

Name : Durgam.sai lakshmi

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Secondly, I would like to say thanks to my parents ,my uncle and friends who helped me a lot in finding the information for my research project on “Archeological evidences of Mahabharata”.They also helped me a lot in finalizing this project within the limited time frame.

1.Introduction

Defining Archeology :

Archaeology (noun) : the study of the past based on objects or parts of buildings that are found in the ground.

Cambridge English dictionary says that “ultimate purpose of archaeology is to understand human societies and their changes” .

Merriam-Webster defines that the scientific study of material remains (such as tools, pottery, jewellery, stone walls, and monuments) of past.

Archaeology (archeology) is the study of human activity through the recovery. Derived from the Greek , the term archaeology literally means “the study of ancient history” .

Archaeology the scientific study historic or pre historic peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains, especially those that have been excavated.

Defining an Epic :

As we respect our parents, and ancient people of our families we have to respect our culture and heritage. Puranas and Itihasa are most precious for ever culture and play an important role in that society.

Itihasa means nothing but history happened in a long back. we can't say all the itihasa are not facts. But one thing happened in most puranas & Itihasas the creators often added some exaggerations, super powers called “mahimas” to extend the image of the Puranic (kings) heroes. This caused the literature as un-believable.

The “Itihasa Vagmaya” are called as “Epics”. Most of the countries are having of their own literature of epics. The word “EPIC” resembles a “Fiction” or “not a fact”. But we can't throw out all the past as a fake.

Hence, some research is most needful and to be held on this aspect to take out the real history from the unwanted additions in puranas. Why? the good wrong steps made by past may be usefull to build the future comfortable.

Some Archaeological surveys are held by some researchers. They used to compare the discriptions made in the literature and in the Inscriptions; to the places as well as Monuments that ae resembling in the present by Geographical measures such as; Land marks, distances, surroundings, bounderies, nature, climatical conditions etc., to prove the Accuracy. By this, they proved some of the places which the events had taken place in puranas were mostly true.

Sources for Filtering Real history from epics :

For attaining real history we need some evidences. For this pupose we may depend on the Sources as below

1. Archaeological evidences
2. Anthropological evidences
3. Literal evidences
4. Social evidences
5. Astrological evidences etc.,

Above sources seems to be seperate. But no one is independent. Each of them are related and mutually influenced by one on other, some where.

STORY OF MAHA BHARATHA :

The story of MahaBharatha is likely had been happened in 3150 B.C. A king named Janamejaya belonging to the Pandava's; itended to write the history of their Ancient (Pedigre) parents.

MahaBharatha is delivered by " VYASA" with 24 thousands of slokas. Later it extended to One Lakh slokas by "SOUTH(Sootha) "

Studies Held to prove Historical significance of Mahabharata :

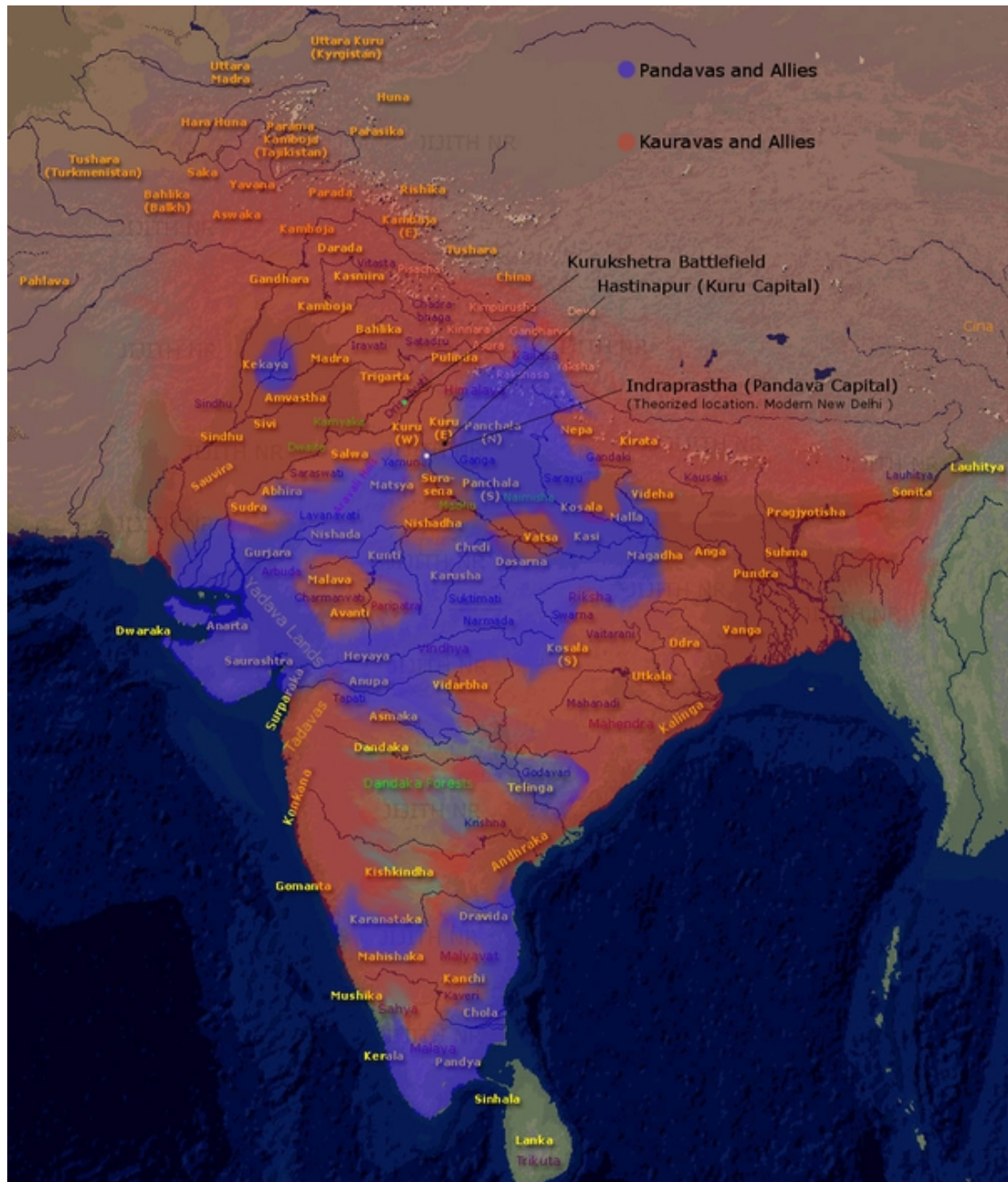
In 1920 A.D. most works were done interestingly to know the accuracy of the time line and its significance of "MahaBharatha".

In 1921 Kattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy raised the curtain to the deed.

In 1967 in 'Bhavans Journal' proffessor Kaviswar discussed more topics on the time lines of MahaBharatha.

In 1933 Pendyala Venkata Subrahmanya sastry, in 1990 byDr. VedaVyasa Mahabharata Kaala Nirnayam is published.

2. Map that reveals the existence of Kuru Dynasty



This is the map of Bharat during end of Dwapar yug

Even though this map is not accurate but it gives an idea of divide among the Pandavas & Kauravas. The idea of this partition was initiated by Duryodhan (Hastinapur) only when he was accompanied by Karna (Anga). Alongside them was Shakuni (Gandhar) who guided them what to do and how to do. When Kauravs & Pandavs used to work together for Dhritrashtra government, Duryodhan got in charge of treasury and he used to distribute money among the crowds to gain support and never used to release funds for Yuddhisthir's schemes as he was Crowned Prince. After partition also Duryodhan could not see Pandavs growing at last he went further ahead and didn't gave even 5 villages to pandavas.



3.Stone inscriptions related to Mahabharata

Some inscriptions explaining the Mahabharatha Battle was held approximately in the 3101 B.C. One can know a lot from a lot of inscriptions by the Kings, mainly in the Temples built by them.

Date of Mahabharata War :

Incidentally, the dating of the Mahabharat war has been of Challenge and Controversy for a century or two. Astronomical and literary evidences or clues from the pauranic and vaidik texts have been deciphered to provide a conclusive date for the Mahabharata war. The fifth century mathematician, Aryabhata, calculated the date of Mahabharat War to be approximately 3100 B.C. from planetary positions recorded in the Mahabharat. Prof. C.V. Vaidya and Prof. C.V. Apte had derived the date to be 3101 B.C and Shri. Kota Venkatachalam reckoned it to be 3139 B.C. However, the astronomical data used by the above, and many other, scholars contained some errors as examined by a scholar from Pune, Dr. P.V. Vartak. Using astronomical references and variety of other sources, Dr. Vartak has derived the date of the initiation of the Mahabharat War to be 16 October 5561 B.C. This Proposed date has been examined by a few scholars and has been verified. This may prove to be a breakthrough in deciding the chronology of the events in the history of Bharat (and probably the world).

Aihole Inscription tell about Mahabharata War Date :

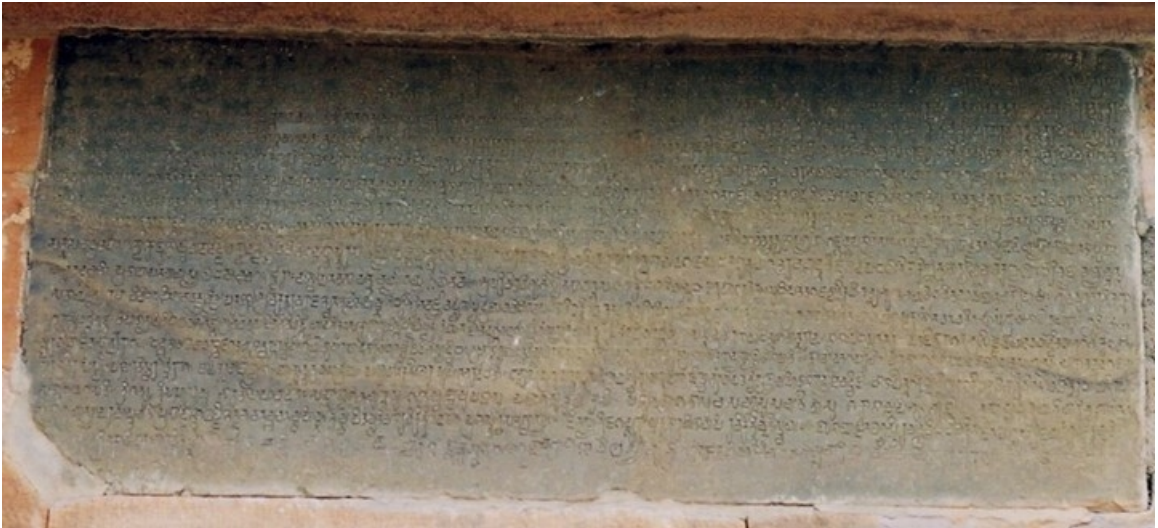


Aihole Temple

The famous **Aihole inscription** is available at the Meguti Jain temple. The Aihole inscription of Ravi kriti at the Meguti temple, a minister and poet in the court of Badami Chalukya King, Pulakesi II, is in Sanskrit language and old Kannada Script. This is found in Karnataka.

Based on this the Mahabharata did take place and Kali Yuga started as detailed below.

All the scholars have relied on this inscription found in the Jain Temple at Aihole prepared by one Chalukya King Pulakeshi. It says, according to scholars, that the temple was constructed in $30+3000+700+5 = 3735$ years, after the Bharat War and $50+6+500 = 556$ years of Shaka era in Kali era. Today Shaka era is 1910. Hence $1910-556 = 1354$ years ago the temple was constructed. Thus the year of inscribing this note is 634 AD. At this time 3735 years had passed from the Bharat War. So the date of the War comes to 3101 BC. This is also the date of Kali Yuga Commencement. Naturally, it is evident that relying on the beginning of Kaliyuga Era and holding that the War took place just before the commencement of Kaliyuga, this inscription is prepared. It is obvious from the Mahabharat that the War did not happen near about the beginning of Kaliyuga. (I have considered this problem fully at a later stage.) If we can see that the inscription is prepared by relying on some false assumption, we have to neglect it because it has no value as an evidence. Moreover the interpretation done by the scholars is doubtful because they have not considered the clauses separately and they held Bharat War and Kali Era as one and the same.



Aihole Inscription of Ravi kriti

The verse inscribed is :

त्रिंशत्सु त्रिसहस्रेषु भारतादाहवादितः ।
सहाब्दशतयुक्तेषु श(ग)तेष्वब्देषु पञ्चसु (३७३९) ॥
पञ्चाशत्सु कलौ काले षट्सु पञ्चशतासु च (९९६) ।
समासु समतीतासु शकानामपि भूभुजां ॥

Trinshatsu Trisahasreshu Bhaaratdahavaditaha | Saptabda Shatayukteshu
Gateshwabdeshu Panchasu | Panchashatasu Kalaukale Shatasu Panchashatsu cha |
Samatsu Samatitasu Shakaanamapi Bhoobhujaam ||

Interpretation of the above verse :

A)Trinshatsu Trisahasreshu Bhaaratdahavaditaha :

30+3000 since “Death of hero of Bharatha war”.This Points krishna’s death(Who supervised Bharatha war and Killed because of it due to curse of Gandhari).So,it points to kaliyuga begining and not to Bharatha War.Here 3000 years points to Bharatha war and 30 years represent krishna’s death after war. so, 30 and 3000 are given seperately. So,it means 3030 years has passed since Bharatha war and 3000 years since krishna’s death (probably this stone is sculpted here to mark this mile stone of 3000 also!).

B)Saptabda Shatayukteshu Gateshwabdeshu Panchasu :

the second clause starts and runs upto the middle of the third line thus
(Saptabda.....Kalaukale) This means $700+5+50 = 755$ years passed in the Kali Era.

C)Panchashatasu Kalaukale Shatasu Panchashatsu cha :

Kalukale means “now/this year running” (6 and 500) is 506 years passed.

D)Samatsu Samatitasu Shakaanamapi Bhoobhujaam :

As year after year from “saka”

Here the verse does not specifically say the Shalivahan Shaka but Scholars have taken granted that it is Shalivahan Shaka without any base or reasoning. The verse may have mentioned some other Shaka kings from ancient era. So we we neglect the doubtful

part of the Shaka counting which is useless and adhere to the Kali era expressly mentioned. It is clear from the former portion of the verse that 3030 years passed from the Bharat War and 755 years passed from Kali Era. Kali Era started from 3101 BC. 755 years have passed so $3101 - 755 = 2346$ BC is the year when 3030 years had passed from the Bharat War. So $2346 + 3030 = 5376$ BC appears to be the date of Bharat War.”

Hisse borala inscription of Deva sena :



This inscription is of 5th century AD and scholars hold that it throws light on the time of Mahabharat war. It was found in the year 1963/1964 in the river-bed of Vatsagulma river

सिद्धम् तस्य वृत्तस्य ब्रा २० सप्त (षंयु रा सु.....)

It states that Saptarishis were in Uttara at the time of this inscription. There are three planets containing prefix “Uttara”. But this word confirms it as “Uttara Ashadha”

‘सप्तषंय उत्तरा सु,’

It confirms that Hisse Borala inscription were made in “Uttara Ashadha” Nakshatra

Scholars hold that Saptarishis were in Magha at the time of Yudhishtira because Varahmihira has stated so in Brihat-Samhita. Scholars also hold that Yudhishtira’s time is 3137 BC. So if we can verify Yudhishtira’s timeline then also we can find the Mahabharat war precisely.

Thus :—

Brihat Sanhita

1. When king Yudhiṣṭhira ruled the earth the Saptarishis (Saptarsis) were in Maghā'.
2. ' The time of that king is obtained by adding 2526 Sakakāla, i. e. he lived 2526 years before Śakakāla '.
3. ' They remain in each asterism for a hundred years '.

आसन्मघासु म्रनयः शासति पृथ्वीं यधिष्ठिरे नृपतौ ॥

षड्विक्रपंचद्वि(2526)युतः शककालः तस्य राजस्य⁴ ॥ ३ ॥

भेकैकस्मिन् ऋक्षे शतं शतं ते चरन्ति वर्षाणाम् ॥

प्रागुदयतोप्यविवरादज्जदयंस्तत्र संयुक्ताः⁵ ॥ ४ ॥

बृ. सं. XIII (सप्तर्षिचारः) 3, 4.

Saptarishis stay in one Nakshatra for 100 years, and there are 27 Nakshatras. Hence Saptarishis would be again in Magha 2700 years later during the 4th century BC.

As per this inscription, Uttara Ashadha traversed 1/6 of the portion during the creation of this inscription. That means movement from one Nakshatra to another takes slowly in the time of hundred years.

As a progressive human, I believe more about archaeological artifacts rather than believing in ancient scripture to show more inclination towards science. So let's start calculating in a reverse way. **Devasena** ruled the Vatsagulma branch of the Vakataka dynasty during the 450 – c. 475 CE.

So we can assume that he created this inscription somewhere in between 450-475 year. We take two extreme points that this inscription was created either 450 AD or 475 AD.

450 and 475 is the time when Uttara Ashadha has completed one-sixth of his time (~16 years)

		No.	Nakshatra's			No.	Nakshatra's
-475	-450	21	Uttara Ashadha	1341	1366	2	Bharani
-459	-434	20	Purva Ashadha	1441	1466	1	Ashvini/Aswini
-359	-334	19	Mula	1541	1566	27	Revati
-259	-234	18	Jyeshtha	1641	1666	26	Uttara Bhadrpada
-159	-134	17	Anuradha	1741	1766	25	Purva Bhadrpada
-59	-34	16	Vishakha	1841	1866	24	Shatabhisha
41	66	15	Swati	1941	1966	23	Dhanishtha
141	166	14	Chitra	2041	2066	22	Shravana
241	266	13	Hasta	2141	2166	21	Uttara Ashadha
341	366	12	Uttara Phalguni	2241	2266	20	Purva Ashadha
441	466	11	Purva Phalguni	2341	2366	19	Mula
541	566	10	Magha	2441	2466	18	Jyeshtha
641	666	9	Ashlesha	2541	2566	17	Anuradha
741	766	8	Pushya	2641	2666	16	Vishakha
841	866	7	Punarvasu	2741	2766	15	Swati
941	966	6	Ardra	2841	2866	14	Chitra
1041	1066	5	Mrigashirsha	2941	2966	13	Hasta
1141	1166	4	Rohini	3041	3066	12	Uttara Phalguni
1241	1266	3	Krittika/Krithika	3141	3166	11	Purva Phalguni
				3241	3266	10	Magha

By this reverse calculation, we got a very optimistic number 3241 B.C when during the reign of Yudhishtira's Saptarishis was traversing in the Megha Nakshatra's. Here I take two extreme points.

1. Let's assume that it was the beginning time of Magha Nakshatra's then 3241 B.C is the final number.
2. But if we assume that it was the end time of Magha Nakshatra's then we can deduct 99 years from 3241 and it then it will be 3142. A number that is very close to the scholar's number.

Yudhishtira's ruled 37 years so the oldest date which we can get for Mahabharat was will be $3142 - 37 = 3105$ B.C.

4.Excavations of Kurukshethra,Hastinapur,and other sites



Kurukshetra War

Kurukshetra is the place where the epic Mahabharata war fought for 18 days, more than 5000 years ago. Bhagavadgeetha describes Kurukshetra as 'Dharmakshetra' – a place where 'Dharma' is restored. The location of the battle was Kurukshetra in the modern state of Haryana in India.



Draupadi Ghat

The battle was fought for throne of Hastinapur, which is now located between Meerut and Mawana in uttar Pradesh



Draupadi's Kitchen

Excavations were conducted at Hastinapur (29°9'; 78°3', Dt Meerut ,Uttar Pradesh) in 1950-52 by B.B.Lal on behalf of the ASI. Hastinapur, which is located between Meerut and Mawana in uttar Pradesh is now a forgotten village, but the 1952 excavations revealed a few interesting discoveries which are highly debatable as whether they can be really correlated with the Mahabharata period.

After the archaeological excavations at 'Vidura-ka-tila', a collection of several mounds ,some being 50 to 60 feet high and extending a few furlongs, named after Vidura, a site 37 km (23 miles) north-east of Meerut, it was concluded to be remains of the ancient city of Hastinapur, the capital of Kauravas and Pandavas of

Mahabharata, which was washed away by Ganges floods. In the archaeological excavations around hastinapur, about 135 iron objects which included arrow and spearheads, shafts, tongs, hooks, axes, and knives were found, which indicate the existence of a vigorous iron industry. There are indications of brick – lined roads and drainage systems, and an agro – livestock based economy. The painted grey ware (PGW) of Hastinapura has been assigned to 2800 BCE and beyond.

Further excavations at what is today referred to as Draupadi – ki – rasoi (Draupadi's Kitchen) and Draupadi Ghat resulted in the finding of copper utensils, iron seals, Ornaments made of gold and silver, terracotta discs and several oblong shaped ivory dice used in the game of chauper, all dating to around 3000 BC. These places are visited frequently by tourists since the excavations.

. Kota venkatachalam assigns 3138 B.c., as the year of Mahabharata War according to the calculations based on the movement of saptarishi mandala given in the text of Mahabharata Later, according to the Matsya and vayu puranas a heavy flood on the river Ganga destroyed Hastinapura and Nichakshu, the fifth king after parikshit (Arjuna's grand son) who ascended the throne after kurukshetra war, shifted his capital to kausambi, 50 kilomters from prayagraj. There is definite archaeological evidence of a massive flood level. The devastation by the Ganga is still visible in the thick clay soil. After the exile, the pandavas asked for three villages: Paniprastha, Sonaprastha and Indraprastha, generally identified with the modern panipat, Sonapat and puranaqila in New Delhi. These sites have also yielded the same pottery and anti Quities. Building structures with drainage sytems and painted grey ware (PGW) were excavated at purana Qila.

Sanauli Village :

The Archaeological Survey of India discovered Copper-Bronze Age chariots, coffins and other artefacts in excavations at Sinauli village after a farmer found pieces of copper in his land.

A slew of landmark findings - including three coffins and skeletal remains, chariots, swords, etc - found at the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Sanauli, Baghpat (UP) excavation site in June, and linked to Mahabharata, have been brought to Lal Qila in the city.

Here, at the institute, experts are closely examining the relics that purportedly belong to a 'royal warrior class' four millennia back, from the Pre-Iron or Bronze Age in 2000-1800 BC.

While archaeologists are still not definitively linking it to any particular race or civilization, Sanauli's proximity to Hastinapur-- the capital of Kauravas-- and Mahabharata's estimated dating to about 2nd millennium BC, has got many guessing!



The duo informed us that various tests and studies are now being carried out here to understand who were buried in Sanauli, how they lived and how they died.

"Firstly, these path-breaking discoveries could give a new dimension to our ancient past," claimed Sanjay Manjul, Director of the Institute of Archaeology.

"A chariot has been unearthed for the first time at any excavation site not just in India, but the entire subcontinent. Such raths were previously found only in Greece and Mesopotamia," he said.

Swords with hilts from this period have also been found for the first time, besides four-legged charpoy-like coffins with copper-leaf designs on them. Eight burial pits have been discovered at the site, including a dog and twin-human burial. Pottery with funeral items or food for afterlife, combs and mirrors, gold beads, etc. were found carefully preserved next to them.

It was for the first time anywhere that we used in-situ CT scan, X-ray and infra-red photography to analyse the burial pits in Sanauli. Now in Red Fort, we are sending out the collected bones and teeth for DNA tests. That will tell us if they belonged to the

Indian, Mongoloid or Aryan race; what were their respective age, and if they died in war, that may be revealed by cut marks on bones.

The weapons and tools are being sent for metallurgical tests to determine the percentage of copper and bronze in them and the mines they may have originated from.



The three chariots found in the burial pits could remind one of the familiar images of horse-drawn carriages from mythological television shows.

The relics suggest the existence of a two-wheeled open vehicle that may have been driven by one person.

"The wheels rotated on a fixed axle linked by a draft pole to the yoke of a pair of animals. The axle was attached with a superstructure consisting of a platform protected by side-screens and a high dashboard," S K Manjul, director of Delhi-based Institute of Archaeology, said.

They carried out Excavations for about 13 months.

Uncovering of pottery and antiquities :

The epic talks about three cities-Paniprastha, vanaprastha, and Indraprastha provided to pandavas after the exile. These cities now are Delhi's Puranqila and archeologists have found pottery and antiquities that corresponding to cultural and dating consistency with the Mahabharata period. These all verify statements recorded in vedic literature.

5.ChakraVyuh



What is Chakravyuh ?

The padmavyuha or Chakravyuha refers to a military formation narrated in the Hindu epic Mahabharata. The Chakravyuh or Padmavyuh, is a multi-tier defensive formation that looks like a blooming lotus when viewed from above. The warriors at each interleaving position would be in an increasingly tough position to fight. The formation was used in the battle of Kurukshetra by Dronacharya, who became commander-in-chief of the Kaurava army after the fall of Bhishma Pitamah.

Forts that resembles chakravyuh :

Mangarh fort :



The Mangarh fort, popularly known as the Piplu Fort, it is located some 30-35 kilometres away from Hamirpur district headquarters, in Himachal Pradesh. A replica of a labyrinthine design of Chakravyuha [] that was created by Kauravas in the Mahabharata is present there till now. It was created by Arjuna during exile for Knowledge of padmavyuh. It is believed that when Pandav's reached that region during their exile period, they cleared the whole region within one day and made it a plane area.

Carvings of Chakravyuh on templewalls :



This sculpture depicts the story of Abhimanyu entering the chakravyuha or padmavyuha. This stone artworks belong to 12 century and present in Hoysaleswara temple, Halebidu, India.

6.The lost city of Dwaraka



The marine archeologists have found some massive fort walls, piers, the jetty in the ocean near the city of Dwaraka in Gujarat, all of which are in alliance with the descriptions in the vedic scriptures that talk about mahabharata. They have found the entire city submerged in the ocean, which is said to be the ancient port city of Lord Krishna.



The verse in the Mausala Parava 7,40 of the Mahabharata, describes the disappearance of the city in the ocean; “After all the people had set out , the ocean flooded Dwaraka , Which took all the wealth of all kind. Whatever remained of the land was all washed over by the waters of the ocean”.



Dr. S.R. Rao, who was in the Archeological Survey of India and Who had pioneered marine archeology in india,writes, “The discovery of the legendary city of Dwaraka which is said to have been founded by sri krishna, is an important landmark in the history of india. It has set to rest the doubts expressed by historians about the historicity of Mahabharata and the very existence of Dwaraka city. It has greatly narrowed the gap in Indian history by establishing the continuity of the Indian civilization from the Vedic Age to the present day”.



The discoveries in the ocean include the massive city wall of Dwaraka, the door socket, the bastion from fort wall, two rock-cut slipways of varying width, natural harbor, stone ship anchors. Moreover, the three-headed motif on the conch-shell seal found in the Dwaraka excavations also strongly refer to the scripture Harivamsa that says that every city of Dwaraka needs to carry a mudra or seal of the type.



It's not just the remains of Dwaraka that's been found. More than 35 sites in North India have the Archeological evidences that describe the ancient cities in Mahabharata. Ornaments of gold and silver, iron, copper, utensils that date back to these times and the cultural significance related with the descriptions in Mahabharata have been found in these sites.

It is also to be noted that India in the ancient times was also densely populated, unlike Turkey and Greece. This made it really hard for Europeans, even with their advanced technology and tech-equipment, to conduct archeological surveys. When they excavated the city of Atlantis in the Southern Spain, that was still an unused barren land, they failed to survey properly due to water pressure and other constraints. Considering that, doing their archeological surveys would definitely have been difficult.

a circular bastion of submerged
fort walls of Dwarka



a long wall plotted and photographed
by diver-archaeologists



a prismatic stone anchor at buoys
A-4 A-5 DWK



a circular stone structure exposed during
low tide off Dwarka.



compiled by Ancientpages.com

**7. where are the cities mentioned
in Epic Mahabharata presently located ?**

Sno.	Name of the place		Importance
	As per epic	Now a days	
1.	Kurukshetra	Present lies in Haryana, 50 km to the east of the Ambala city.	This is the battlefield of the Mahabharata war. It is believed that Lord Krishna came to take a dip in the Brahmakund here before the battle began. The lake is called Brahma Sarovar.
2.	Hastinapur	Hastinapur was where currently Meerut in Uttar Pradesh	The grand city in the Mahabharata and the capital of the Kauravas and Pandavas. Hastinapur was where Yudhisthir lost his brothers in the gamble.
3.	Gandhar	Mahabharata's Gandhar is currently situated to the west of River Sindhu in Sindh, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.	Gandhari, the daughter of the King Subal of Gandhara, was the wife of Dhritrashtra. Her brother Shakuni was behind the war.
4.	Ujanak	It was near modern-day Kashipur in the Nainital,	The place where Guru Dronacharya taught archery to the Pandavas and Kauravas

		Uttarakhand. The place is also called Bhimshankar.	
5.	Takshashila	Takshashila was near current Rawalpindi in Pakistan.	The capital of Gandhar Desh
6.	Indraprastha	It was located to the south of present New Delhi.	Indraprastha was established by the Pandavas after destroying the Khandan Van. The capital city was designed by Vishwakarma.
7.	vrindavan	It is situated 10 km from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh.	Vrindavan was where Lord Krishna spent his childhood. Janmashtmi and the festival of Holi are celebrated with fervour here.
8.	Dwaraka	It is situated on the west coast of Gujarat.	Lord Krishna had shifted his capital from Mathura to Dwarka to protect the Yadavas.
9.	Magadh	The present-day South Bihar was called Magadh.	It was ruled by Jarasandh. Jarasandh's daughters were married to Kans, who was killed by Lord Krishna.

10.	Kaushambi	Located near Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh to the south of Ganges.	Kaushambi was the capital of Vatsa Desh which supported the Kauravas during the time period of Mahabharata.
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Learning Outcomes

Archeological evidences of Mahabharata is very interesting topic. To find the evidences first we should know their meaning of Archeology and Epic. Due to these topics I came to know about the evidences which really prove that Mahabharata is not a story but it actually happened. I came to know that our Indian Archeologists put a great effort in finding the evidences of Mahabharata. I came to know about where the cities mentioned in Mahabharata are presently located.

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