

A traditional Indian chariot pulled by white horses in a misty, mountainous landscape. The chariot is ornate with a canopy and a red flag. The horses are galloping across a dirt path. The background shows rolling hills and a large crowd of people in the distance.

Winning MANTRA
from

THE MAHABHARATA

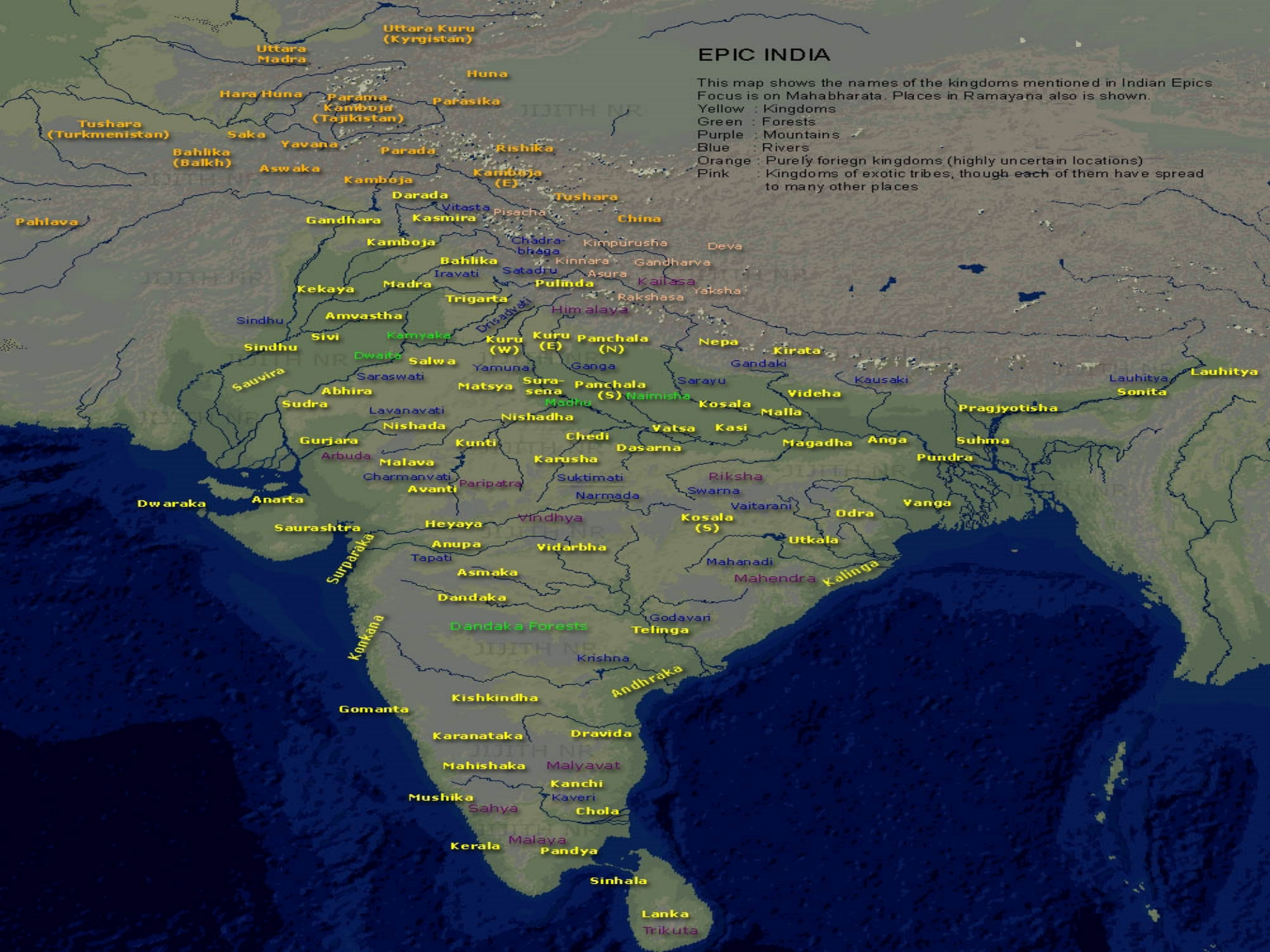
Trivia

- Second Longest Epic of the World
- “What’s not in Bharata, is not in Bharata”
- “A Buffet of Ideologies.”
- Written around 3000 BC.
- “Harappan” Culture. Urban Way of life.
- Narrated thrice :
 - “Jaya” by Vyasa to Ganesha
 - “Bharata” by Vaishampayan to Janamejaya
 - “Mahabharata” by Suta/Sauti to the Rishis at Naimisharanya.
- Has “mindboggling” revelations.
 - Astronomy: Existence of Uranus(Shweta) and Neptune(Ksharaka).
 - Geography. Lands as far as Cambodia(Kamboja), Kazakhstan and/or Scandinavia(Uttarakuru),
 - Mathematics: Nos to the range of 10 raised to powers of 16 and -16.
 - Descriptions of Weapons which resemble modern day weaponry including Nuclear and/or Chemical Weapons.
 - Complex Military Formations and Strategies.
 - Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Spirituality, Religion, Politics.
 - Even Management Lessons.

EPIC INDIA

This map shows the names of the kingdoms mentioned in Indian Epics. Focus is on Mahabharata. Places in Ramayana also is shown.

- Yellow : Kingdoms
- Green : Forests
- Purple : Mountains
- Blue : Rivers
- Orange : Purely foreign kingdoms (highly uncertain locations)
- Pink : Kingdoms of exotic tribes, though each of them have spread to many other places



Logistics

- Kauravas : 11 Akshouhini
- Pandavas : 7 Akshouhini

1 Akshouhini = 21,870 chariots, 21,870 elephants, 65,610 horses and 109,350 foot-soldiers (in a ratio of 1:1:3:5).

Generals

Kauravas :

- Bhishma
- Drona
- Karna
- Shalya
- Kripacharya
- Ashwatthama
- Duryodhan

Pandavas :

- Arjuna
- Bhima
- Dhrshtadyumna
- Abhimanyu
- Ghatotkach
- Shikhandi
- Satyaki

Background

Pandavas :

Exiled for 13 years. Have no kingdom. Their main strength both in terms of political and financial power depends on their friends and relatives : The Pancalas, The Yadavas, The Magadhas and The Chedis.

Kauravas :

In power for 13 years. Duryodhan has been a benevolent king. There's no guarantee that the Subjects really miss the Pandavas. Not only have they the wealth and power of Hastinapur, but also that of Indraprastha, the kingdom that the Pandvas had taken such labors to build and which had surpassed the Hastina of old in all degrees. Karna had gone on a nationwide conquering on behalf of Duryodhana. They are the national sovereigns

Motivation

Kauravas :

“Without war, will concede not a needle-prick of earth.” - Duryodhna

Duryodhana was completely focused on the War. It was his moment of truth. He had usurped a kingdom, and he meant to keep it. He had resorted to any means, foul or fair to get the kingdom, which he believed to be rightfully his, and he was in no mood to give it up.

Pandavas :

“We fight over a Kingdom, as dogs over a piece of meat.”-Yudhisthira

The Pandavas had been humiliated, their wife insulted, their kingdom taken. But...still they wanted to avoid the War. The three elder Pandavas were against the War. They even went as far as making an offer that they will stop the War in exchange of 5 villages.

Result

War Lasted : 18 Days. 10 Days (Bhisma), 3 Days(Drona), 1½ Days (Karna) ½ Day (No General),1 Day (Shalya), 1 Night(Ashwatthama)

18th Night of the War :

Ashwatthama slaughtered the Pandava camp in sleep.

Before That :

Kauravas :

Bhishma, Drona, Karna and his sons, Shalya, Bhagadutta, Bhurisrava, Susharma, Jayadrath, Duhsasana and all of Duryodhana's brothers, Shakuni and Ulooka.

Pandavas :

Drupad, Virat and his sons, Abhimanyu, Ghatotkach and Iravan.

SO
HOW
DID
THE
PANDAVAS
WIN
??????

Preparation

Kauravas :

- **Karna** went on a country-wide military mission, subdued the different kingdoms and acquired wealth. But it meant a loss in terms of both men and money and creation of new enemies.

Pandavas : Though in exile they turned their attention to improving over their weakness

- **Arjuna** set out on a mission to acquire Divyastras.
- **Bhima** met his brother Hanuman and got a blessing of enhanced strength.
- **Yudhishthira** acquired teachings from the various wise rishis, and also learnt the Game of Dice from Gandharava Chtrasena, lest he was challenged to yet another dice game. It is said that he had become undefeatable in Dice.

Turn your weakness into your Strength.

Allies

Kauravas : Centralized power system. The greatest empire of the time. But not many powerful allies, except from old relations from far off places like Gandhara(Shakuni), Sindhu(Jayadrath) and Kambodia(Camboja - Bhagadutt)

Pandavas : No wealth. No power of their own. But powerful allies all over India.

- Panchala through Marriage with Darupadi.
- Dwarka through marriage with Arjuna and Subhadra.
- Magadh through marriage of Shadeva and Vijaya.
- Chedi through marriage of Nakula and Karenmayi.
- Kasi through marriage of Bhima and Balandhara.
- Kekaya through marriage of Yudhisthira and Devika.
- Matsya through marriage of Abhimanyu and Uttara.
- The Rakshasas through marriage of Bhima and Hidimba.
- The Nagas through marriage of Arjuna and Uloopi.

Make Powerful Allies.

Leadership

Kauravas : Centralized leadership. One Head of Army at a time, who has supreme authority of 11 akshouhini of army. Bhishma, Drona, Karna, Shalya and Ashwatthama.

Pandavas : Distributed leadership. Seven commanders for the seven divisions.(1 man command 1 akshouhini each).

- Virat (King of Matsya).
- Drupad (King of Pancala).
- Sahadeva(King of Magadha).
- Dhrshtaketu (King of Chedi).
- Satyaki (Only warrior from Dwarka).
- Shikhandi (Prince of Pancala).

Dhrshtadyмна – Commander in Chief.

Arjuna –Supreme Commander.

Krishna – Arjuna's charioteer and counselor.

Share your responsibilities.

Team Spirit

Kauravas : No team spirit. They all fought their individual wars.

- Bhishma : For his Vow to protect the throne Hastinapur.
- Drona and Kripa : They owed allegiance to the throne.
- Shalya : Simply cheated by Duryodhana to be there. Was originally a Pandava ally.
- Karna : To prove his mantle against Arjuna. Friendship for Duryodhana.

They didn't gel well with each other. Bhishma and Karna. Bhishma and Shakuni. Karna and Shakuni. Karna and Shalya. Shalya and Bhishma. It was like a bees, hornets and mosquitoes put together in a jar.

Pandavas : One team. One Goal. As men, they all had huge respect for Krishna and Yudhisthira. While as warriors they were in complete awe of Bhima and Arjuna. Most of them were close relatives – cousins, brother-in-laws, father-in-laws. More than that they all were part of the decision-making process. It was their “common” war.

Teamwork succeeds where Individual effort fails.

Individual Motives

Kauravas : Except for Duryodhana nobody wanted the War. All the 4 main generals had strong ties with the Pandavas.

- Bhishma(grandchildern) – Wont kill the panadavas. Will kill a thousand soldiers each day.
- Drona (students) – Wont kill the Pandavas. Will capture them only.
- Shalya (Nakula-Shadeva’s maternal uncle) : Loved the Pandavas and covertly helped them by humiliating Karna
- Karna (brother to the Pandavas) : Promised not to kill any of the other Pandavas save Arjuna.

A Team of Traitors.

Pandavas : Common goal. But the individuals had their individual targets. Their own agenda, which just became one with the teams’ agenda.

- Dhratsadyumna : Drona.
- Shikhandi : Bhisma.
- Satayaki – Bhurisravas.
- Arjuna – Karna.
- Bhima – Duryodhana and his brothers.
- Sahadeva – Shakuni and his sons.
- Nakula –Karna’s sons.

The Right team is made by selecting the Right Individuals. Get the right man for the right job.

Commitment

Kauravas : Already said the Big 4 had big emotional attachment with the 5 Pandavas. Looking further on their commitment.

- Bhishma himself gave away the secret of killing him to the Pandavas. He prolonged the War by killing only inconsequential soldiers. He did not fight a warrior like Shikhandi because of his personal bias.
- Drona too indirectly gave away his secret, by saying he was invulnerable as long as he held a weapon. Moreover he abandoned weapons as soon as he knew his son had died.
- Karna did not kill Yudhisthira and Bhishma when he got the chance. He gave away his Kavach and Kundala prior to his War. Karna fled innumerable times from the War when he was hurt. He didn't save Duhshasana when Bhishma was killing him.
- Shalya kept on insulting Karna while in Battle.

Pandavas :

- Abhimanyu , a 16 year old kid. Ventured beyond enemy lines alone. This was suicide mission but he still went in and took a great part of the army down with him. It took the combined effort of 7 Maharathis to take him down.
- Ghatotkach even in death, took with him almost half the army.
- Yudhisthira, he knew he couldn't face Karna in War, but still went in to set an example. Yudhisthira didn't hesitate to tell a lie or a twisted truth when faced with the decision of whether to stick to his personal integrity or welfare of the team.
- Krishna took up arms twice and almost entered the War, inspite of his promise, only to be stopped by Arjuna.

The interests of the Individual should never exceed the Team interest.

The best man for a Job is not the one with the best capabilities but one with the greatest commitment.

Right Managers

Krishna : The Greatest Crisis Manager the world has seen.

Yudhishthira : Low-key strategist.

- On the first day of the War, he played a Master game. Went over to the Enemy side to seek blessings from Elders. In reality he made a covert deal with them, wherein all of them agreed to help him and unfolded the secrets of defeating them.
- While coming back, he took a calculated risk. He made an offer to all the assembled people to change sides if they wanted to. He knew well of the lack of cohesiveness among the Kauravas. Yuyutsu, son of Dhrtarashtra crossed over to the Pandavas. This exposed the weakness of the Kauravas for all to see.

Know your enemies weaknesses and exploit them.

Take Calculated risks.

Inspire, invigorate, counsel your own team in moments of need.

The Roots

Kauravas : Princes brought up in the comfort of the Royal Palace, matured on romanticized ideals of Power, Fame, Courage and Valor. No experience of ground reality.

Pandavas :

- Spent the greater part of their lives in Poverty. Childhood in the Himalayan foothills among Rishis. One year exile among the poor people of Kuru-Panchala. 12 years of Vanvas and 1 year of Agyatvas.
- Experienced with the ground reality. Contact with people from various strata of the society. Sannyasis (celibate monks), Acharyas(Householders, teachers), poor Brahmanas, lower-class Potter.
- Different races of people. Rakshasas, Gandharavas, Apsaras, Nagas. People from different regions Uttarkuru, Bengal etc.
- A Sense of Sharing. A sense of Brotherhood.

Know ground realities.

Know different ideologies.

Share.

Women Empowerment

Kauravas : Patriarchal structure. Bhishma, Drona, Kripa, Dhritarashtra, Vidur, Shakuni, Duryodhana, Karna, Dushasana. No women in the decision making process. Gandhari retreated to the Inner Chambers. Nobody listened to her.

Pandavas : Matriarchal Structure.

- Kunti was the authority supreme for the Pandavas.
“Whatever my mother says is Dharma to me” : Yudhishthira.
- Draupadi was a companion in whatever the Pandavas did. She had a big role in all the decision making. Without her the Pandavas would have most probably reclined to the forests.
- Even the younger Pandavas : Ghatotkach, Abhimanyu and Iravan were brought up by their mothers. So the female influence was huge.

Women = Better Half. Any team which doesn't have women is unbalanced, for the Masculine traits of Aggression and Dominance should be balanced by the Feminine traits of Harmony and Sustenance.

Recap

- Turn your weaknesses into strengths.
- Turn enemies into allies.
- Share your responsibilities.
- Teamwork scores over Individual Effort.
- Right Team = Right set of Individuals. The right man for the right job.
- Commitment scores over Competence.
- Team interests over Individual interests..
- Know your enemy/challenges. Exploit its weaknesses. Take calculated risks.
- The Right Managers : To inspire, invigorate, counsel in crisis .
- Know Ground realities. Accept different ideologies. Cooperate.
- Empower Women. The Gender Balance is required for stability and administration.

