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Hindu Philosophy & Temple System

Exam notes for APPSC Endowments Executive Officer Grade-III, written from APPSC's own previous questions

English Medium | **2026-27 Edition**

10	PYQ	EN
chapters, full Paper II syllabus	APPSC 2023 & 2026 questions	English medium

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About this book



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These notes cover **Paper II: Hindu Philosophy & Temple System** of the **APPSC Executive Officer Grade-III** examination (A.P. Endowments Subordinate Service, Notification 23/2026). Paper II has 150 objective questions for 150 marks in 150 minutes, with one-third of a mark deducted for each wrong answer. It is the paper that is special to this post, and half of the 300 marks. This book does not cover Paper I (General Studies).

How this book was written

- Every chapter follows one topic of the official syllabus (Annexure-II of the notification), in the same order: the epics and Puranas, Agamas, festivals and arts, Vedic culture, philosophies and gurus, Hindu family law, and the Endowments Act and land laws.
- The content was chosen by reading every Paper II question APPSC has asked: the 2022 Screening Test, the 2023 Mains and the 2026 exam. Each fact APPSC asked is in the notes, and the amber **From the exam** boxes quote real questions with the official answers.
- APPSC's questions are short and factual: who said what to whom, which Kanda, Parva or Skandha, which Purana describes a tirtha, which Agama a temple follows, which section of the Act says what. So the notes are dense with tables and one-line facts rather than long essays.

How to use this book

- Read a chapter once, then revise from the coloured boxes: **Key facts** (blue), **From the exam** (amber) and **Quick revision** (green).
- 😂 **Meme breaks** mark the facts students most often mix up (Devarshi or Dasharathi? Alwar or Nayanar? Advaita or Dvaita?). If you remember the joke, you will remember the fact.
- The law chapters (8 to 10) give the gist of each section of the A.P. Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987 (Act 30 of 1987), the Hindu family laws and the ROR Act. For the exact wording, read the bare Act; APPSC often asks the section number.
- Finish with the **previous questions** at the end: every Paper II question of the 2026 exam and the 2023 Mains with the official answers and explanations. Practise them as timed tests on learnwithanil.in.

Sources: the official notification and syllabus; APPSC question papers and final keys (2022, 2023, 2026); Valmiki Ramayana, Vyasa's Mahabharata and the Bhagavata Purana in standard translations; the A.P. Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987 and its amendments; the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956; the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (as amended in 2005); the A.P. Rights in Land and Pattadar Pass Books Act, 1971; the A.P. Endowments Department.

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CHAPTER 1

Ramayanam

Syllabus: Paper II · Topic 01 · Ramayanam: characters, Kandas, dynasties, places

1.1 Valmiki and the epic

The **Ramayanam (Ramayana)** of **Valmiki** is the story of Sri Rama of Ayodhya. Tradition calls it the **Adi Kavya** (first poem) and Valmiki the **Adi Kavi** (first poet). With the Mahabharata it forms the **Itihasa** ("so indeed it happened").

How it began. All of these episodes are told in the Bala Kanda.

- Valmiki asked **Narada** who the most virtuous man in the world was. Narada told him the story of **Rama** in brief, a summary known as the *Samkshepa Ramayana*. Narada is called **Devarshi** (sage among the gods).
- On the bank of the river **Tamasa**, Valmiki watched a hunter (*nishada*) kill one of a pair of **krauncha** birds. His grief (*shoka*) poured out as a verse (*shloka*), "*Ma nishada pratishtham tvam…*". It is regarded as the first verse in the Anushtubh metre of classical poetry.
- **Brahma** then appeared and asked Valmiki to compose the full story of Rama.
- Valmiki taught the poem to Rama's sons **Lava and Kusha**, who were born and raised in his ashram. They sang it in Rama's presence (the Uttara Kanda sets this at his Ashvamedha).

Item	Fact
Size (as the Bala Kanda itself states)	**24,000 shlokas**, **500 sargas**, six Kandas plus the **Uttara** (Kanda)
Number of Kandas	**7** (the chapters of the Ramayana are called **Kandas**)
Metre	Mainly Anushtubh
Valmiki's other names	**Prachetasa** (descendant of Prachetas). In popular legend he was once the robber **Ratnakara**, and the name comes from the ant-hill (*valmika*) that covered him during his penance
Valmiki's ashram	On the Tamasa, near the Ganga. Sita lived there after she was abandoned
Valmiki Jayanti	Ashvayuja (Ashvin) Purnima
Popular belief	Each 1,000 verses begins with one syllable of the 24-syllable Gayatri mantra

KEY FACTS

- Narada → Valmiki: the story of Rama in brief. Brahma → Valmiki: the command to compose the full poem.
- Valmiki → Lava and Kusha: they learnt the epic by heart and sang it.
- **Ramopakhyana**, a short version of the Rama story, is in the **Vana Parva** of the Mahabharata (Markandeya tells it to Yudhishthira). The Rama avatara is also narrated in the **ninth Skandha** of the Bhagavatham.

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1.2 The seven Kandas

#	Kanda	Main events
1	**Bala Kanda**	Dasharatha's Ashvamedha and the **Putrakameshti** (performed by **Rishyashringa**). Birth of the four princes. **Vishwamitra** takes Rama and Lakshmana to guard his yajna at **Siddhashrama** and teaches them the **Bala and Atibala** mantras. **Tataka** and **Subahu** are killed and **Maricha** is thrown into the sea. Vishwamitra tells the stories of Sagara and Ganga's descent. **Ahalya** is freed from her curse. At Mithila, **Shatananda** narrates Vishwamitra's life. At **Mithila** Rama breaks Shiva's bow, and the four brothers marry. Encounter with **Parashurama**.
2	**Ayodhya Kanda**	Plan to crown Rama. **Manthara** incites Kaikeyi, who claims her **two boons**: Bharata to be crowned and Rama exiled for **14 years**. Rama leaves with Sita and Lakshmana. **Guha** ferries them across the Ganga at Shringaverapura. Ashram of **Bharadwaja** at Prayaga, then **Chitrakuta**. Dasharatha dies of grief. Bharata refuses the throne, meets Rama at Chitrakuta, takes his **padukas** (sandals) and rules from **Nandigrama**. Rama visits the ashram of **Atri and Anasuya**.
3	**Aranya Kanda**	**Dandaka** forest. Viradha, Sharabhanga, Sutikshna, **Agastya**. On Agastya's advice they settle at **Panchavati** on the Godavari. **Shurpanakha** is disfigured. **Khara, Dushana and Trishiras** are killed with 14,000 rakshasas at **Janasthana**. **Maricha** appears as a golden deer. **Sita is abducted** and **Jatayu** is mortally wounded. Rama kills **Kabandha** and visits **Shabari** near Pampa.
4	**Kishkindha Kanda**	**Hanuman** meets Rama at **Rishyamuka**. Alliance with **Sugriva** before fire. **Vali** is killed and Sugriva crowned, with Angada as heir. The monsoon is spent on **Prasravana** hill. Search parties set out. **Sampati** (Jatayu's elder brother) tells the vanaras that Sita is in Lanka. Jambavan reminds Hanuman of his powers.
5	**Sundara Kanda**	Hanuman leaps the ocean from **Mahendra** mountain, passing Mainaka, Surasa and Simhika. He finds Sita in the **Ashoka vana** under a **Shimshupa** tree, gives her Rama's ring and receives her **chudamani**. He kills **Akshakumara**, is bound by Indrajit's Brahmastra, meets Ravana and **burns Lanka** with his tail.
6	**Yuddha (Lanka) Kanda**	**Vibhishana** surrenders to Rama. **Nala** builds the **Setu**. Angada is sent as envoy. Battles: Kumbhakarna, Indrajit and finally **Ravana** are killed. Hanuman brings the herb mountain. **Agastya** teaches the **Aditya Hridayam**. Vibhishana is crowned. Sita's ordeal by fire. Return in the **Pushpaka** vimana and **Pattabhishekam** (coronation).
7	**Uttara Kanda**	**Agastya** narrates the origins of Ravana and Hanuman. Sita is abandoned and lives in Valmiki's ashram, where **Lava and Kusha** are born. **Shatrughna kills Lavanasura**. Rama's Ashvamedha, at which the twins sing the Ramayana. **Sita returns to the Earth**. Lakshmana departs, and Rama enters the **Sarayu**. Scholars regard this Kanda as a later addition.

FROM THE EXAM

- *What is the second Kanda of Ramayana?* → **Ayodhya Kanda** (Exam 2026)
- *The chapters of Ramayana are called?* → **Kandas** (Screening 2022)
- *In which Kanda does Sampati describe his past to the monkeys?* → **Kishkindha Kanda** (Mains 2023)
- *According to the Yuddha Kanda, which weapon did Rama use to kill Ravana?* → **Brahmastra** (Exam 2026)

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😂 **MEME BREAK** **Second Kanda? Don't trust your gut**



Aranya Kanda, "because the exile story starts early" ✗



Ayodhya Kanda: Manthara, Kaikeyi's two boons, Rama exiled for 14 years ✓

👉 Bala → Ayodhya → Aranya → Kishkindha → Sundara → Yuddha → Uttara · Second Kanda = Ayodhya (Exam 2026)

1.3 The Ikshvaku (Surya) dynasty

Rama belonged to the **Suryavamsha** (Solar dynasty), also called the **Ikshvaku**, **Raghu** or **Kakutstha** dynasty. Its founder was **Ikshvaku**, son of **Vaivasvata Manu**, and its capital was **Ayodhya** in **Kosala**. Vasishtha recites the line at Sita's wedding in the Bala Kanda:

Brahma → Marichi → Kashyapa → Vivasvan (Surya) → Vaivasvata Manu → Ikshvaku → … Dilipa → Bhagiratha → … Raghu → … Aja → Dasharatha → Rama.

King	Why remembered
Ikshvaku	Founder of the Solar dynasty and first king of Ayodhya
Kakutstha (Puranjaya)	Rode Indra, who had taken the form of a bull, into battle. Rama is called **Kakutstha** after him
Mandhata	Famous emperor (son of Yuvanashva)
Trishanku	Vishwamitra tried to send him to heaven in his body and created a separate heaven (**Trishanku Svarga**). The Puranas name his son as **Harishchandra**
Sagara	Had two wives: **Keshini** (son **Asamanja**) and **Sumati** (**60,000 sons**). **Indra stole** the horse of his Ashvamedha. The 60,000 sons found it near sage **Kapila**, who burnt them to ashes
Amshuman	Son of Asamanja. Recovered the horse
Dilipa	Father of Bhagiratha in Valmiki's list. In Kalidasa's *Raghuvamsha*, Dilipa serves Vasishtha's cow **Nandini** to obtain a son, **Raghu**
Bhagiratha	Brought the **Ganga** down to the Earth by penance to purify Sagara's sons. Shiva held her in his matted hair, and sage Jahnu swallowed and released her, so she is also called **Bhagirathi** and **Jahnavi**
Raghu	The dynasty is named Raghuvamsha after him. Rama is called **Raghava**
Aja	Son of Raghu. Married **Indumati** (Raghuvamsha)
Dasharatha	Son of **Aja**. He accidentally killed an ascetic boy (popularly **Shravana**) with a *shabdavedhi* arrow, aimed by sound, and was cursed to die grieving for his son

Kalidasa's Raghuvamsha gives the familiar short line Dilipa → Raghu → Aja → Dasharatha → Rama. Valmiki's longer list puts several kings between Bhagiratha and Raghu.

Dasharatha's family

Queen	Origin	Son(s)	Birth star
Kausalya	Princess of Kosala	**Rama**	Punarvasu

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Queen	Origin	Son(s)	Birth star
Kaikeyi	Daughter of **Ashwapati**, king of **Kekaya**; her brother is **Yudhajit**	**Bharata**	Pushya
Sumitra		**Lakshmana and Shatrughna** (twins)	Ashlesha

- Rama was born on **Chaitra Shukla Navami** (Sri Rama Navami).
- Kaikeyi had earned her two boons by saving Dasharatha in the war against the asura **Shambara**. **Manthara**, her hunchbacked maid, reminded her of them.
- The royal priests were **Vasishtha** (the family guru) and **Vamadeva**. **Sumantra** was Dasharatha's charioteer and minister, and **Jabali** argued with Rama in the Ayodhya Kanda.
- **Rishyashringa**, son of sage Vibhandaka and husband of **Shanta**, performed the Putrakameshti.

The next generation

Couple	Sons	Kingdoms (Uttara Kanda)
Rama + Sita	**Kusha, Lava**	Kusha: **Kushavati**. Lava: **Shravasti**
Lakshmana + Urmila	Angada, Chandraketu	Angada: Angadiya (Karupatha country). Chandraketu: Chandrakanta (Malla country)
Bharata + Mandavi	Taksha, Pushkala	**Takshashila**, **Pushkalavata** (Gandhara)
Shatrughna + Shrutakirti	Subahu, Shatrughati	Subahu: **Madhura (Mathura)**, the city Shatrughna founded after killing **Lavanasura**. Shatrughati: **Vidisha**

FROM THE EXAM

- *The Solar dynasty (Surya Vamsha) was founded by:* → **Ikshvaku** (Mains 2023)
- *What was the name of King Dasharatha's father?* → **Aja** (Mains 2023)
- *Which sage performed Dasharatha's Putreshti Yaga?* → **Rushyasrunga** (Mains 2023)
- *Who stole the sacrificial horse of King Sagara?* → **Indra** (Mains 2023). *Which sage turned the Sagara Kumaras to ashes?* → **Kapila** (Screening 2022). *Who brought Ganga to the earth?* → **Bhagiratha** (Exam 2026)

Also asked: Rama's dynasty → **Suryavansha** (Exam 2026). Dasharatha's kingdom → **Kosala** (Screening 2022). Shatrughna's mother → **Sumitra** (Screening 2022). The title **Daasharathi** → **Rama** (Exam 2026).

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😂 **MEME BREAK** **The title that fools everyone**

📝 Question: **Who is called Daasharathi?**

🤓 Student: **Dasharatha, obviously!**

✅ Answer key: **Rama, the son of Dasharatha (Exam 2026)**

😅 Student: **OK, then who was Dasharatha's father?**

✅ Answer key: **Aja, son of Raghu (Mains 2023)**

👉 Daasharathi = Rama · Dasharatha's father = Aja · Aja's father = Raghu

1.4 Janaka's family: Mithila and the four marriages

The kings of **Videha** (capital **Mithila**) descended from **Nimi**, a son of Ikshvaku. Nimi's son **Mithi** gave his name to Mithila, and the first king called **Janaka** gave the line its title. Every king of the line was called Janaka. Sita's father was **Siradhvaja (Seeradhwaja) Janaka**, and his younger brother **Kushadhvaja** ruled **Sankashya**.

- **Sita** was found in a furrow while Janaka was ploughing the ground for a yajna. She was not born of a woman (*ayonija*) and is called **Janaki, Maithili, Vaidehi** and **Bhumija**. Janaka declared her *viryashulka*: she would be won by valour.
- **Shiva's bow** had been kept by Janaka's ancestor **Devarata**. Rama lifted and broke it.
- **Shatananda**, son of Gautama and Ahalya, was Janaka's priest (*purohita*).
- On the way back to Ayodhya, **Parashurama** challenged Rama with **Vishnu's bow**. Rama strung it, and Parashurama withdrew.

Groom	Bride	Bride's father
Rama	**Sita**	Siradhvaja Janaka
Lakshmana	**Urmila**	Siradhvaja Janaka
Bharata	**Mandavi**	**Kushadhvaja**
Shatrughna	**Shrutakirti**	**Kushadhvaja**

FROM THE EXAM

- *What was the name of Janaka's (younger) brother?* → **Kushadhvaja** (Screening 2022; Mains 2023)
- *What is the name of Lakshmana's wife?* → **Urmila** (Exam 2026)
- *Who was the Guru of King Janaka?* This question was **deleted** in Screening 2022. Valmiki names **Shatananda** as Janaka's priest. The Upanishadic Janaka is linked with Yajnavalkya and Ashtavakra.

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1.5 Sages and gurus in the Ramayana

Sage	Role in the epic
Vasishtha	Guru of the Ikshvaku family. His wife is **Arundhati**. His wish-fulfilling cow is called **Shabala/Kamadhenu** in Valmiki and **Nandini** in later texts
Vishwamitra	Son of Gadhi (hence **Gadheya**, also **Kaushika**). A king who became a **Brahmarshi**. He clashed with Vasishtha over the cow and created Trishanku's heaven. He took Rama to his yajna, gave him the Bala–Atibala mantras and divine weapons, and woke him with "**Kausalya supraja Rama…**"
Valmiki	Author of the epic. Gave shelter to Sita, Lava and Kusha
Narada	Told Valmiki the story of Rama. Called **Devarshi**
Agastya	Son of Mitra–Varuna (**Kumbhayoni**). Drank the ocean, humbled the Vindhya mountains and killed Vatapi. He gave Rama Vishnu's bow and inexhaustible quivers, sent him to **Panchavati**, taught him the **Aditya Hridayam**, and in the Uttara Kanda narrates the history of Lanka
Atri and Anasuya	Ashram near Chitrakuta. Anasuya gave Sita ornaments and advice on a wife's duties
Bharadwaja	Ashram at **Prayaga**. Rama visited him on the way to exile and on the way back
Gautama and Ahalya	Ahalya was cursed by Gautama after Indra's deceit and freed when Rama came to the ashram
Matanga	Ashram near **Pampa** lake, where **Shabari** served. His curse kept **Vali** out of **Rishyamuka**
Rishyashringa	Son of Vibhandaka. Performed Dasharatha's Putrakameshti
Sharabhanga, Sutikshna	Forest sages of the Aranya Kanda. Sutikshna directed Rama to Agastya's ashram

FROM THE EXAM

- *Who has been called Devarshi in Ramayana?* → **Narada** (Mains 2023)
- *Who woke Sri Rama by singing "Kausalya Supraja Rama…"?* → **Vishwamitra** (Screening 2022). This verse also opens the **Venkatesha Suprabhatam**.
- *Vishwamitra was also called:* → **Gadheya** (Mains 2023). *Name of Vasishta's cow?* → **Nandini (or) Kamadhenu** (Screening 2022)
- *Who recited the Aditya Hridaya stotra to Rama?* → **Agastya** (Mains 2023). *On sage Agastya's advice, where did Rama build his ashram?* → **Panchavati** (Mains 2023)

😂 **MEME BREAK** **Devarshi: don't tick the first famous sage you see**



Vishwamitra (he is the king who became a Brahmarshi) ✗



Narada, who told Valmiki the story of Rama in brief ✓

👉 **Devarshi (sage among the gods) = Narada (Mains 2023) · Brahmarshi = Vishwamitra (Gadheya)**

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1.6 Vanaras, rakshasas and others

Vanaras and allies

Name	Who they were
Hanuman	Son of **Anjana** and **Kesari**, and son of **Vayu** (**Anjaneya, Maruti, Vayuputra**). Learnt from Surya. Minister of Sugriva. TTD named **Anjanadri** in Tirumala as his birthplace on Sri Rama Navami 2021; Anjanadri near Hampi in Karnataka also claims to be the place
Sugriva	Son of Surya. King of Kishkindha after Vali. His wife is **Ruma**
Vali	Son of Indra. Killed by Rama
Tara	Vali's wife, daughter of **Sushena**
Angada	Son of Vali and Tara. Crown prince and Rama's envoy to Ravana
Jambavan	King of the bears, born of Brahma. Roused Hanuman to leap the ocean. Later, in the Bhagavatham, his daughter Jambavati marries Krishna
Nala	Son of **Vishwakarma**. Built the **Setu**
Nila	Son of **Agni**. Commander of the vanara army
Sushena	Physician (Tara's father)
Dadhimukha	Sugriva's uncle and keeper of **Madhuvana**
Jatayu, Sampati	Vulture brothers, sons of **Aruna**. Jatayu died fighting Ravana and Rama cremated him. Sampati, whose wings had been burnt by the sun, told the vanaras where Sita was
Guha	Nishada king of **Shringaverapura**. Ferried Rama across the Ganga
Shabari	A forest-dwelling woman ascetic and devotee who served in **Matanga's** ashram near Pampa and waited for Rama

Rakshasas

Name	Relationship and fate
Ravana	Son of **Vishrava** (son of **Pulastya**) and **Kaikasi** (daughter of **Sumali**), hence **Paulastya**. Also called **Dashagriva/Dashanana**. Shiva gave him the name Ravana and the sword **Chandrahasa**. Killed by Rama
Kubera	Half-brother of Ravana (son of Vishrava). He first ruled Lanka; Ravana took Lanka and the **Pushpaka** from him
Kumbhakarna	Brother. Through a slip in his request to Brahma he was granted long sleep. Killed by Rama. His sons are Kumbha and Nikumbha
Vibhishana	Brother. Surrendered to Rama and was crowned king of Lanka. His wife is **Sarama**
Shurpanakha	Sister. Ravana had killed her husband Vidyujjihva. Lakshmana cut her nose and ears, and she **instigated Ravana** to abduct Sita
Mandodari	Ravana's chief queen, **daughter of the asura architect Maya (Mayasura)** and the apsara Hema
Indrajit	Ravana's son. His real name is **Meghanada**; Brahma named him Indrajit after he captured Indra. Killed by **Lakshmana**
Akshakumara	Ravana's son, **killed by Hanuman** in the Ashoka vana
Atikaya	Ravana's son. Killed by Lakshmana with the Brahmastra
Tataka	Yakshi cursed by Agastya to become a rakshasi. Mother of **Maricha and Subahu**

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Name	Relationship and fate
Maricha	Became the golden deer and was killed by Rama. He told Ravana "**Ramo vigrahavan dharmah**" (Rama is dharma in human form)
Khara, Dushana, Trishiras	Rakshasa leaders at **Janasthana**. Killed by Rama
Viradha, Kabandha	Forest demons, both cursed Gandharvas. Kabandha pointed Rama to Sugriva
Trijata	Old rakshasi in the Ashoka vana who dreamt of Ravana's fall and comforted Sita
Lavanasura	Son of Madhu. Killed by Shatrughna

Epithets often asked

Epithet	Person
Dasharathi, Raghava, Kakutstha, Kodandarama	Rama
Saumitri	Lakshmana
Janaki, Maithili, Vaidehi	Sita
Anjaneya, Maruti	Hanuman
Paulastya, Dashanana	Ravana
Meghanada	Indrajit
Vaishravana	Kubera

FROM THE EXAM

- *Who was Mandodari and what was her lineage?* → **Ravana's wife and daughter of the demon Mayasura** (Exam 2026)
- *Who was Shabari?* → **Rama's devotee living in a forest** (Exam 2026). *Sabari was in the ashram of* → **Matanga** (Screening 2022)
- *Who said "Ramo vigrahavan dharmah"?* → **Maricha** (Mains 2023). *Who were the rakshasa leaders in Janasthana?* → **Khara–Dooshana** (Mains 2023)
- *What is the real name of Indrajit?* → **Meghanada**. *Son of Ravana killed by Hanuman?* → **Akshakumara**. *Who instigated Ravana to abduct Sita?* → **Surpanakha** (all Screening 2022)

1.7 Astras, weapons and who killed whom

Weapon or astra	Fact
Kodanda	Rama's bow
Shiva's bow	Broken by Rama at Mithila
Vishnu's bow	Held by Parashurama and strung by Rama. Agastya also gave Rama a Vishnu bow made by Vishwakarma
Bala and Atibala	Mantras (not weapons) from Vishwamitra that keep away hunger and fatigue
Manavastra	Threw Maricha 100 yojanas into the sea (Bala Kanda)
Agneyastra	Killed Subahu

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Weapon or astra	Fact
Brahmastra from a blade of grass	Used on the crow **Kakasura** (Indra's son Jayanta), who lost one eye. Sita tells Hanuman this story as a token
Nagapasha	Indrajit bound Rama and Lakshmana with serpent arrows, and **Garuda** freed them
Brahmastra of Indrajit	Bound Hanuman in Lanka
Aindrastra	Lakshmana used it to kill **Indrajit**
Brahmastra given by Agastya	Rama used it to kill **Ravana** (Yuddha Kanda)
Chandrahasa	Ravana's sword, given by Shiva
Pushpaka	Aerial chariot. It was Kubera's; Ravana seized it; Rama flew home in it

Killed	By
Tataka, Subahu, Viradha, Khara–Dushana–Trishiras, Kabandha, Maricha, **Vali**, Kumbhakarna, **Ravana**	**Rama** (Tataka was killed on **Vishwamitra's order**, even though she was a woman)
Akshakumara, Jambumali, Dhumraksha	**Hanuman**
Prahasta (Ravana's commander-in-chief)	**Nila**
Indrajit, Atikaya	**Lakshmana**
Lavanasura	**Shatrughna**

Rama killed Vali from behind a tree while Vali was fighting Sugriva, who wore a garland of **Gajapushpi** creeper so that Rama could tell the brothers apart. Before that, Rama had proved his strength to Sugriva by kicking away the skeleton of the demon **Dundubhi** and **piercing seven sala trees** with one arrow.

FROM THE EXAM

- *Who killed the demoness Tataka, and why?* → **Rama, under Vishwamitra's order, despite her being a woman** (Exam 2026)
- *Name the son of Ravana who was killed by Hanuman.* → **Aksha Kumara** (Screening 2022)
- *Which weapon did Rama use to kill Ravana (Yuddha Kanda)?* → **Brahmastra** (Exam 2026)

1.8 Places in the Ramayana

Place	Episode	Today (traditional identification)
Ayodhya	Capital of **Kosala**, on the **Sarayu**	Uttar Pradesh
Mithila	Capital of **Videha**, Janaka's city	Janakpur, Nepal
Siddhashrama	Vishwamitra's yajna, where Tataka and Subahu were killed	Buxar region, Bihar
Kekaya (Girivraja)	Kaikeyi's home. Bharata was staying there when Dasharatha died	North-west India
Shringaverapura	Guha's kingdom, where they crossed the Ganga	Near Prayagraj
Prayaga	Bharadwaja's ashram	Prayagraj
Chitrakuta	First home in exile, on the **Mandakini**; Bharata meets Rama here	UP–MP border
Nandigrama	Bharata rules with Rama's padukas	Near Ayodhya

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Place	Episode	Today (traditional identification)
Dandakaranya	The great southern forest of the exile	Central India and the Deccan
Panchavati	Hermitage on the **Godavari**. Shurpanakha episode and **Sita's abduction**	Nashik, Maharashtra
Janasthana	Khara and Dushana's base	Dandaka region
Pampa lake	Shabari, Matanga's ashram	Near Hampi, Karnataka
Rishyamuka	Sugriva's refuge; Hanuman meets Rama	Near Hampi
Kishkindha	Vali and Sugriva's capital, on the **Tungabhadra**	Hampi–Anegundi, Karnataka
Prasravana hill	Rama spends the monsoon	Near Kishkindha
Mahendra mountain	Hanuman's leap to Lanka	Southern coast
Lanka	Ravana's city on **Trikuta** mountain, built by Vishwakarma. Kubera ruled it before Ravana	Sri Lanka
Ashoka vana	Sita's captivity under the Shimshupa tree	Lanka
Setu (Rama Setu, Nala Setu)	**100 yojanas long and 10 wide**, built by **Nala** in five days	From **Dhanushkodi**/Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
Herb mountain	Valmiki places it in the Himalayas between the Rishabha and Kailasa peaks, with four herbs including **Mritasanjivani** and Vishalyakarani	Popularly **Dronagiri**

Rama kshetras in and near Andhra Pradesh.

- **Vontimitta** (Kodandarama temple, YSR Kadapa district): the official venue of the state's **Sri Rama Navami** (Sita Rama Kalyanam) celebrations after the bifurcation of 2014. The temple is administered by TTD.
- **Ramatheertham** (Vizianagaram).
- **Lepakshi**: local legend links the name with **Jatayu**.
- **Bhadrachalam** (now in Telangana): associated with Bhakta Ramadasu.

FROM THE EXAM

- *Which river is beside Ayodhya?* → **Sarayu** (Screening 2022; Mains 2023)
- *Which place is associated with the exile and believed to be where Sita was abducted by Ravana?* → **Panchavati** (Exam 2026)
- *Rama Setu was built at which place in modern Tamil Nadu?* → **Dhanushkodi** (Screening 2022)
- *Mountain to which Hanuman went for the Sanjeevani herb?* → **Dronagiri** (Exam 2026)

1.9 Famous sayings, numbers and episodes

Saying or episode	Speaker and context
"*Ma nishada…*"	Valmiki, at the killing of the krauncha bird (the first shloka)
"*Kausalya supraja Rama purva sandhya pravartate*"	Vishwamitra waking Rama (Bala Kanda)
"*Ramo vigrahavan dharmah*"	Maricha warning Ravana (Aranya Kanda)
"*Sakrudeva prapannaya tavasmiti cha yachate…*"	Rama, accepting Vibhishana's surrender. He promises protection to anyone who surrenders even once; this is the basis of the idea of **sharanagati**

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Saying or episode	Speaker and context
Aditya Hridayam	Agastya to Rama before the final duel (Yuddha Kanda)
"*Janani janmabhumishcha svargadapi gariyasi*"	Popularly attributed to Rama. It is **not** in the critical edition of Valmiki
"Lakshmana rekha"	Later retellings; **not** in Valmiki

Numbers to remember: 7 Kandas, 24,000 shlokas, 500 sargas. 14 years of exile. 14,000 rakshasas at Janasthana. An ocean 100 yojanas wide. Setu 100 × 10 yojanas, built in 5 days. 4 brothers and 4 marriages.

1.10 Telugu and other Ramayanas

Work	Author	Period	Note
Ranganatha Ramayanamu	**Gona Budda Reddy**	c. 13th–14th century	**First Telugu Ramayana**, in **dvipada** metre. His sons **Kacha and Vitthala** completed the Uttara Kanda
Bhaskara Ramayanamu	**Hulakki Bhaskara** with his son **Mallikarjuna Bhatta**, disciple **Kumara Rudradeva** and friend **Ayyalarya**	Date debated	**Champu** (verse and prose). Bhaskara wrote the Aranya Kanda and part of the Yuddha Kanda; Mallikarjuna Bhatta the Bala, Kishkindha and Sundara; Rudradeva the Ayodhya; Ayyalarya the rest of the Yuddha
Molla Ramayanamu	**Atukuri Molla**, a woman poet from a potter family	16th century	Short and simple. **Six Kandas** and about 870 verses, **without the Uttara Kanda**
Nirvachanottara Ramayanamu	**Tikkana**	13th century	The Uttara Kanda in verse only, without prose
Uttara Ramayanamu	Kankanti Paparaju	18th century	Uttara Kanda
Ramayana Kalpavrukshamu	**Viswanatha Satyanarayana**	20th century	Won the **Jnanpith** award (1970)
Dasharathi Shatakam	**Kancherla Gopanna (Bhakta Ramadasu)**	17th century	Devotional shataka, Bhadrachalam

Other versions of the Rama story:

- **Kamba Ramayanam** (Tamil, Kamban)
- **Ramcharitmanas** (Awadhi, **Tulsidas**)
- **Krittivasi Ramayan** (Bengali)
- **Adhyatma Ramayana** (Sanskrit, part of the **Brahmanda Purana**)
- **Raghuvamsha** (Kalidasa)
- **Uttararamacharita** (Bhavabhuti)
- **Yoga Vasishtha** (Vasishtha's teaching to Rama)

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QUICK REVISION

- Valmiki is the **Adi Kavi**. Narada told him the story, Brahma ordered the poem, and **Lava and Kusha** sang it. The epic has **7 Kandas** and **24,000 shlokas**.
- The order of Kandas is **Bala, Ayodhya, Aranya, Kishkindha, Sundara, Yuddha, Uttara**. Sampati appears in Kishkindha, Akshakumara is killed in Sundara, and Aditya Hridayam is taught in Yuddha.
- The **Ikshvaku** (Solar) dynasty runs from Ikshvaku → … Sagara → Bhagiratha → Raghu → **Aja** → Dasharatha → Rama. Its capital was Ayodhya on the **Sarayu**, in **Kosala**.
- Dasharatha's queens and sons: Kausalya (Rama), Kaikeyi of Kekaya (Bharata), **Sumitra** (Lakshmana and Shatrughna). **Rishyashringa** performed the Putrakameshti.
- Janaka (Siradhvaja) had a brother, **Kushadhvaja**. Janaka's daughters Sita and **Urmila** married Rama and Lakshmana; Kushadhvaja's daughters Mandavi and Shrutakirti married Bharata and Shatrughna.
- Vishwamitra (**Gadheya**) sang "Kausalya supraja Rama". Narada is the **Devarshi**. Agastya taught the Aditya Hridayam and sent Rama to **Panchavati**.
- Mandodari was the daughter of **Mayasura**. Indrajit's real name is **Meghanada**, and Lakshmana killed him. Maricha said "Ramo vigrahavan dharmah". Khara and Dushana ruled **Janasthana**.
- Sita was abducted at **Panchavati**. The Setu ran from **Dhanushkodi**. The Sanjeevani mountain is popularly **Dronagiri**. Rama killed Ravana with the **Brahmastra**.
- Telugu Ramayanas: **Ranganatha** (Gona Budda Reddy, dvipada), **Bhaskara** (champu, four authors), **Molla** (six Kandas). Viswanatha's Ramayana Kalpavrukshamu won the Jnanpith.

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