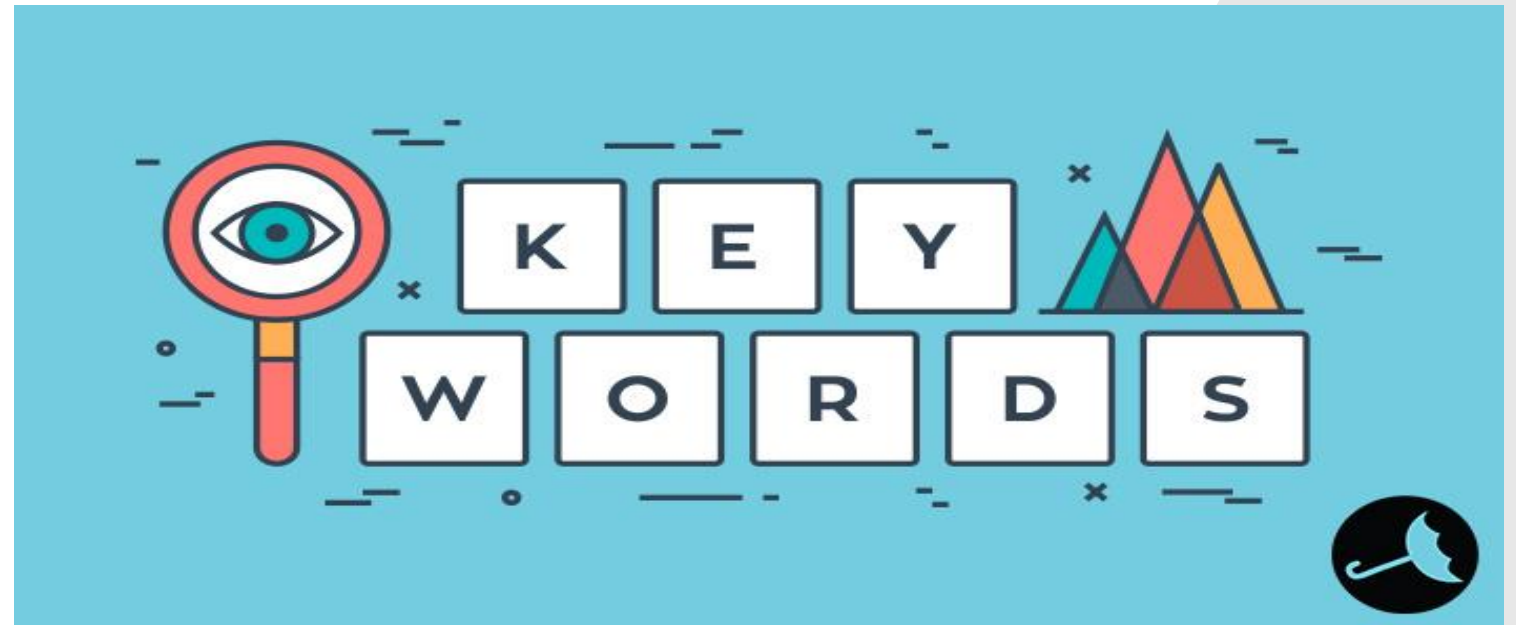
2. You are required to prepare report on “The Mahabharata”.

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# KEY WORDS/ABBREVIATIONS

- **The Ramayana:** Ramayana is one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India.
- **Etymology:** The name Ramayana means “Ram” + “Aayana”, whereas Ram is name of Lord or God.
- **Allies of Ram:** The vanaras constructing the Ram Setu



# Multiple Choice Questions

1. Indo Aryans population movements into the region and Anatolia from central Asia are generally considered to have started around.....
- a) 1600 BCE                      c) 1400 BCE  
b) 1500 BCE                      d) 1700 BCE
2. Migration by an Indo-European people was first hypothesized in the late
- a) 18<sup>th</sup> Century                  c) 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
b) 17<sup>th</sup> Century                  d) 16<sup>th</sup> Century
3. Which of the following is the family of the teacher?
- a) Vedic                          c) Ashrama  
b) Yoga                          d) Gurukula

Answers: 1. b)    2.a)    3.d)

# SUMMARY

- Ramayana and Mahabharata are historical epics with the central character as Rama and Krishna respectively.
- The epic, traditionally ascribed to the Maharshi Valmiki, narrates the life of Ram, the legendary prince of the Koshal Kingdom.
- They have been written by Valmiki and Vyasa respectively who were contemporary of their characters.
- Ramayana has 24000 verses whereas Mahabharata had originally 100000.
- At 100,000 verses, it is the longest epic poem ever written, generally thought to have been composed in the 4th century BCE or earlier. The events in the epic play out in the Indian subcontinent and surrounding areas. It was first narrated by a student of Vyasa at a snake-sacrifice of the great-grandson of one of the major characters of the story. Including within it the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata is one of the most important texts of ancient Indian, indeed world, literature.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Discuss about Yudhishtir ?

Ans.: Yudhishtir's being the crown prince and his rising popularity with the citizens was extremely distasteful to Duryodhan, who saw himself as the rightful heir since his father was the *de facto* king. (For more information see SLM)

2. Explain the history of Mahabharata.

Ans : The Mahabharata is an ancient Indian epic where the main story revolves around two branches of a family - the Pandavas and Kauravas who, in the Kurukshetra War battle for the throne of Hastinapura. Interwoven into this narrative are several smaller stories about people dead or living, and philosophical discourses . Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa, himself a character in the epic, composed it; as, according to tradition, he dictated the verses and Ganesha wrote them down. (For more information see SLM)

3. Describe Ramayana in detail ?

Ans: **The Ramayan** is an ancient Sanskrit and the oldest epic about Rama. The epic was originally written by sage (rishi) Valmiki of Ancient India. The book has about 96,000 verses and is divided into seven parts. The story of the Ramayana is about Prince Rama who has been exiled from his kingdom of Ayodha, and his victory over the evil ( Ravana). (For more information see SLM)

# REFERENCES

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- Walia, J.M.(1992). *A History of the Punjab*. Ludhiana: Kalyani Publishers.
- Joshi, L.M. and Singh, F.(1977). *History and Culture of the Punjab. Vol. I*. Patiala: Punjabi University
- <https://www.ancient.eu/Mahabharata/>
- <https://asiasociety.org/education/ramayana>





# THANK YOU

For queries

Email: [helpdesk@cuidol.in](mailto:helpdesk@cuidol.in)