

Introduction

The Ramayana is a Sanskrit epic written by Maharishi Valmiki in Treta Yuga as a part of Hindu tenet the Smriti. Shri Rama has a special significance in Hindu Culture. Lord Rama is the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. He is worshiped as God in India & by all Hindus world over, he is known as "The Marayada Purushottam". The word Rama means one who gives happiness. It is made of two bijakasharas RA - Ma, Ra means to burn away sins and Ma means bestow happiness. It also means one who pervades through everything. The Ramayana is an epic of devotion, friendship, separation, re-union and expression of the eternal battle between Good over the evil. The Ramayana explores the tenets of human existence, the concept of Dharma and the duties on the earth.

This exhibit depicts the epic Ramayana and its influence on the Hindu culture and also on other cultures and religions. It represents the religious significance and the importance of Ramayana, to guide a person to righteous duty in the world - the Dharma Marga.

Plan of Exhibit

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1. The frame work of Ramayana

1.1 Hinduism and the Ramayana

Hinduism is predominant and tradition in India. It does not have a founder. Its root is the Vedic religion of the Iron Age in India. Prominent themes in Hindu beliefs include Dharma - the righteous path of samsara, the continuing cycle of birth, life and death, rebirth, karma, action and further reaction, moksha, liberation from samsara, through various yoga and practices. In Hinduism the Gods. Pantheon philosophically is an incarnation of the one Supreme God the Brahman. The Brahman is eternal, infinite and transcendental, time, energy, space, and matter which is beyond the universe.



Aum ॐ is the sacred syllable of Hinduism

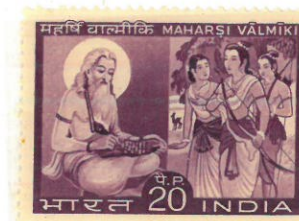


In the Hindu Gods pantheon are the three main Gods known as Trimurti - Brahma the creator, Vishnu the maintainer, Shiva the destroyer. The Trimurthi & the rest of Gods are considered a personification of Para Brahman.

The Hindu texts are divided into Sruthi (revealed) Smriti (Remembered). They discuss Theology, Philosophy, Mythology, Dharma righteous path.



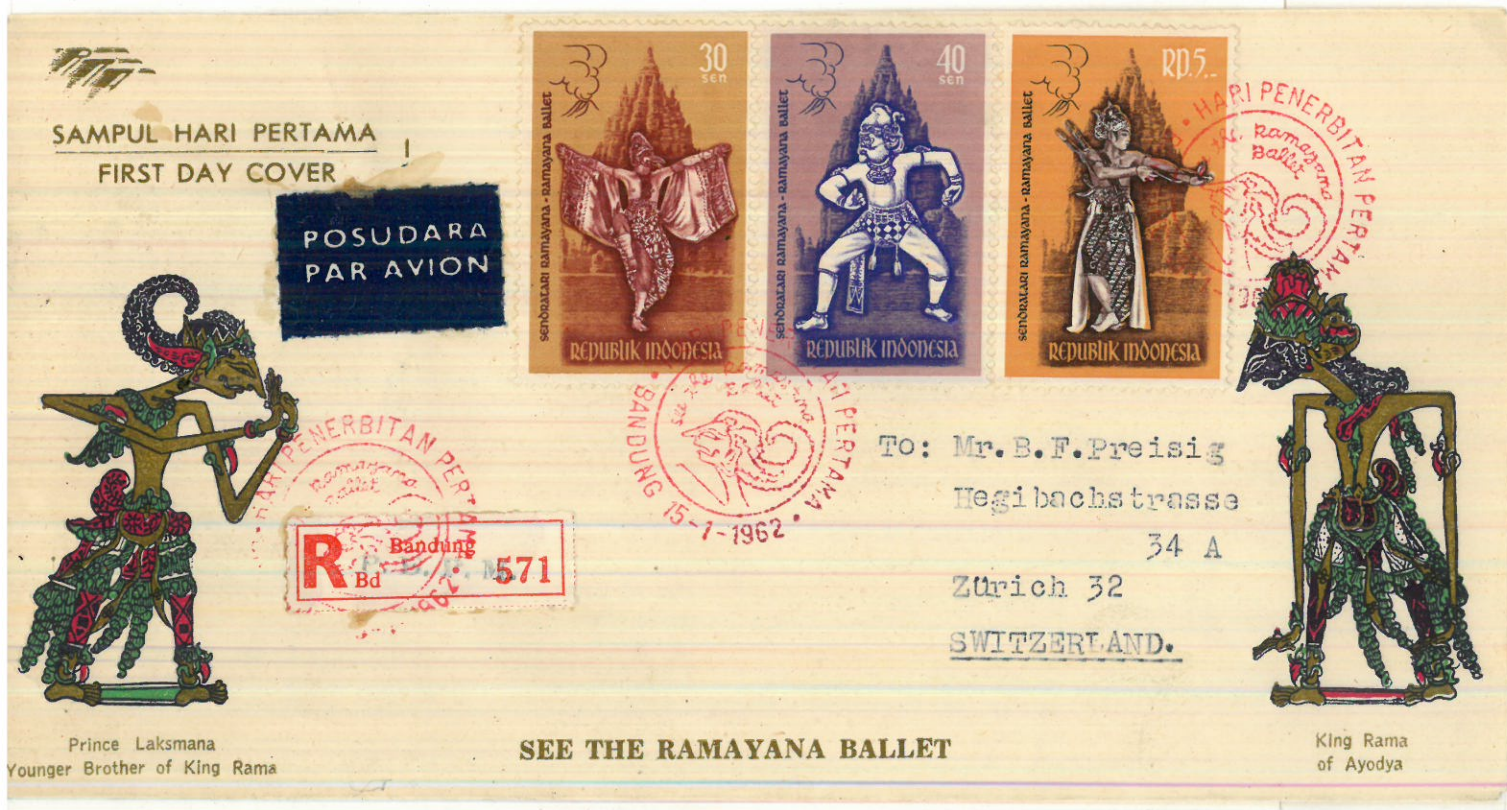
India - cradle of Hinduism



The Ramayana epic was written in Sanskrit over 2500 years ago in India.



The text written on palm leaves



Commercially carried cover on the Ramayana Ballet to Switzerland.

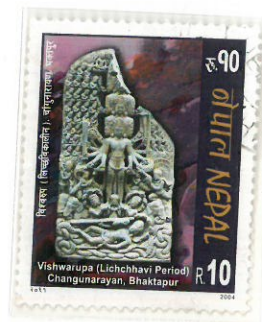
The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

1.2 Main characters of Ramayana



Rama

Lord Rama, King of Ayodha, and husband of Sita. He is the incarnation of God Vishnu.



Vishnu



Sita

Sita daughter of king Janaka and wife of Rama. She is the incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi.



Lakshmi



Lakshmana

Lakshmana son of king Dasharatha and brother of Rama. He is the incarnation of Adi Shesha, Naga associated with God Vishnu

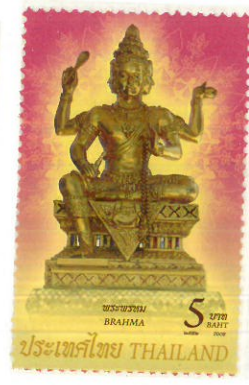


Shesha



Ravana

Ravana king of Demons and the ruler of Lanka. He received the boon from God Brahma.



Brahma



Jatayu

Jatayu King of Eagles is the son of Garuda.



Garuda



Hanuman

Hanuman the Monkey God is a great devotee of Lord Rama. He is the incarnation on God Shiva

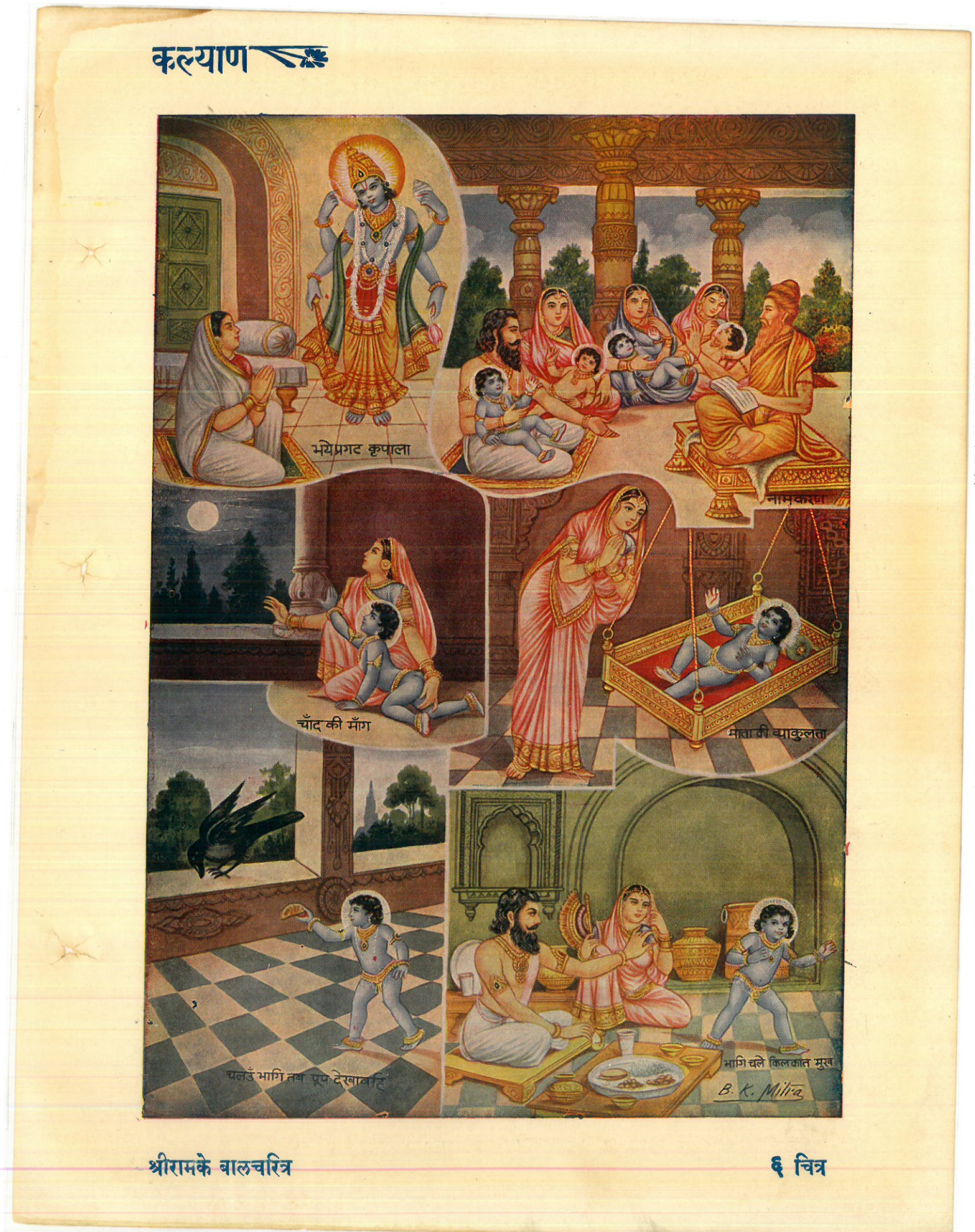


Shiva

2.The Ramayana

2. Bala Kanda: The birth of Rama and marriage to Sita.

King Dashratha of Ayodhya had three wives Kaushalaya, Kaikeyi & Sumithra. Rama was the eldest son Bharatha, Shatrugna & Lakshmana are his brothers.



Top: Right depicting King Dashratha and his three wives and their children. Second left: Lord Rama asking for moon. Third left bottom: feeding the crow. bottom right: in a playful mood

कल्याण

श्रीरामकी बालछबि



काम कोटि छबि स्याम सरीरा

Lord Rama with toy bow arrow, ball and elephant

2.1.. Bala Kanda: The birth of Rama and marriage to Sita.

Kaushalaya gave birth to Rama and he married Sita daughter of King Janaka of Mithila. Sita's swayamvara was arranged by King Janaka, he was gifted with a Divine bow from Lord Shiva, as part of the contest (swayamvara). One had to lift this bow and Rama did it with ease and Sita's (was given) wedding was arranged with Rama.



Rama



Sita



King Janaka



Lord Rama with Divine bow



Lord Rama weds Sita



Mithila paintings in traditional style. It originated in Treta Yuga at King Janaka's palace. It was decked for the wedding of his daughter Sita to Lord Rama.

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

2.2. Ayodhya Kanda and Aranya Kanda: Rama sent to exile and Ravana abducts Sita.

Dasharatha wanted to crown Lord Rama as the king of Ayodhya. Kaikeyi wanted Bharatha to be crowned as the king and send Rama to exile. Rama went to exile for fourteen years. He was accompanied by Sita & Lakshmana. During the exile period they visited the ashrams and rishis. During this period of exile Shurpanakha (Sister of Ravana) visited them, she had come with an intention to seduce him, Lakshmana punished her. Ravana felt insulted by this, and he wanted to avenge this insult by sending Maricha in the form of a Golden deer to isolate Sita. Rama captured the deer and Ravana abducted Sita. Jatayu attacked Ravana, Jatayu could not attack further since he was badly wounded. In the mean while Ravana reached lanka with Sita. Ravana tried to charm & seduce her, alas but in vain.

2.3. Kishkindha Kanda: Meeting with Hanuman (Monkey God), Rama and Lakshmana.

Sita's abduction was informed to Rama by Jatayu. The search operations begins for Sita, during this they met Sugriva. Rama helped Sugriva to re - conquer Kishkindha the kingdom of vanaras (Monkey) from Vali. He expresses his gratitude towards Rama by sending his praja (people) lead by Angada and Hanuman go search of Sita. They came to Rama with the news that Sita is in Lanka.



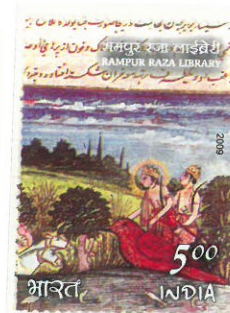
Rama with Maricha disguised as Deer



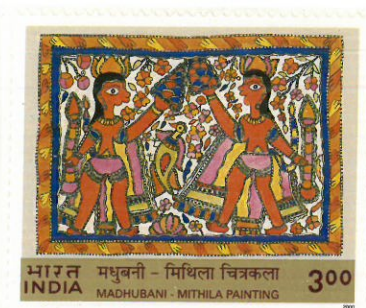
Rama, Lakshmana, Hanuman & the monkey Military.

Maricha

"Support of War Victims" overprinted



Jatayu king of Eagles attacking Ravana Rama Lakshmana & Jatayu



Vali King of the monkey kingdom Kishkindha thought that Sugriva had betrayed him as a king & he played a ploy on Sugriva by taking his wife Roma. This led to bitterness of the brothers & were enemies. Lord Rama helped Sugriva to rule Kishkindha Kingdom.



Ravana kidnapped Sita and he is taking her to his kingdom.



Hanuman the Indonesian version "Ramavataram"



Hanuman (white monkey) Theravada Buddhist version of The Ramayana

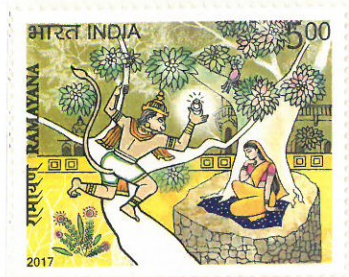


Hanuman - Ninh Laphath (Black monkey) - Laotian Ballet of Ramayana.

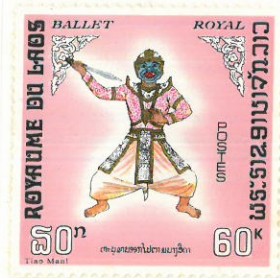
The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

2.4. Sundara Kanda : Hanuman and his valour

Hanuman realised that Sita was abducted to Lanka he crossed the ocean and reached her. Hanuman found that Ravana had threatened her. He offered to Sita that he will unite her with Lord Rama. She refused Hanuman's offer saying that Lord Rama would rescue her. Hanuman fought bravely over Ravana's army & destroyed almost lanka city. In the ensuing battle he was caught and his tail was burnt, he escaped with a burning tail and burnt the citadel. Lord Rama was informed about her whereabouts in detail.



Hanuman met Sita with Lord Rama's finger ring, in ashok vatika, Lanka.



Hanuman ardent devotee of Lord Rama



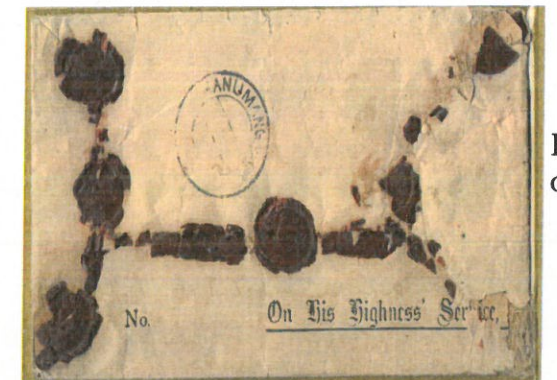
Used for Air mail, over printed and surcharged for Tokyo Olympics.



Hanuman met Sita and handed over lord Rama Ring to her



Post mark of Shri Hanuman Garhi, Ayodhya



Reverse side of the cover



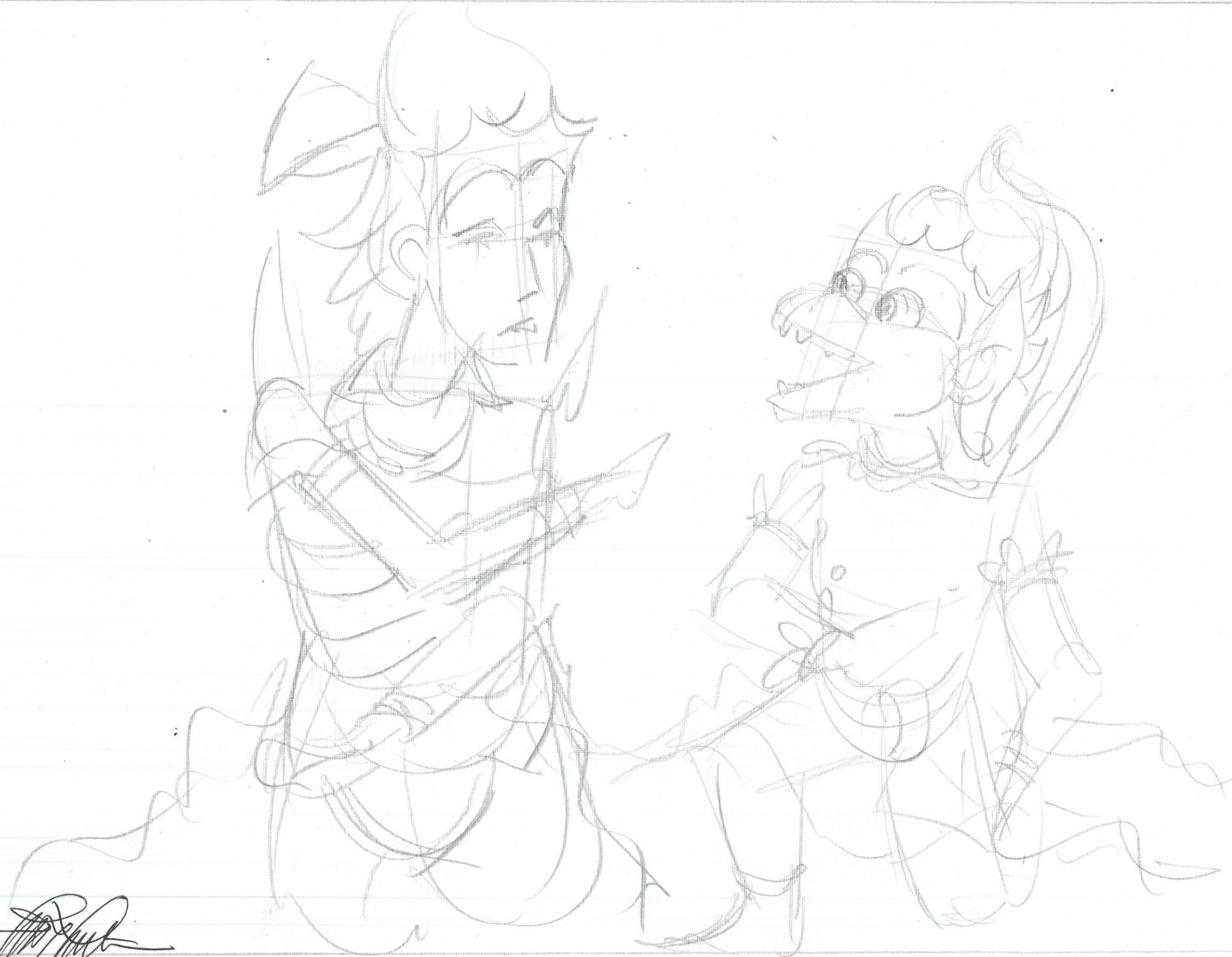
Die card with control Punch, (2nd series) small Impression of the steel die at the bottom



Large tab with sheet number



Registered and Insured cover on His Highness service with Hanuman garh cancellation



Made Saputra
Made Saputra



M Saputra
Made Saputra

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

2.4. Sundara Kanda : Hanuman and his valour

The monkey is the ninth of the 12 year cycle of animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac related to the Chinese calendar. The year of the monkey is associated with earthy branch. In the Indonesia Hanuman is the famous character, he is also known as Mahavira or Bajarangbali, he is an ardent devotee of Lord Rama, several text and scriptures present him as an incarnation of Lord Shiva.



Post mark depicting Hanuman stamp designed by Made Saputra and signed by the artist



Imperf of Hanuman in various poses



Imperf of Hanuman



Hanuman turns around to see after uprooting trees in Ashoka vatika



4000 / 2080

Year of the Monkey

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

2.5. Yuddha Kanda :

This is depicted in three parts. Part 1 & 2 the battle between Rama and Ravana. Part 3 Rama and Sita return to Ayodha.

Part 1: lord Rama with his retinue left for Lanka. They proceeded towards the shore of the ocean. Hanuman enlarged his body to carry Rama and Lakshmana on his shoulders to cross the ocean. The rest of his retinue crossed the ocean where the monkeys constructed the bridge and it was called as Ramasethuve. Ravana sent his brother Kumbakarna to fight with Rama's army.



Hanuman forms the Ram sethuvu (bridge)



Vanaras (monkey) army crosses the ocean to Lanka



Kumbakarna Army commander of Ravana.

Ravana asked his daughter sowparnika (Matsya) to disturb the construction of the bridge by removing the stones by the fishes. Hanuman realised this and fought Ravana's daughter. During the ensuing battle she fell in love with Hanuman and asked her retinue to stop destroying the bridge.



Rama was kidnapped by Mariyab to an nether world city and kept him captivity. Hanuman fights with Mariyab kills him. Lord Rama is rescued.

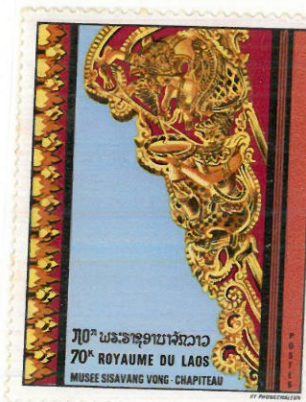
Lord Rama fighting Ravana

2.5. Yuddha Kanda :

Part 2: The battle continued for a long time between Rama's army and Ravana's army by Kumbakarna. Ravana's son Indrajith enters the battle field, after the death of kumbhkarna and his brothers. Indrajith led the army on the 3rd day fierce battle between Indrajith and Lakshmana took place Indrajith was killed by Lakshmana with the help of Garuda & Hanuman. The king of demons Ravana was killed by Lord Rama. Vibhishna brought Sita Devi to Rama.



War Scene depicted on a miniature sheet.



Indrajith's half brother receives the head on a cup after he was killed in the battle.



Rama kills Ravana

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

2.5. Yudda Kanda :

Part 3: Rama, Sita returns to Ayodhya. Rama asks Sita to undergo the Agni Pariksha as a purity test. This test was called for since she had stayed in the Demon's city in Ravana's kingdom to avoid accusation. The Agni testified her purity. The coronation of Rama was performed on their return to Ayodhya.



Agni the Son of Brahma, God of earth & also sacrificial fire. He performs Agni Pariksha a test of purity.



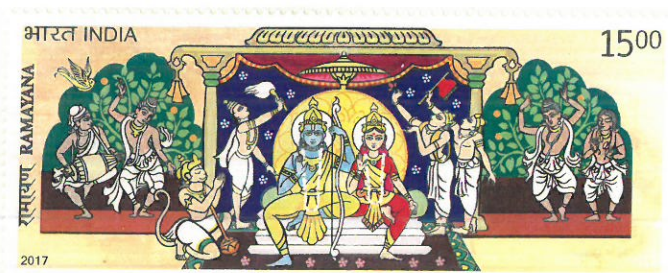
Brahma is the creator, God of Mercy. He has four faces & can help from any direction. He has a disc as weapon to protect the good over the evil, water pot for creation of life, spoon as sacrificial tool, book for wisdom & weapon to fight against evil.



Sita prays before the Agni Pariksha



Lord Rama meets Sita after the Agni Pariksha



Lord Rama's Coronation at Ayodha

2.6. Uttara Kanda :

Rama banishes Sita, in spite of her undergoing the purity test. The washer man in a fit of rage spreads rumors and the lord Rama heard this & he banishes her to the forest. Sage Valmiki provides her shelter in his ashram. It is here she gives birth to twins namely Lava and Kusha. The twins were reciting Ramayana in front of Lord Rama. They recited about Sita's exile, he gets upset, Sage Valmiki gets Sita. Sita prayed to mother earth to receive her, the Mother earth opens up and she vanished into it. The mission is complete in the earth was the message sent to Lord Rama & he returns to his celestial world.



Lava and Khusha are training in the archery



God Vishnu has ten incarnations one of the incarnations is Lord Rama



Commercially used card depicting Sitapur cancellation

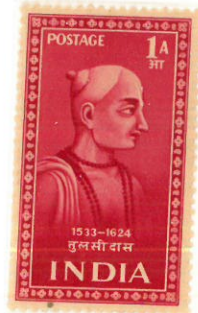
The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

3. Variant, adaptations and influence of Ramayana :

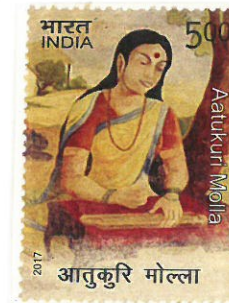
There are over 300 versions of Ramayana and even today there is a tradition of oral story telling in India & other countries world over, with their own adaptations specially in Indonesia and south east Asian countries.



Kambar wrote Ramavatharam and is popularly known as Kamba Ramayana in the 12th century in Tamil



Tulsidas wrote Ram Charita Manas in Brij bhasha. This is an important work of 15th century, only after sanskrit version of Ramayana written by Sage Maharishi Valmiki.



Aatukuri Molla wrote the sanskrit version of Ramayana in Telugu. The opening poem says "Ramayana has been written many times, someone stop taking food because it has to be taken every day? So is the story of Rama one can write, read and love it as many number of times as possible. Her Ramayanam has been quoted as a work filled with native flavour.



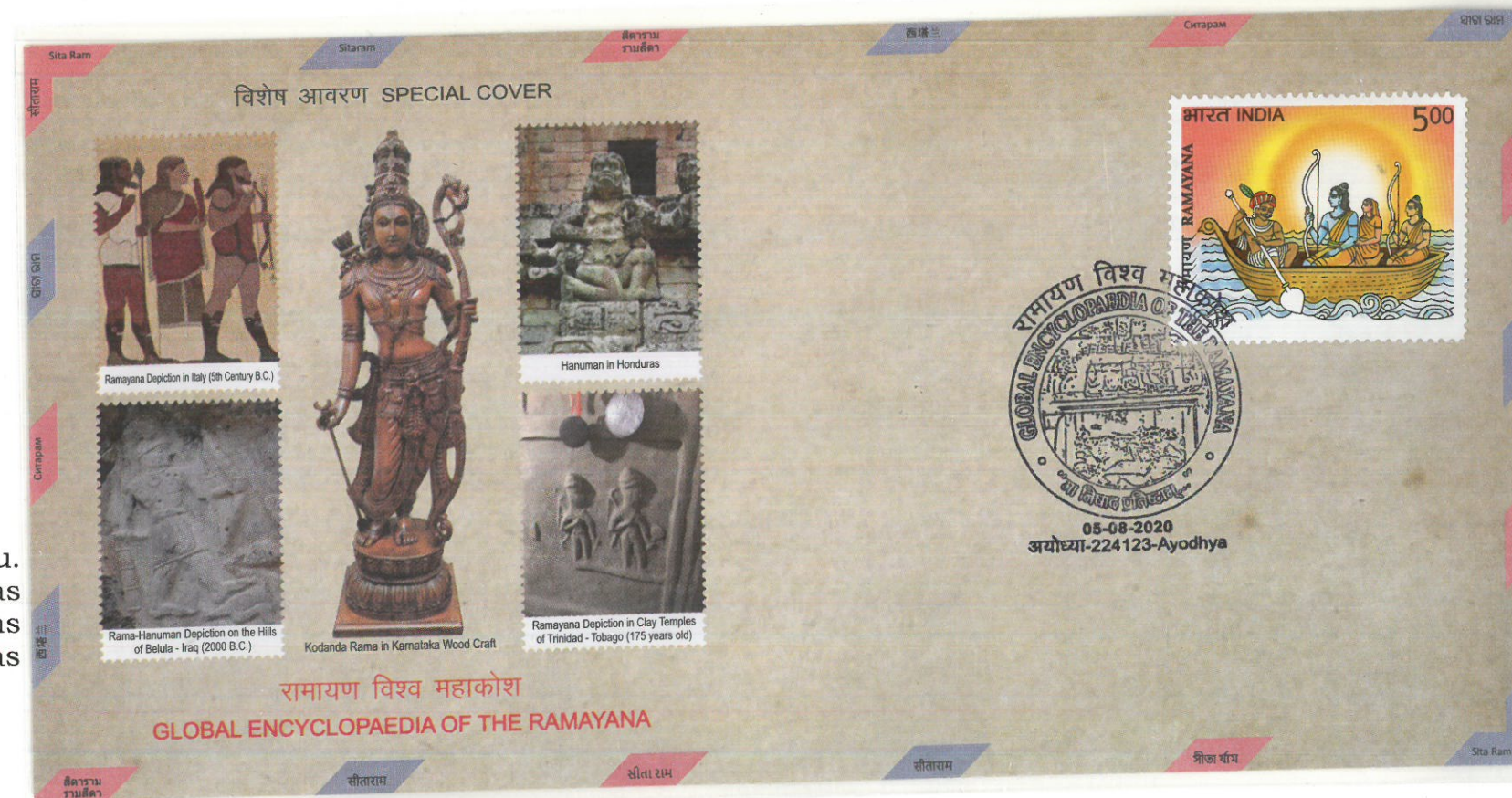
Muddana was a Kannada poet, writer a Yakshagana poet. He known as Mahakavi Muddana. His works include Ratnavati Kalyaana(Yakshagana), Sri Rama Pattaabhisheka, Adbhuta Ramayana and Sri Ramashwamedha.



Nirala authored the Ram Ki Shakti puja in the 20th century



K.V. Puttappa was popularly known as Kuvempu. He wrote this epic in Kannada known as Sri Ramayana Darshanam with his adaptations particularly on Agni Pariksha. This treatise has won him Awards, laurels came for this work.



Post mark depicting the Global Encyclopedia of Ramayana: the tangible intangible heritage of Prabhu Shri Ram on a global scale. In it, architecture, sculptures, picture music, Ram leelas, handicrafts, literature and social life style related to Ramkatha.

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

3.1. Variant, adaptations and influence of Ramayana :

Ramayana had influence even in the majority muslim country. The Malaysian version of the Ramayana is called as "Hikayat Seri Ramayana". In Indonesia Ramayana is a part of local traditon and culture. (expression, Moral) performance called "Wayung Kulit Shadow Puppet of traditional dances". The most popular one in Java is Hanuman Puppet "Wayung Kulit Shadow Puppet".



Laos version of Ramayana Phra Lak- Phra Ram



One morning in his childhood, Hanuman was hungry and saw the rising red-colored sun. Mistaking it for a ripe fruit, he leapt up to eat it. In one version of the Hindu legend, the king of gods Indra intervened and struck Hanuman with his thunderbolt. It hit Hanuman on his jaw, and he fell to the earth as dead with a broken jaw.

Artisan making, puppetry



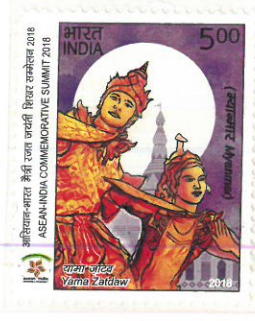
Khon drama, puppetry is one of the version of Ramakien from Thailand.



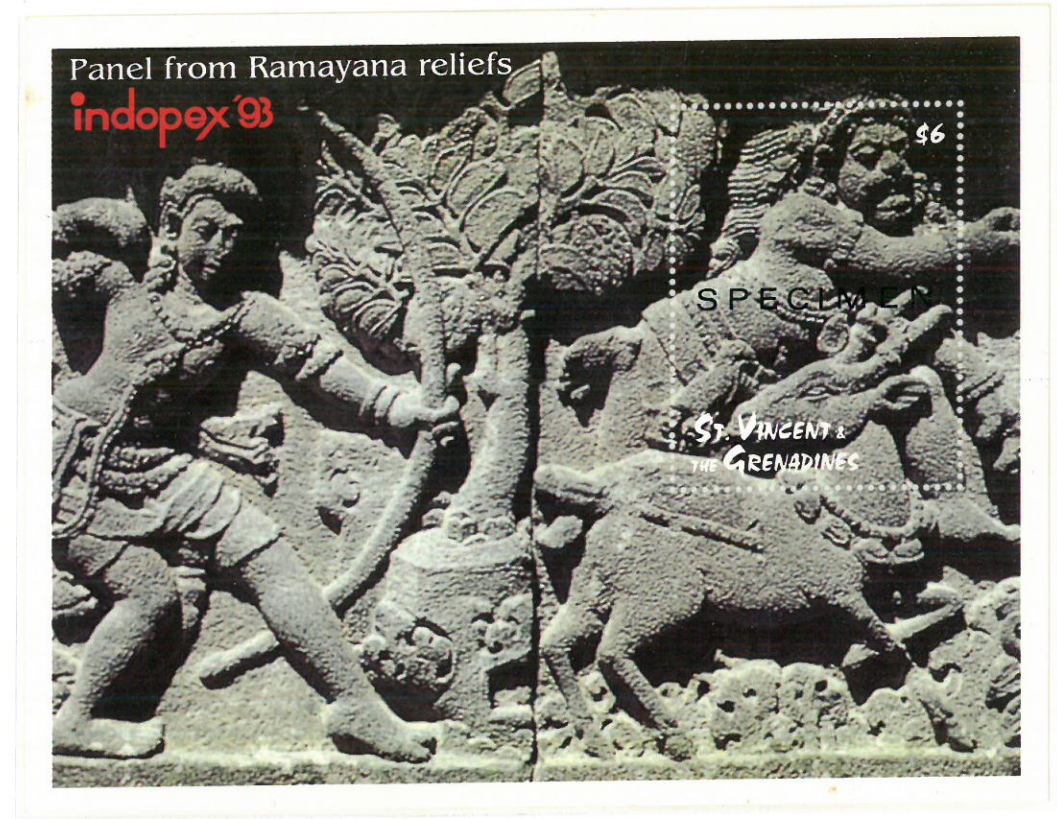
Cambodia version of Ramayana - Reamker



The Ramayana is the national epic of Lao PDR. Phralak Phralam the title refers to Sri.Rama and Lakshmana, Hanuman is portrayed in the form of strength.



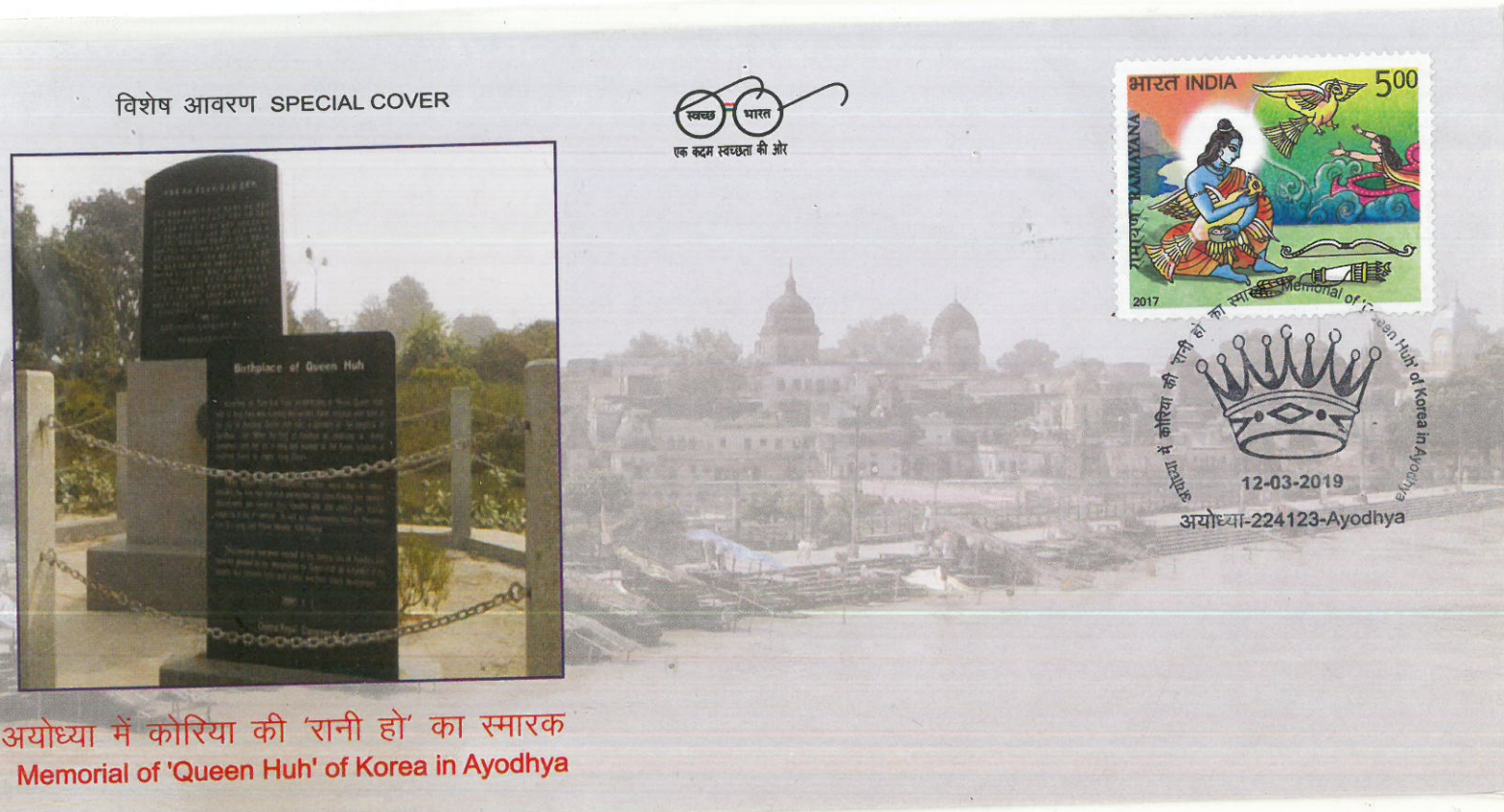
The Mynamar Ramayana is known as Yama Zatdaw. The word Yama translates to Rama, while Zatdaw refers to play enactment. The epic is rendered with local culture, customs and costumes.



Specimen over print depicting Lord Rama with a bow on a panel

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

3.1. Variant, adaptations and influence of Ramayana :



अयोध्या में कोरिया की 'रानी हो' का स्मारक
Memorial of 'Queen Huh' of Korea in Ayodhya

Heo Hwang-ok is a legendary queen mentioned in Samguk Yusa, a 13th-century Korean chronicle. According to Samguk Yusa she became the wife of King Suro of Geumgwan Gaya at the age of 16, after having arrived by boat from a distant kingdom called "Ayuta", making her the first queen of Geumgwan Gaya. Special cover depicting the memorial in her name.



Sand sculpture (model 5' tall) of Lord Temple at Ayodhya. It took five hours and four tonnes of sand. It was created on Puri beach by Mr. Pattnaik. Post mark depicting the temple.



Souvenir Sheet Joint Stamps Issue Indonesia - Thailand
3D Hologram
Printed Only 10,000 Souvenir Sheet

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

4. Festivals and events :



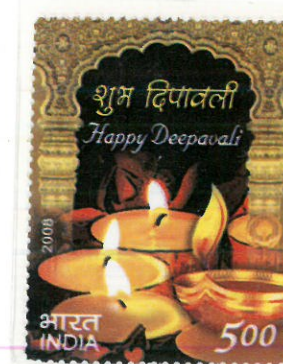
Ramanavami marks the birthday of Lord Rama

Sita Jayanthi is the birthday. She is the embodiment of purity and devoted wife. King Janaka finds Sita while ploughing the field (Daughter of Mother Earth)



My stamp: Chhath puja : Sita performed Surya Shashthi or Chhath Puja on the day Ramrajya was established. The festival is traditionally observed over a period of four days.

Deepavali festival of lights celebrates the slaying of demon king Narkasura by Lord Krishna and Lord Rama returning to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana.



Dusshera marks the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana, Rama performs special prayers and Chandika homa to take Goddess Durga blessings to Kill Ravana.

The Festival of lights is celebrated all over the Globe.

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

4.1. Festivals and events :

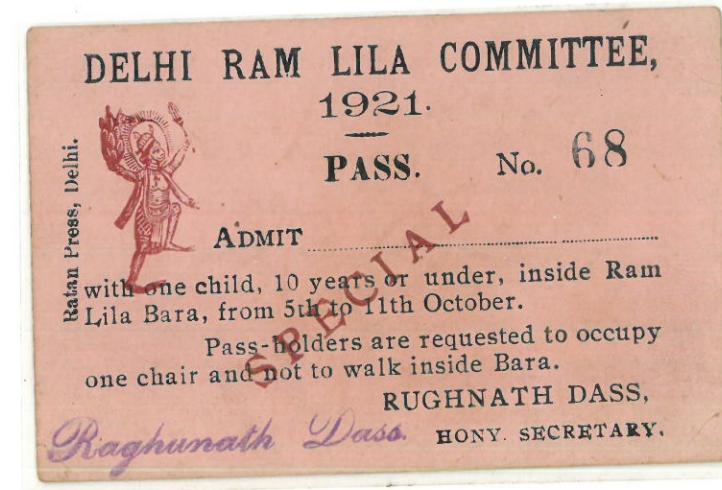
विशेष आवरण SPECIAL COVER



कुल्लू दशहरा KULLU DUSSEHRA



Ramleela is dramatic folk re-enactment of the life of Rama according to the ancient Hindu epic Ramayana or secondary literature based on it such as the Ramcharitmanas.

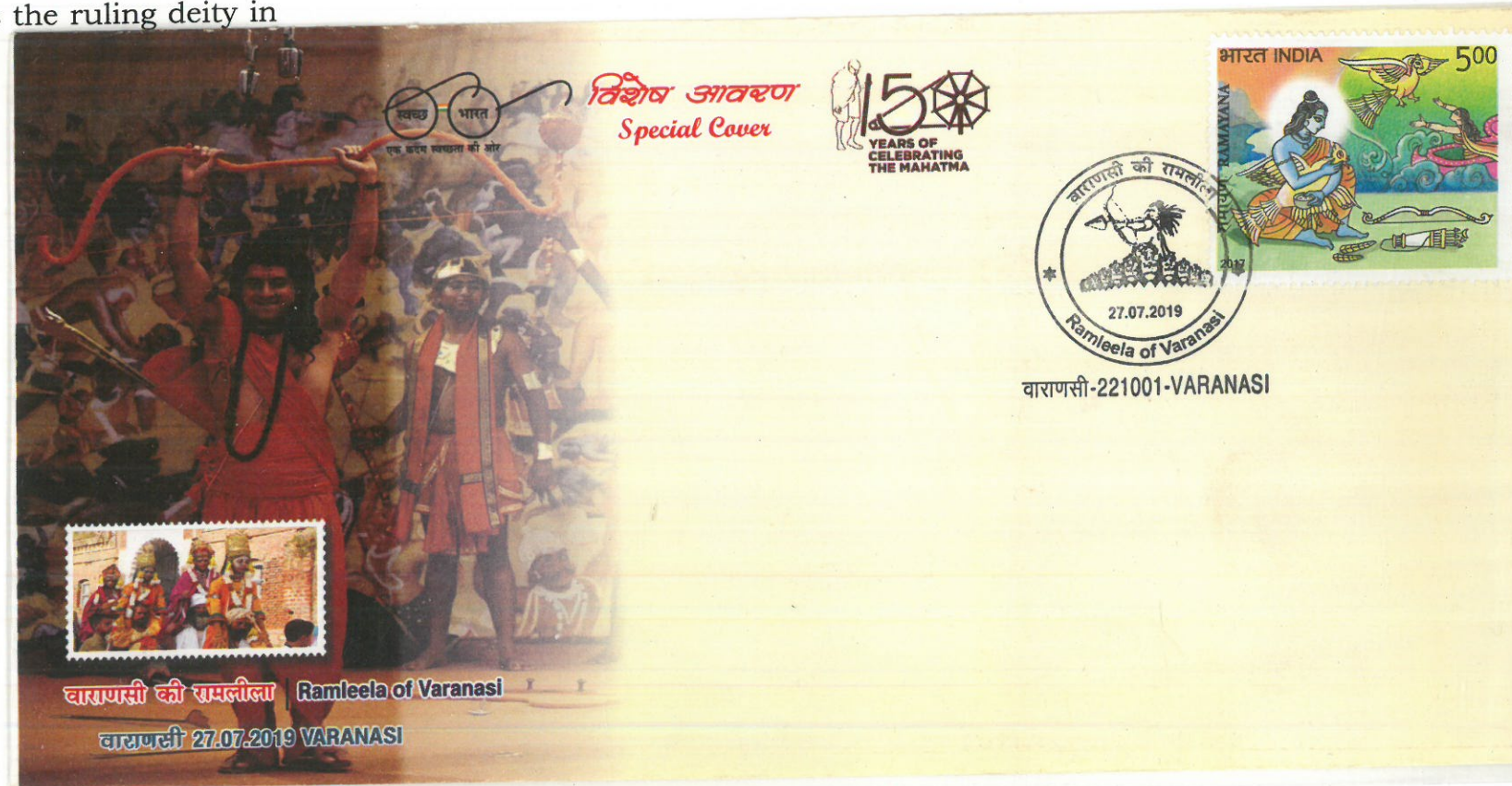


Ram Lila pass of 1921

Kullu Dussehra dates back to 17th century, King Jagat Singh installed the idol of Raghunath on his throne. This festival starts from Vijaydashmi day for 7 days. It is said that Lord Raghunath is the ruling deity in the valley.



Dussehra, or dasara is a major festival in India, and south east Asian countries. The epic Ramayana is reading on the first day of Dusshera and ends on the 10th day known as Vijayadashmi. The First day cover depicts the book.



Post mark depicting the Ramleela

The Ramayana - Good Over the Evil

4.1 Festivals and events :

Ram Mandir Bhoomi Pujan Divas

Largest digital display of Lord Ram shines in New York's Times Square



On the auspicious day of foundation stone laying ceremony for Ram Mandir Ayodhya, New York City had the largest digital display of Lord Ram. The display lit up from 10 am to 10 pm to celebrate the laying of the temple's foundation.

05-08-2020



राम मंदिर भूमि पूजन दिवस
Ram Mandir Bhoomi Pujan Divas
बड़ोदा - ३९०००१ Vadodara-390001
०५-०८-२०२० 05-08-2020

Post mark of Bhoomi Pujan of Ram Temple at Ayodha.



5.0. Significance of The Ramayana :

Hanuman is considered as a greatest devotee of Lord Rama, he symbolises strength, power. He is a great Valor & saviour too. In hinduism he is considered as "Lord Hanuman" and he is the incarnation of Lord Shiva.



หนุมานเป็นบุตรพระพายกับนางสีดา
เกิดวันอังคาร เดือนสาม ปีชวด คลอดออกมาจากปากแม่ ตัวโตเท่ากับอายุสี่สิบหกปี
เวลาแผลงฤทธิ์จะมีสี่หน้าแปดมือ หาวเป็นดาวเป็นเดือน มีกบฏล ชนเพชร เขียวแก้ว
ถวายตัวต่อพระราม เมื่อเสร็จศึกพระรามประทานความชอบให้เป็นพระยาอนุชิตจักรกฤษณ์ที่พิฆเนศวร
ครองเมืองหนบุรี ได้นางบุษมาลี นางเบญกาย นางสุพรรณมัจฉา นางวานริน นางมณฑิ และนางสุวรรณกันเิมมา เป็นเมีย
มีบุตรชื่อมัจฉาน (เกิดกับนางสุพรรณมัจฉา) และอสูรณี (เกิดกับนางเบญกาย)

13 บาท

Ravana symbolises the Evil on the earth. He is depicted as an evil person with Ten Heads & ten hands, full of bad qualities - Anger, lust, greed, pride, jealousy, delusion, evil intellect mind, ego in its "Ebb"



FESTIVAL RAMAYANA INTERNASIONAL

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE: AUGUST 31, 1971



BANDUNG 31-8-71



Main Moral of this epic is:

"The Ramayana - Good over the Evil"

Ramayana international conference & Festival is held annually. The conference facilitates to promote exchange of literary & cultural aspects of Ramayana across the cultures of the world