

Ramayanam

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1. The seven Kandas and the story line
2. Who is who in the Ramayanam
3. Ikshvaku and Videha dynasties, places and rivers

1 The seven Kandas and the story line

Valmiki's Ramayana, the Adikavya, tells Rama's story in seven Kandas, from his birth in Ayodhya to the killing of Ravana in Lanka and his return to the Sarayu; EO Paper II asks which Kanda an event is in, who did what, and which weapon or boon was used.

Core facts

- **Author: Valmiki**, the **Adikavi**; the work is the **Adikavya** (first poem), set in the **Treta Yuga**. About **24,000 shlokas** in seven **Kandas**; each Kanda is divided into **Sargas** (traditionally 500 in all). *Kanda* means the **node of a sugarcane stalk**: the story is as sweet as cane.
- **Other names: Adikavya, Sita Charitra, Paulastya Vadha** (killing of Pulastya's grandson) and *Sitayah charitam mahat*.
- **Before he was Valmiki**: by popular tradition the robber **Ratnakara**, who reformed by chanting "Mara" (Rama reversed).
- **Who told whom: Narada** told Valmiki the **Samkshepa Ramayana** (the brief story) in **100 shlokas**; **Brahma** told Valmiki to compose it; Valmiki taught it to **Lava and Kusha**, who sang it at Rama's Ashvamedha.
- **First shloka** (*Ma nishada*): on the **Tamasa**, where Valmiki had gone with his disciple **Bharadvaja**, a hunter shot one of a pair of krauncha birds. Grief (*shoka*) became verse (*shloka*).
- **The seven Kandas, in order** (sargas as in the course book):

No.	Kanda (sargas)	Main events	Ends with
1	Bala (77)	Birth, Vishwamitra, Tataka, Ahalya, Sita's swayamvara	Parashurama humbled; return to Ayodhya
2	Ayodhya (119)	Kaikeyi's boons, exile, Dasharatha's death, padukas	Atri and Anasuya
3	Aranya (75)	Dandaka, Panchavati, Shurpanakha, Sita abducted	Shabari, Pampa
4	Kishkindha (67)	Hanuman, Sugriva, Vali killed, search, Sampati	Hanuman on Mahendra
5	Sundara (68)	Hanuman's leap, Sita in Ashoka vana, Lanka burnt	Return with chudamani
6	Yuddha (131)	Setu, war, Ravana killed, Agni pariksha	Pattabhishekam
7	Uttara	Sita left, Lava-Kusha, Ashvamedha, Rama's departure	Rama enters Sarayu

- **Second Kanda = Ayodhya Kanda** (asked 2026). Fifth = **Sundara**, also called the **Parayana Kanda** (read for parayana). Sixth = Yuddha (Lanka Kanda), the **longest**.

- **Dynasty:** Rama is of the **Ikshvaku** line of the **Suryavamsha**. Capital **Ayodhya** on the **Sarayu**, kingdom **Kosala**.
- **Why Rama: Jaya and Vijaya**, gatekeepers of Vaikuntha, were reborn as **Ravana and Kumbhakarna**; Vishnu became a man to kill them, because Ravana's boon did not cover men and vanaras.
- **Exile: 14 years.** Sita abducted at **Panchavati** (on the Godavari), where Rama lived on **Agastya's** advice.
- **Ravana killed** with the **Brahmastra** that Agastya had given Rama, on **Matali's** advice.
- **Rama Navami: Chaitra Shuddha Navami** (Telugu month **Chaitra**).

Explained

Bala Kanda.

- Dasharatha performs an **Ashvamedha** and then the **Putrakameshti** led by sage **Rishyashringa** (Rushyasruna in APPSC spelling). The **Yajnapurusha** rises from the fire with **payasa**; the three queens share it.
- Births: **Rama** to Kausalya, **Bharata** to Kaikeyi, **Lakshmana and Shatrughna** (twins) to Sumitra.
- **Vishwamitra** asks for Rama because **Maricha and Subahu** spoil his yagna; Dasharatha agrees on **Vasishtha's** advice. On the Sarayu bank Vishwamitra teaches Rama the **Bala and Atibala** vidyas (no hunger, thirst or fatigue).
- Rama kills **Tataka** on Vishwamitra's order; pleased, the sage gives him many **divine astras** with the mantras to use and withdraw them.
- At **Siddhashrama** (once **Vamana's** hermitage): **Maricha** thrown 100 yojanas into the sea by the **Manavastra** (a "cool arrow" that does not kill), **Subahu** killed by the **Agneyastra**, the rest driven off by the **Vayavyastra**.
- Stories on the way: Vishwamitra's own family (on the **Shona**), the birth of **Kumaraswamy** (Shiva's tejas, nursed by the six **Krittikas**), **Gangavataranam**, the churning of the ocean (at **Vishala**), and **Ahalya**, freed when Rama enters Gautama's ashrama.
- At **Mithila** Rama breaks **Shiva's bow**. The four weddings are held under **Uttara Phalguni** nakshatra.
- On the way home **Parashurama** challenges Rama; Rama strings the **bow of Vishnu**, and Parashurama goes to **Mahendragiri** for tapas.
- **Order:** Tataka → Siddhashrama → Ahalya → Shiva's bow → Parashurama.

Ayodhya Kanda.

- The coronation is fixed for **Pushyami in Chaitra**. **Manthara** turns Kaikeyi, who sulks in the **Kopagriha**.
- Kaikeyi claims the **two boons** Dasharatha gave her in the war of gods and asuras (against **Shambara**): **Bharata crowned, Rama exiled for 14 years**.
- Rama gives his ornaments to **Suyajna**; the three wear bark cloth. **Sumantra** drives them; the first night is on the **Tamasa**.
- **Guha**, Nishada king of **Shringaverapura**, ferries them over the Ganga; Sumantra is sent back. They meet **Bharadvaja** at **Prayaga**, cross the Yamuna on a raft and settle at **Chitrakuta**.

- Dasharatha dies of grief, recalling the **curse** of the blind parents of the boy he once shot by sound (*shabdavedhi*).
- **Bharata**, called back from **Girivraja** (Kekaya), refuses the throne. Lakshmana sees his **Kovidara** flag and suspects an attack; Rama trusts Bharata. Rama offers **tarpana** in the **Mandakini**.
- Bharata takes Rama's **padukas** and rules from **Nandigrama** for 14 years.
- Kanda ends at **Atri's** ashram, where **Anasuya** gives Sita ornaments and an unguent.

Aranya Kanda.

- In **Dandakaranya** Rama kills **Viradha** (the gandharva **Tumburu**, cursed by **Kubera**), meets **Sharabhanga** (who then enters fire), **Sutikshna** and **Agastya**. Agastya gives him the **Vaishnava bow** made by Vishwakarma, quivers and a sword, and sends him to **Panchavati**.
- **Jatayu**, Dasharatha's friend, offers to guard Sita. **Shurpanakha** rushes at Sita; Lakshmana cuts off her nose and ears.
- Khara sends **14** rakshasas (killed with 14 arrows), then comes with **Dushana**, **Trishira** and **14,000**; Rama alone kills them at **Janasthana**.
- **Maricha**, who calls Rama *Ramo vigrahavan dharmah*, becomes the **golden deer**. Ravana, dressed as a mendicant, carries Sita off; she drops her ornaments among vanaras on a hill. **Jatayu** fights, loses his wings and dies after telling Rama.
- **Kabandha**, freed, sends Rama to Sugriva. **Shabari**, disciple of **Matanga**, receives Rama near **Pampa**.

Kishkindha Kanda.

- **Hanuman**, disguised as a brahmachari, meets Rama at **Rishyamuka**; Rama says only one versed in the Vedas and grammar could speak so well. Rama and **Sugriva** swear friendship **before Agni**.
- Rama kicks away **Dundubhi's** carcass and pierces **seven sala trees** with one arrow. In the first duel the brothers look alike; a **Gajapushpi** creeper marks Sugriva for the second, and Rama kills **Vali** from behind a tree.
- Sugriva is crowned, **Angada** becomes yuvaraja. Rama spends four rainy months on **Prasravana** hill; **Tara** calms the angry Lakshmana.
- Search parties, with a **one-month** deadline:

Direction	Leader
East	Vinata
West	Sushena
North	Shatabali
South	Angada (with Hanuman, Jambavan, Nila)

- Rama gives Hanuman his **ring**. In the **Rikshabila** cave the ascetic **Swayamprabha** feeds the southern party. Facing a fast unto death, they meet **Sampati**, Jatayu's elder brother, who says Sita is in Lanka, **100 yojanas** away.
- **Jambavan** reminds Hanuman of his power; Hanuman climbs **Mahendra**.

Sundara Kanda.

- Over the sea, in order: **Mainaka** offers rest; **Surasa**, mother of the nagas, tests him; he kills **Simhika**, who seizes shadows; he lands on **Trikuta** and subdues **Lankini**, guardian of Lanka.
- From a **shimshupa** tree in the **Ashoka vana** he sees Sita. Ravana gives her **two months**; **Trijata** tells her dream of Ravana's fall.
- Hanuman gives Rama's ring and takes her **chudamani** and the **Kakasura** story as tokens; she refuses to be carried away.
- He wrecks the garden, kills **Jambumali** and **Akshakumara**, and lets **Indrajit's** Brahmastra bind him **out of respect for it and to meet Ravana**. **Vibhishana** objects to killing an envoy, so his tail is set on fire; he burns Lanka, sparing **Vibhishana's house**.
- He leaps back from **Arishta** to Mahendra. The vanaras raid Sugriva's **Madhuvana** (guard **Dadhimukha**). He tells Rama "**Drishta Devi**" (I have seen Sita), and Rama embraces him.

Yuddha Kanda.

- **Vibhishana** leaves Ravana with **four followers** and surrenders (*sharanagati*); Rama anoints him king of Lanka with sea water.
- After **three nights** the **ocean god** appears. **Nala** (son of Vishwakarma) builds the **setu**, 100 yojanas long and 10 wide, in **five days** (14, 20, 21, 22, 23 yojanas a day).
- **Shuka** and **Sarana** spy on the army. **Angada** goes as envoy and breaks the top of Ravana's tower.
- **Vidyujihva** makes an illusory head of Rama; **Sarama**, Vibhishana's wife, tells Sita it is maya. **Malyavan** advises peace.
- The gates of Lanka:

Gate	Ravana's side	Rama's side
East	Prahasta	Nila
South	Mahaparshva, Mahodara	Angada
West	Indrajit	Hanuman
North	Ravana, with Shuka and Sarana	Rama, Lakshmana

- **Indrajit** binds the brothers with the **Nagapasha**; **Garuda** frees them. In his first duel Ravana loses chariot and crown, and Rama lets him go to rest.
- **Kumbhakarna**, woken, carries off Sugriva, who bites his ears and nose and escapes; Rama kills him with the **Aindrastra**.
- Hanuman brings the **herb mountain** from the Himalayas for four herbs: **Mritasanjivani**, **Vishalyakarani**, **Sauvarnakarani**, **Sandhanakarani** (APPSC keyed it **Dronagiri**).
- **Lakshmana** kills **Indrajit** at **Nikumbhila** before his yaga ends. Ravana's **Shakti** fells Lakshmana; **Sushena** revives him.
- **Agastya** teaches Rama the **Aditya Hridayam**; Rama chants it **three times**. Indra sends his chariot with **Matali**, who advises the **Brahmastra**; it pierces Ravana's heart.
- **Vibhishana** performs Ravana's rites and is crowned. Sita passes the **Agni pariksha**. Indra revives the dead vanaras. The **Pushpaka** halts at **Bharadvaja's** ashram; Hanuman goes ahead to Bharata at **Nandigrama**.

- **Pattabhishekam** by **Vasishtha**. Sita gives Hanuman her **pearl necklace**. Lakshmana declines, so **Bharata** becomes **yuvaraja**.

Uttara Kanda.

- **Agastya** tells the origins of Ravana and Hanuman's boyhood.
- **Bhadra** reports the people's gossip; Lakshmana leaves the pregnant Sita on the Ganga bank; **Valmiki** shelters her and **Lava and Kusha** are born. **Shatrughna** kills **Lavanasura** and founds **Madhura**.
- Rama wants a **Rajasuya**; **Bharata** warns it means war, **Lakshmana** suggests the **Ashvamedha**. It is held at **Naimisharanya** on the **Gomati**. The twins sing the Ramayana, **20 sargas a day**. Sita, called to swear her purity, is taken by **Bhudevi**.
- **Kala** (Time), sent by Brahma, meets Rama alone on pain of death; **Durvasa** threatens to curse the Ikshvakus, so Lakshmana interrupts. Banished on Vasishtha's advice, he gives up his body by yoga on the **Sarayu**.
- **Kusha** gets **Kushavati**, **Lava** gets **Shravasti**. **Hanuman, Mainda and Dvidida** are blessed to live long. Rama enters the **Sarayu** and returns to his Vishnu form; **Sugriva** merges into the Sun.

Weapons and boons at a glance.

Item	Whose / from whom	Use
Bala, Atibala	Vishwamitra to Rama	No hunger or fatigue
Manavastra, Agneyastra, Vayavyastra	Rama	Maricha thrown, Subahu killed, rest scattered
Vaishnava bow, quivers, sword	Agastya to Rama	Forest years and war
Nagapasha (serpent arrows)	Indrajit	Binds Rama-Lakshmana
Aindrastra	Rama; Lakshmana	Kumbhakarna; Indrajit
Shakti	Ravana	Fells Lakshmana
Brahmastra	Rama (Agastya's gift)	Kills Ravana
Chandrahasta (sword)	Shiva to Ravana	Ravana's weapon
Pushpaka vimana	Kubera's, taken by Ravana	Return to Ayodhya
Two boons	Dasharatha to Kaikeyi	Bharata's crown, Rama's exile

The Rama story in other languages.

Language or form	Poet	Work
Tamil	Kamban	Kamba Ramayanam
Malayalam	Ezhuthachan	Adhyatma Ramayanam
Kannada	Nagachandra	Ramachandra Charita Purana
Marathi	Moropant	Ramayanams in many metres

Language or form	Poet	Work
Kashmiri	Divakara Prakasha Bhatta	Kashmiri Ramayana
Sanskrit play	Bhasa	Pratima Natakam
Sanskrit play	Bhavabhuti	Uttara Ramacharitam
Sanskrit kavya (two meanings)	Dhananjaya	Raghava Pandaviyam
Awadhi	Tulsidas	Ramcharitmanas

AP angle

- **Telugu Ramayanas.**
 - **Ranganatha Ramayanamu** by **Gona Budda Reddy** (13th century), in *dwipada* metre, the first full Telugu Ramayana.
 - **Bhaskara Ramayanamu** (14th century), a *champu* by Hulakki Bhaskara with his son and disciples.
 - **Molla Ramayanamu** by the poetess **Atukuri Molla** (16th century), short and simple.
 - **Nirvachanottara Ramayanamu** by **Tikkana**: the Uttara Kanda in verse only, without prose.
 - **Ramayana Kalpavrukshamu** by **Viswanatha Satyanarayana**, which won the **Jnanpith** (1970).
- **Temples. Vontimitta** Kodandarama temple (YSR Kadapa) has Rama, Sita and Lakshmana in one stone and hosts AP's state Sri Rama Navami since 2015. **Bhadrachalam** (now Telangana) is linked with **Bhakta Ramadasu**. **Ramatheertham** (Vizianagaram) is another Rama shrine.

Common traps

- ✗ "The second Kanda is Aranya." ✓ It is **Ayodhya Kanda**; Aranya is third.
- ✗ "Vasishtha performed the Putrakameshti." ✓ **Rishyashringa** led it.
- ✗ "Sita was abducted at Chitrakuta." ✓ At **Panchavati**; Chitrakuta was the first forest home.
- ✗ "Lanka was burnt in Kishkindha Kanda." ✓ In **Sundara Kanda**; Sampati's news is in Kishkindha.
- ✗ "Hanuman said *Ramo vigrahavan dharmah*." ✓ **Maricha** said it.
- ✗ "Vishwamitra taught the Aditya Hridayam." ✓ **Agastya**, in the Yuddha Kanda.
- ✗ "Ravana was killed by the Narayanastra." ✓ By the **Brahmastra**.
- ✗ "Rama broke Vishnu's bow at Mithila." ✓ He broke **Shiva's**; he strung Vishnu's for Parashurama.
- ✗ "Indrajit was killed by Rama." ✓ By **Lakshmana**; Rama killed Kumbhakarna.
- ✗ "Uttara Ramacharitam is another name of the Ramayana." ✓ It is **Bhavabhuti's play**.

✗ "Kishkindha Kanda has 68 sargas." ✓ **67**; Sundara has 68.

✗ "Ravana gave Sita one month." ✓ In Valmiki he gave **two months** (the course book says one); Sita asked Hanuman for rescue within a month.

✗ "Yama came to talk to Rama alone." ✓ In Valmiki it is **Kala** (Time), sent by Brahma; the course book says Yama.

✗ "The Ashvamedha was held in Ayodhya." ✓ At **Naimisharanya** on the **Gomati**.

Quick revision

- Bala, Ayodhya, Aranya, Kishkindha, Sundara, Yuddha, Uttara: ~24,000 shlokas; Yuddha longest; Sundara = Parayana Kanda.
- Narada's Samkshepa Ramayana (100 shlokas); Ma nishada on the Tamasa; Brahma's order; Lava and Kusha sang it.
- Putrakameshti by Rishyashringa; Tataka; Siddhashrama (Manavastra, Agneyastra); weddings in Uttara Phalguni.
- Two boons; Guha at Shringaverapura; Kovidara flag; tarpana in the Mandakini; padukas at Nandigrama.
- Viradha = Tumburu; Panchavati on the Godavari; 14,000 at Janasthana; golden deer Maricha.
- Seven sala trees; Gajapushpi; search: East Vinata, West Sushena, North Shatabali, South Angada.
- Mainaka → Surasa → Simhika → Lankini; shimshupa tree; ring for chudamani; Vibhishana's house spared.
- Setu by Nala: 100 × 10 yojanas in 5 days; Nikumbhila; Aditya Hridayam thrice; Brahmasra.
- Uttara: Bhadra's report; Ashvamedha at Naimisharanya on the Gomati; Kala and Durvasa; Kushavati, Shravasti.
- Telugu: Ranganatha (Gona Budda Reddy), Molla, Tikkana's Nirvachanottara, Viswanatha (Jnanpith).

2 Who is who in the Ramayanam

Most Ramayanam questions in EO Paper II are "who is whose" questions: the Ikshvaku and Videha royal families, Ravana's family, the vanaras and the sages; learn each person with one relation and one deed, and the epithets that hide their names.

Core facts

Ayodhya (Ikshvaku dynasty, Suryavamsha).

- Founder **Ikshvaku**, son of Vaivasvata Manu. Famous ancestors: **Sagara, Dilipa, Bhagiratha, Raghu, Aja**, then **Dasharatha**.
- Dasharatha's queens and sons:

Queen	Her father / home	Son(s)	Son's wife
Kausalya	Kosala (by tradition)	Rama	Sita
Kaikeyi	Ashvapati of Kekaya	Bharata	Mandavi
Sumitra	(not named)	Lakshmana, Shatrughna (twins)	Urmila, Shrutakirti

- **Birth stars: Rama:** Chaitra Shuddha Navami, **Punarvasu**, Karkataka lagna. **Bharata: Pushyami. Lakshmana and Shatrughna: Ashlesha. Vasishtha** named all four.
- Family priest (*kulaguru*): **Vasishtha**. Minister and charioteer: **Sumantra**. Kaikeyi's maid: **Manthara**. Kaikeyi's brother: **Yudhajit**.
- **Shanta:** Dasharatha's daughter brought up by his friend **Romapada** (Lomapada), king of **Anga**; wife of **Rishyashringa**, son of sage **Vibhandaka**.
- Sons of the four brothers: Rama: **Lava, Kusha**. Lakshmana: Angada, Chandraketu. Bharata: **Taksha, Pushkala**. Shatrughna: **Subahu**, Shatrughati.

Mithila (Videha).

- **Janaka** (Siradhvaja), king of Mithila. His **younger brother** is **Kushadhvaja**, king of Sankashya.
- Janaka's daughters: **Sita** (found in a furrow while ploughing) and **Urmila**. Kushadhvaja's daughters: **Mandavi** and **Shrutakirti**.
- Janaka's priest: **Shatananda**, son of Gautama and Ahalya.

Lanka (rakshasas).

- **Pulastya** (a son of Brahma) → **Vishrava** → Ravana and his siblings. Ravana is Pulastya's **grandson** (*Paulastya*).
- Vishrava's wives: **Kaikasi** (daughter of rakshasa **Sumali**) bore **Ravana, Kumbhakarna, Shurpanakha, Vibhishana**; another wife (Devavarnini, called Ilavida in the Puranas) bore **Kubera**, Ravana's **half-brother**.
- Ravana's chief queen: **Mandodari**, daughter of **Maya** (Mayasura) and the apsara Hema. Their son: **Indrajit** (Meghanada); also **Akshakumara**.
- Vibhishana's wife: **Sarama**. Kumbhakarna's wife: **Vajrajwala**; sons **Kumbha, Nikumbha**.

- **Tataka's** sons: **Maricha** and **Subahu**. **Khara** ruled Janasthana with **Dushana** as his commander.

Vanaras and birds: born of the gods' portions (Bala Kanda).

God	Born as	God	Born as
Brahma	Jambavan (bear king)	Indra	Vali
Surya	Sugriva	Vayu	Hanuman
Vishwakarma	Nala	Agni	Nila
Varuna	Sushena	Kubera	Gandhamadana
Ashvini Devatas	Mainda, Dvidida	Parjanya	Sharabha
Brihaspati	Tara (a male vanara)		

- **Vali** and **Sugriva** are brothers. Vali's wife **Tara** (daughter of **Sushena**), son **Angada**. Sugriva's wife **Ruma**.
- **Hanuman**: son of **Anjana** and **Kesari**, born of **Vayu**; minister of Sugriva.
- **Jatayu** and **Sampati** (the elder) are vultures, sons of **Aruna**. Jatayu was **Dasharatha's friend**.

Who killed whom.

Killed	By	Killed	By
Tataka, Subahu	Rama	Akshakumara, Jambumali	Hanuman
Viradha, Kabandha	Rama, Lakshmana	Dhumraksha, Akampana	Hanuman
Khara, Dushana, Trishira	Rama	Devantaka, Trishira, Nikumbha	Hanuman
Maricha, Vali	Rama	Narantaka, Vajradamshttra	Angada
Prahasta, Mahodara	Nila	Kumbha	Sugriva
Makaraksha, Kumbhakarna	Rama	Atikaya, Indrajit	Lakshmana
Ravana	Rama	Lavanasura	Shatrughna

Epithets (asked as "who is called...").

Name	Person	Name	Person
Dasharathi, Raghava, Kakutstha	Rama	Saumitri	Lakshmana
Janaki, Vaidehi, Maithili	Sita	Anjaneya, Maruti, Kesarinandana	Hanuman
Dashagriva, Dashakantha	Ravana	Meghanada	Indrajit
Gadheya, Kaushika	Vishwamitra	Devarshi	Narada
Adikavi, Prachetasa	Valmiki	Vaishravana	Kubera
Riksharaja	Jambavan	Vainateya, Garutman	Garuda

Explained

Sages and their roles.

Sage	Role in the story
Vasishtha	Kulaguru; names the princes; crowns Rama
Vishwamitra	Takes Rama for his yagna; gives astras; leads him to Mithila
Rishyashringa	Son of Vibhandaka; leads the Putrakameshti; married to Shanta
Gautama / Ahalya	Ahalya freed from her husband's curse by Rama
Bharadvaja	Hosts Rama at Prayaga , going and returning
Atri / Anasuya	Anasuya gives Sita ornaments
Agastya (wife Lopamudra)	Gives weapons, sends Rama to Panchavati, teaches Aditya Hridayam
Matanga	Guru of Shabari ; his curse keeps Vali off Rishyamuka
Valmiki	Shelters Sita; teaches Lava and Kusha
Parashurama	Son of Jamadagni; tests Rama with Vishnu's bow

Vishwamitra's family and rise.

- Line: **Kusha** → **Kushanabha** → **Gadhi** → **Vishwamitra**. Hence **Kaushika** (of Kusha's line) and **Gadheya** (son of Gadhi). His elder sister **Satyavati**, wife of sage **Richika**, became the river **Kaushiki**.
- As a king he tried to seize Vasishtha's wish-cow **Shabala**; his army and even his Brahmastra failed before Vasishtha's **Brahmadanda**. He learnt that the power of tapas is greater than royal power.
- Through tapas he rose from **Rajarshi** to **Brahmarshi**. On the way he made a heaven for **Trishanku**, saved **Shunahshepa** at Ambarisha's yagna at **Pushkara**, and was distracted by **Menaka**. He became Brahmarshi only when **Vasishtha** too accepted him.

Helpers and others.

- Guha**: Nishada chief of **Shringaverapura**, Rama's friend.
- Shabari**: devotee who served her gurus at **Matanga's** ashram; she hosts Rama and enters the fire.
- Viradha**: the gandharva **Tumburu**, cursed by **Kubera**. **Kabandha**: cursed by sage **Sthulashira** for arrogance, then given his headless form by Indra's vajra; he sends Rama to Sugriva.
- Swayamprabha**: ascetic of the **Rikshabila** cave who feeds the search party.
- Mayavi**: the rakshasa whose cave fight began the Vali-Sugriva quarrel. **Dundubhi**: the buffalo-demon whose carcass Rama kicked away.
- Kanchanamala**: Vali's golden garland from **Indra**; the dying Vali gives it to Sugriva with the care of Angada.
- Trijata**: rakshasi in the Ashoka vana whose dream foretells Ravana's fall.
- Sushena**: vanara physician, **Tara's father**, who revives Lakshmana.
- Dadhimukha**: Sugriva's maternal uncle, guard of **Madhuvana**.
- Suyajna** receives Rama's ornaments; **Bhadra** reports the gossip about Sita; **Matali** is **Indra's** charioteer.

Rakshasa side.

- **Tataka**, wife of Sunda, and her son Maricha were turned into rakshasas by **Agastya's** curse.
- **Kubera** first ruled Lanka and owned the **Pushpaka**; Ravana drove him out.
- **Prahasta** was Ravana's commander-in-chief; his son **Jambumali** fell to Hanuman. **Shuka** and **Sarana** were Ravana's spies.
- **Malyavan**, brother of **Sumali** (Ravana's maternal grandfather), advised Ravana to return Sita.
- **Vidyujjihva** (1): Shurpanakha's husband, killed by Ravana himself. **Vidyujjihva** (2): the sorcerer who made the illusory head of Rama.
- **Sarama**, Vibhishana's wife, tells Sita the head is maya.
- **Mandodari** advised Ravana to return Sita (asked 2026: Ravana's wife, Mayasura's daughter).
- **Khara and Dushana** held **Janasthana** (asked 2023: "Rakshasa leaders in Janasthana").

Boons and curses by person.

- **Kaikeyi**: two boons from Dasharatha.
- **Dasharatha**: cursed by the blind parents of the boy he shot; he too would die grieving for a son.
- **Ravana**: Brahma's boon (safe from gods and others, not men); **Chandrahasta** from Shiva; named "Ravana" by Shiva after the Kailasa episode.
- **Kumbhakarna**: long sleep instead of Indra's seat. **Vibhishana**: a mind fixed on dharma.
- **Hanuman**: when Indra's vajra struck his jaw (*hanu*), the gods gave him boons; a curse made him forget his power until Jambavan reminded him.
- **Indrajit**: won his name by defeating **Indra**; his **Nikumbhila** yaga would make him unbeatable.

AP angle

- **Telugu forms** used in the Telugu paper: Dasharathudu, Sitamma, Lakshmanudu, Hanumanthudu, Vibhishanudu, Ravanudu. Know both forms of each name.
- **Lepakshi** (Sri Sathya Sai district): local tradition says Jatayu fell here and Rama said "*Le pakshi*" (rise, bird).
- **Vontimitta** (YSR Kadapa): local tradition says **Jambavan** installed the image of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana.
- **Bhadrachalam** (now Telangana) is named after **Bhadra**, on whose head (the hill) Rama is said to stand.

Common traps

✗ "Kushadhvaja was Janaka's son." ✓ He was Janaka's **younger brother**.

✗ "Mandavi and Shrutakirti were Janaka's daughters." ✓ **Kushadhvaja's**; Janaka's were Sita and Urmila.

✗ "Bharata was Sumitra's son." ✓ **Kaikeyi's**; Sumitra bore Lakshmana and Shatrughna.

✗ "Shanta was the wife of one of Dasharatha's sons." ✓ She was Dasharatha's **daughter**, wife of **Rishyashringa**.

X "Mandodari was Ravana's sister." ✓ His **wife**, daughter of **Maya**; his sister was **Shurpanakha**.

X "Ravana was the son of Pulastya." ✓ Son of **Vishrava**, grandson of Pulastya.

X "Kubera was a son of Kaikasi." ✓ He was Vishrava's son by **another wife**.

X "Jatayu was the elder brother." ✓ **Sampati** was elder.

X "Vali was the son of Surya." ✓ Vali was Indra's; **Sugriva** was Surya's.

X "Tara was Sugriva's wife." ✓ **Vali's** wife (Sushena's daughter); Sugriva's wife was **Ruma**.

X "Narantaka was killed by Hanuman." ✓ By **Angada**; Hanuman killed Devantaka.

X "Vainateya is Hanuman." ✓ **Vainateya** is Garuda; **Saumitri** is Lakshmana, **Gadheya** Vishwamitra.

Quick revision

- Kausalya–Rama, Kaikeyi–Bharata, Sumitra–Lakshmana and Shatrughna; Vasishtha named them.
- Rama Punarvasu, Bharata Pushyami, Lakshmana and Shatrughna Ashlesha.
- Sita, Urmila: Janaka's; Mandavi, Shrutakirti: Kushadhvaja's (Janaka's younger brother).
- Shanta (Romapada of Anga) married Rishyashringa, son of Vibhandaka.
- Kusha → Kushanabha → Gadhi → Vishwamitra; Satyavati became the Kaushiki.
- Pulastya → Vishrava + Kaikasi (Sumali's daughter) → Ravana, Kumbhakarna, Vibhishana, Shurpanakha; Kubera half-brother.
- Mandodari (Maya's daughter); Sarama (Vibhishana); Vajrajwala (Kumbhakarna); Malyavan, Sumali's brother.
- Portions: Brahma–Jambavan, Indra–Vali, Surya–Sugriva, Vayu–Hanuman, Vishwakarma–Nala, Agni–Nila, Ashvins–Mainda, Dvidida.
- Tara–Vali–Angada; Sushena Tara's father; Ruma–Sugriva; Sampati elder, Jatayu younger.
- Lakshmana: Atikaya, Indrajit; Nila: Prahasta; Angada: Narantaka; Sugriva: Kumbha.

3 Ikshvaku and Videha dynasties, places and rivers

Rama belongs to the solar line of Ikshvaku that ruled Kosala from Ayodhya on the Sarayu, Sita to the Videha line of Nimi and Janaka that ruled from Mithila, and the exile carried Rama south from the Sarayu across the Ganga, Yamuna and Godavari to Kishkindha on the Pampa and over the sea to Lanka on Mount Trikuta.

Core facts

Ikshvaku (solar) line

- **Suryavamsha** (solar dynasty): Brahma → Marichi → Kashyapa → **Vivasvan** (Surya) → **Vaivasvata Manu** → **Ikshvaku**, the founder.
- Main names (course book chart): Vaivasvata Manu → Ikshvaku → **Kakutstha** → **Dilipa** → **Raghu** → **Aja** → **Dasharatha**.
- Kingdom **Kosala**, capital **Ayodhya** on the **Sarayu**. Kulaguru: **Vasishtha**. Charioteer and minister: **Sumantra**.
- **Trishanku**: Vishwamitra sent him to heaven in his body. **Mandhata**, son of Yuvanashva: a great emperor.
- **Sagara** (an Ikshvaku king): horse of his Ashvamedha stolen by **Indra**; his **60,000 sons** found it in **Patala** near sage **Kapila** and were burnt to ash.
- Sagara → **Asamanja** → **Amshuman** → **Dilipa** → **Bhagiratha**, who brought **Ganga** down. Hence **Bhagirathi**.
- **Dasharatha's father is Aja**; Aja's queen: **Indumati** of Vidarbha.
- Dasharatha's queens: **Kausalya**, **Kaikeyi** (daughter of Ashvapati of **Kekaya**), **Sumitra**.

Videha line (Janaka's family)

- Founder **Nimi**, son of Ikshvaku. His son **Mithi** gave his name to **Mithila**, capital of **Videha**.
- **Devarata** of this line was given **Shiva's bow** for safekeeping. Rama broke it.
- **Hrasvaroma** had two sons: **Siradhvaja Janaka** (Sita's father) and **Kushadhvaja** (younger). Janaka's queen: **Sunayana**.
- **Kushadhvaja** ruled **Sankashya** after Janaka killed its king **Sudhanva**, who had besieged Mithila for the bow and Sita.
- Janaka's priest: **Shatananda**, son of **Gautama** and **Ahalya**.

The four marriages

Prince	Wife	Her father
Rama	Sita	Siradhvaja Janaka
Lakshmana	Urmila	Siradhvaja Janaka
Bharata	Mandavi	Kushadhvaja
Shatrughna	Shrutakirti	Kushadhvaja

Lanka line

- Brahma → **Pulastya** → **Vishrava**, who married **Kaikasi**, daughter of **Sumali**: Ravana, Kumbhakarna, Vibhishana, Shurpanakha.

Places and rivers of the journey

Kanda	Place or river	What happened there
Bala	Shona river	Vishwamitra tells his family history
Bala	Siddhashrama	Once Vamana's hermitage; Vishwamitra's yagna
Bala	Vishala	King Sumati welcomes the princes
Bala	Gautama's ashram	Ahalya freed
Bala	Mahendragiri	Parashurama goes there for tapas
Ayodhya	Tamasa	First night of the exile
Ayodhya	Vedashruti, Gomati , Syandika	Rivers crossed before the Ganga
Ayodhya	Shringaverapura (Ganga)	Guha ; Sumantra sent back
Ayodhya	Prayaga	Bharadvaja's ashram; Yamuna crossed on a raft
Ayodhya	Chitrakuta (Mandakini)	Bharata takes the padukas
Ayodhya	Girivraja	Capital of Kekaya; Bharata's uncle's home
Ayodhya	Nandigram	Bharata rules as regent
Aranya	Dandakaranya	Viradha; Sharabhanga, Sutikshna, Agastya
Aranya	Panchavati (Godavari)	Hut on Agastya's advice; Sita abducted
Aranya	Janasthana	Khara, Dushana, Trishira and 14,000 killed
Aranya	Matanga's ashram, Pampa	Shabari
Kishkindha	Rishyamuka	Sugriva's refuge; Matanga's curse bars Vali
Kishkindha	Kishkindha	Vali's, then Sugriva's capital
Kishkindha	Prasravana hill	Rama's monsoon stay
Kishkindha	Rikshabila	Swayamprabha feeds the search party
Kishkindha	Mahendra	Hanuman's leap to Lanka
Sundara	Trikuta , Ashoka vana	Lanka's hill; Sita held
Sundara	Arishta	Hanuman's leap back
Sundara	Madhuvana	Sugriva's honey-grove (Dadhimukha)
Yuddha	Nikumbhila	Indrajit's yaga; killed by Lakshmana
Yuddha	Herb mountain, Himalayas	Hanuman's herbs

Kanda	Place or river	What happened there
Uttara	Naimisharanya (Gomati)	Rama's Ashvamedha
Uttara	Sarayu	Lakshmana's and Rama's end

- Exile: **14 years**. Return to Ayodhya in the **Pushpaka** vimana, via Bharadvaja's ashram.

Explained

Sagara and the descent of Ganga. Vishwamitra tells this to Rama in the Bala Kanda.

- Sagara's queens: **Keshini** bore one son, **Asamanja**; **Sumati** (sister of Garuda) bore the 60,000. The boon came from sage **Bhrigu**.
- Asamanja was cruel and was exiled. His son **Amshuman** became the heir.
- Indra** stole the Ashvamedha horse. The 60,000 dug down to **Patala**, attacked **Kapila** and were burnt to ash.
- Amshuman brought back the horse. **Garuda**, the princes' maternal uncle, told him only **Ganga's** water could free their souls.
- Sagara, Amshuman and **Dilipa** failed. **Bhagiratha** did tapas; **Brahma** granted Ganga; **Shiva** caught her in his matted hair.
- She flooded sage **Jahnu's** sacrifice; he drank her and let her out again: **Jahnavi**. She reached the ashes and freed the souls.

Kings to know, one line each

King	Remember
Ikshvaku	Son of Vaivasvata Manu; founder
Nimi	Son of Ikshvaku; founder of the Videha line
Trishanku	Bodily heaven through Vishwamitra
Harishchandra	Son of Trishanku in the Puranas; truthfulness
Mandhata	Son of Yuvanashva; world-ruler
Sagara	Ashvamedha; 60,000 sons
Bhagiratha	Brought Ganga down
Kakutstha	Rode on Indra in bull form ("kakud" = hump)
Raghu	Gave the line its name; gave away all in the Vishvajit sacrifice
Aja	Married Indumati; father of Dasharatha
Dasharatha	Three queens; Putrakameshti by Rishyasringa

Valmiki's list is longer. At the wedding Vasishtha recites the Ikshvaku line and Janaka recites his own. In Valmiki **Aja's father is Nabhaga**; Kalidasa makes Aja Raghu's son. Both agree **Aja is Dasharatha's father**.

Janaka's line.

- **Nimi** lost his body by Vasishtha's curse; the line is **Videha** ("bodiless"). **Mithi** was produced from his body, hence **Mithila** and **Janaka** ("born of").
- After Hrasvaroma, **Siradhvaja** ("plough banner") ruled Mithila and **Kushadhvaja** got **Sankashya**.
- Sita: found in a furrow when Janaka ploughed the sacrificial ground; **Janaki**, **Maithili**, **Vaidehi**, **Ayonija**.

Vishwamitra's line and places. Kusha → Kushanabha → **Gadhi** → **Vishwamitra**. His sister **Satyavati** became the **Kaushiki** river. He saved **Shunahshepa** at **Pushkara**.

Ravana's family and Lanka.

- **Lanka** was built by **Vishwakarma** on **Trikuta**. Malyavan, Sumali and Mali lived there first; then **Kubera** ruled it until Ravana drove him to **Alaka** and took the **Pushpaka**.
- Ravana's wife **Mandodari**, daughter of **Maya**; son **Indrajit**. Kumbhakarna's wife **Vajrajwala**. Vibhishana's wife **Sarama**. Shurpanakha's husband **Vidyujjihva**, killed by Ravana.

The next generation and their cities (Uttara Kanda).

Prince	Sons	Cities
Rama	Kusha, Lava	Kushavati, Shravasti
Bharata	Taksha, Pushkala	Takshashila, Pushkalavati (Gandhara)
Lakshmana	Angada, Chandraketu	Angadiya, Chandrakanta (Karupatha)
Shatrughna	Subahu, Shatrughati	Madhura (Mathura), Vidisha

Places today, by tradition.

Epic place	Placed today at	Note
Ayodhya	Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh	On the Sarayu
Mithila	North Bihar and south Nepal	Videha country
Prayaga	Prayagraj	Triveni Sangama
Chitrakuta	Uttar Pradesh–Madhya Pradesh border	On the Mandakini
Panchavati	Nashik , Maharashtra	On the Godavari
Kishkindha, Pampa	Hampi–Anegondi, Karnataka	On the Tungabhadra
Setu (Indian end)	Rameswaram , on Pamban island	Rama worships Shiva after killing Ravana
Setu (Lankan end)	Talaimannar , on Mannar island	Adam's Bridge
Ravana's birthplace	Bisrakh , near Greater Noida	Local belief only
Mandodari's home	Mandsaur (ancient Dashapura), Madhya Pradesh	Local belief only

AP angle

- **Vontimitta** (Ontimitta, YSR Kadapa district): **Kodandarama** temple; Rama, Sita and Lakshmana carved in **one stone**. Local tradition: Rama struck the ground with an arrow for thirsty Sita, and **Ramatheertham** and **Lakshmanatheertham** formed. Chola and Vijayanagara work; a **32-pillar** ranga mandapa praised by the French traveller **Tavernier**. State **Sri Rama Navami** venue and under **TTD** since 2015.
- **Lepakshi** (Sri Sathya Sai district): local tradition says Jatayu fell here and Rama said "Le, pakshi" (rise, bird). The Veerabhadra temple is 16th-century Vijayanagara work by **Virupanna** and **Veeranna**.
- **Anjanadri**: one of Tirumala's seven hills; in **2021 TTD** declared it Hanuman's birthplace. Karnataka's tradition places Anjanadri near **Anegondi** (Hampi).
- **Bhadrachalam** and the **Parnasala** site are now in **Telangana**.
- **Andhra Ikshvakus** of **Vijayapuri** (Nagarjunakonda, 3rd century CE) share the name but are not Rama's line.

Common traps

X "Dasharatha's father was Raghu." ✓ It was **Aja**.

X "Sagara brought Ganga to earth." ✓ **Bhagiratha**, Sagara's great-great-grandson.

X "Ravana stole Sagara's horse." ✓ **Indra** stole it.

X "Sagara's 60,000 sons were born to Keshini." ✓ To **Sumati**; Keshini bore Asamanja.

X "Janaka's brother was Sudhanva." ✓ **Kushadhvaja**; Sudhanva was the king of Sankashya whom Janaka killed.

X "Ayodhya is on the Ganga." ✓ On the **Sarayu**.

X "The solar dynasty was founded by Raghu." ✓ By **Ikshvaku**; Raghu gave the name Raghuvamsha.

X "Hanuman leapt back from Mahendra." ✓ He left from Mahendra and returned from **Arishta**.

X "Kishkindha is on the Kaveri." ✓ Tradition places it near Hampi on the **Tungabhadra**.

X "Rameswaram is on Mannar island." ✓ On **Pamban** island; Talaimannar is on Mannar.

Quick revision

- Vaivasvata Manu → Ikshvaku → Kakutstha → Dilipa → Raghu → Aja (Indumati) → Dasharatha.
- Sagara: Indra stole the horse; Kapila in Patala; Sumati's 60,000; Garuda's advice; Bhagiratha; Jahnavi.

- Nimi → Mithi (Mithila) ... Hrasvaroma → Siradhvaja Janaka (Sunayana) and Kushadhvaja (Sankashya).
- Brahma → Pulastya → Vishrava + Kaikasi (Sumali's daughter) → Ravana and siblings.
- Shona, Siddhashrama (Vamana), Vishala (Sumati), Pushkara (Shunahshepa), Kaushiki (Satyavati).
- Tamasa → Vedashruti, Gomati, Syandika → Shringaverapura (Guha) → Prayaga → Chitrakuta (Mandakini).
- Panchavati (Godavari), Janasthana, Matanga's ashram, Rishyamuka (Matanga's curse), Rikshabila.
- Mahendra out, Arishta back; Nikumbhila; herbs from the Himalayas; Ashvamedha at Naimisharanya (Gomati).
- Today: Panchavati Nashik; Kishkindha Hampi; Rameswaram on Pamban; Talaimannar on Mannar; Bisrakh.
- AP: Vontimitta (one stone, Ramatheertham, 32 pillars, TTD 2015); Lepakshi; Anjanadri (TTD, 2021).