

Shanti- Parva (Mahabhartar)

- The Mahabhartar, written as Poetry (Epic) by Ved Vyasa, contains 18 Parva or the books.
- Among these 18 Parvas, **Shanti- Parva** is the largest one- 353 chapters, 12,863 Shlokas (verses)
- Divided into three sub-books- राज धर्म, आपदा धर्म and मोक्ष धर्म **Parvas**
- Its set up and context is after the war is over.
- It is in form of dialogue between Dying Bhishma and Yudhishthira- deliberation on धर्म (राज धर्म, आपदा धर्म and मोक्ष धर्म) by Bhīsmar (भीष्म) to Yudhishthira. Vyāsar , Krishna and Vidur also Joins in the Dialogue.

Rajadharma राज धर्म : Meaning

- **Multiple meaning and Connotations of the term Rajadharma राज धर्म**
 - Duties and obligations of the King/ruler and the government
 - *Dharma* (laws and rules) and Good Governance
 - Rules of conduct of the ruler/king- how a King should behave, what virtues he should have
 - Theory of origin of State/Kingship
 - Maintaining order, peace, and ensuring prosperity and welfare of the people by the King
 - Art and science of Governance and Politics– **Dandaniti** दंड नीति
 - Dispensing Justice by the King and Rule of Law
 - Statecraft: राज शास्त्र or राजनीति शास्त्र - acquisition, maintenance and expansion of the State
 - Political Obligation of the citizen/people towards King/Law
- राज धर्म is the **biggest/ultimate धर्म**; only if the King follows राज धर्म, all other धर्म can be up-held (Why?)
- राज धर्म is explained in many ancient Indian texts – Manusmriti, Arthashastra, Mahabharat, Sukranīshātra, Purans, etc