

भारतीय डाक



India Post

Ramayana

Saga of Shri Ram

A Journey through Stamps



Ramayana

Saga of Shri Ram



गणेशोत्सव 2022 GANESH FESTIVAL
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A Journey through Stamps



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॥ रामायण ॥



24-05-1975

Ram Charit Manas was composed in the 16th-century by the renowned Indian poet Tulsidas. This work is also called, in popular parlance, Tulsi Ramayana, Tulsikrit Ramayana, Tulsidas Ramayana or simply Manas. It is considered one of the greatest works of Indian literature.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Ramayana is intricately woven into the fabric of the Indian culture and civilization. It has evolved into a tapestry of narratives, with numerous versions, retellings, and folklores. This ancient epic has transcended time, finding captivating expressions through myriad art forms such as music, poetry, drama, puppetry, paintings, sculpture, weavings and other forms of artistic crafts, in embracing these art forms.

One such world that narrates and vividly depicts the essence of Ram and Ramayana is the world of postage stamps. Postage stamps serve as tiny windows to the world, offering glimpses into diverse cultures, histories, and stories of the society. They are rightly called as Paper Ambassadors, which within their limited dimensions, encapsulate the cultural mosaic of diverse communities, capture the collective imagination, preserve the heritage of an entire region and foster global connection.

The story of Lord Ram, Mata Sita, brother Laxman and their brave companion Hanuman has found resonance in different parts of the world. Cultural traditions in South East Asia bear a clear imprint of this resonance. It is not surprising therefore that postage stamps from many parts of the world showcase Ramayana in their own ways.

This book is an attempt to showcase the international appeal of Shri Ram and his life on various societies. Shri Ram's life gives a strong message about the victory of good over bad and to maintain mental and emotional equanimity in challenging times. Despite all hardships in life, Shri Ram always walked the path of Maryada. Hence, he is called Maryadapurshottam. Shri Ram has an influence much beyond our borders, and among its far-reaching influence across the world can also be seen in the field of philately.

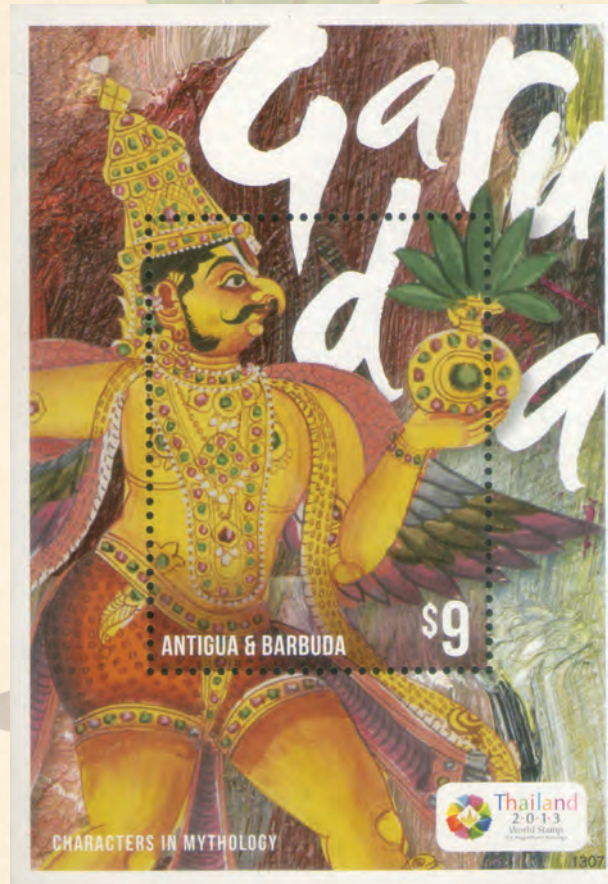
The Ramayana is deeply rooted in our culture and is something we revere. It is natural for us to have a special bond with Ramayana. This book is an humble attempt by the Philately Division of Department of Posts, India to take the readers on a beautiful journey where the stamps are the story tellers. The story of Shri Ram has enchanted, engaged and enthralled millions of people through the ages.

This collection is not merely a visual feast for philatelists; it is a testament to the enduring power of storytelling and its ability to transcend geographic boundaries. Through the lens of postage stamps, we embark on a journey that celebrates the convergence of art, culture, and history—a journey that unfolds the pages of Ram and Ramayana on a canvas as unique as the stories themselves.

The fact that the book is planned when the entire world is waiting with excitement for the Pran Pratistha of our beloved Maryadapurshotam at Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Temple, Ayodhya, on 22nd January 2024, makes it more special. This book is a tribute to global communities, who continues to revere Shri Ram for guidance and blessings in the modern age and seeks inspiration from his life.

Thank you.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



2013

Garud, a Hindu mythology God

Garud is a Hindu deity who is primarily depicted as the mount (vahana) of the Hindu God Vishnu. This divine creature is touched upon in the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain faiths with mentions in several important scriptures such as the Puranas and the Vedas.

AUSTRALIA

In 2017 and 2018, Australia Post released Postal Numismatic Cover (PNC) and stamps that showcase the widely celebrated festival of Diwali (Deepavali), an ancient festival celebrated widely by the Hindus.



2017



The cover houses a Perth Mint uncirculated coins with coloured renditions of the Hindu deities, Lakshmi and Ganesh.

2018

RAMAYANA 07

CAMBODIA



1964

A set of five Stamps showcasing the Hindu God Hanuman.



First Day Cover on the mighty Hanuman, 1964



2001
Matsya with Hanuman



2006
Luv and Kush, Ram, Sita, Ravan and Hanuman: major characters from
The Ramayana



2006
Matsya with Hanuman

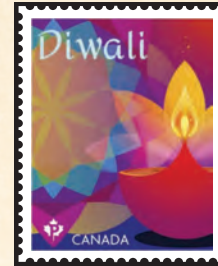
Underwater duel between Hanuman and Matsya in The Ramayana:

When the monkey army, headed by Hanuman, started constructing a bridge to cross the sea to Lanka in order to rescue Sita, Ravan, the demon king, asked his mermaid daughter, Matsya, to create hindrance during the bridge's construction. Thus, the fish, on Matsya's orders, removed the stones and prevented the construction. When Hanuman realized it, he fought with Matsya and during the duel, she fell in love with him and hence backed off from her initial motive of destruction. The bridge stands still till date and is known as the *Ram Setu*.

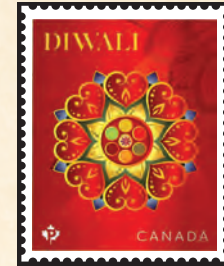
CANADA



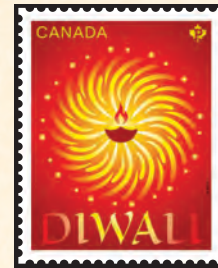
'Day of Issue' issued on Diwali, 2020



2020



2021



2022



2023



'Day of Issue' issued on Diwali, 2021



'Day of Issue' issued on Diwali, 2022

CZECH REPUBLIC



2009
Ram, Sita and
Hanuman



Stamp & First Day Cover on Ramayana showing Ram, Sita and Hanuman, 2009

FIJI



1973



1978



2019

Stamps on Diwali issued by Fiji under the theme 'Festivals of Joy'

GIBRALTAR



First Day Cover and stamps on Diwali, 2022



2022

Diwali is the festival that symbolizes the spiritual victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

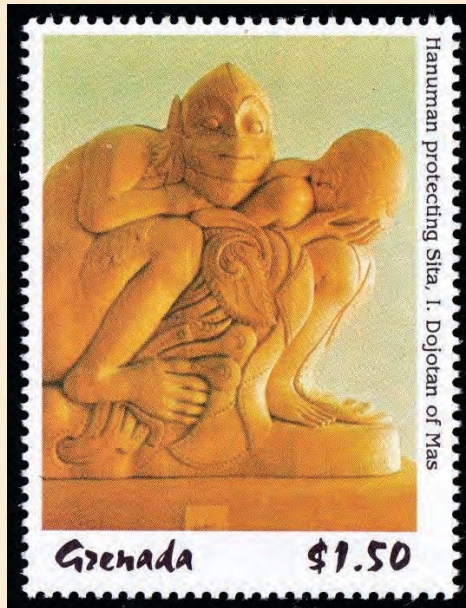
GUYANA



1976

A set of 4 stamps on Diwali, the festival of lights

GRENADA



1993
Hanuman protecting Sita



1993
Hanuman as a Warrior

When Hanuman realized that Sita was abducted, he crossed the ocean to Lanka. He found her threatened by Ravan and offered to take her back to Ram but Sita refused to be carried by a man and hence asked Ram himself to come and rescue her.

Hanuman helped Lord Ram to fight the King of the Demons, Ravan, who kidnapped Ram's wife, Sita. Hanuman is considered Ram's loyal servant and to this day his character is used as a symbol of strength and unlimited loyalty.

INDIA



26-01-1950

Released on 26th January 1950 to mark the inauguration of the Republic of India, the stamp harbors verses from The Ramayana to reflect the cultural richness of India.



01-10-1952

Tulsidas, the author of Ramcharitmanas, the Awadhi translation of Ramayana



05-04-1966

Kambar was a 12th century Tamil poet known for his epic poem "Kamba Ramayanam" a retelling of the story of Lord Ram in the Tamil language



14-10-1970

Maharsi Valmiki, the writer of the Hindu epic Ramayana in Sanskrit language.



15-04-1974

Ravan, the demon king



1991

Puppet influence from Ramayana



15-10-2000

Bali & Sugriva



19-06-2009

Rampur Raza Library

The stamp depicts Ram and Laxman with Jatayu, taken from Valmiki Ramayana in Persian Nastaliq script. It is a unique work, translated into Persian by Sumer Chand and illustrated during the reign of Farruck Siyar, a later Mughal, dated 1715 AD.



27-07-2009
Ram kills Ravan

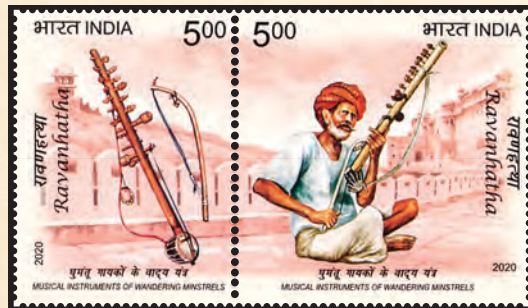


27-07-2009
Parshuram



26-04-2017
Aatukuri Molla

Aatukuri Molla was a renowned poetess. Her 'Ramayana' in Telugu is very popular among the masses. Molla was the first woman poet who wrote a Ramayana in Telugu.



25-06-2020
Ravanahatha

Ravanahatha is a traditional folk instrument of Rajasthan. It is of the category of stringed instruments and is said to have been named after Ravan. It is used as a vocal accompaniment by the Bhopas of Rajasthan in a traditional narrative form called "Pabuji Ki Phad".

Parshuram, son of Rishi Jamadagni and Renuka, is said to have defeated Sahastrabahu. Parshuram is said to have made an appearance in the court of Mithila during Sita Swayamvar, after he heard the great sound created by the breaking of lord Shiva's bow.



19-03-2023 Parshuram



A set of 11 Commemorative Postage Stamps issued on Ramayana, 22-09-2017



A miniature sheet issued on Ramayana, 22-09-2017



Ramayana is the story of Lord Ram, composed by Sage Valmiki around 500 BC which has been retold in different versions many times thereafter.

For many people, "Ram" is identified as a chant, a magic word, the omnipresent, who is there in every grain of sand, a gentle prince, a noble king who roamed across the country carrying the people of different cultures along with him, wherever he went.

Such is the power and the appeal of this captivating story of a Prince, who suffers many adversities in life that it has a mesmerising effect on everyone who reads it or recounts this story, that it remains unsurpassed by any other mythological epic.



First Day Cover issued on Ramayana, 22-09-2017



First Day Cover issued on ASEAN Commemorative Summit 2018, 25-01-2018

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises of Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. India hosted the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2018 in New Delhi.



28-12-1990

The river Ganga is considered as one of the most important symbols in the culture and civilization of the country. According to Ramayana, the Kewat carries Ram, Sita, and Lakshman in his Boat and ferries them across the river Ganga.



22-12-2001

The Rameshwaram Temple is an important Hindu temple located on the island of Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu, India. Rameshwaram is significant because it is believed to be the place where Lord Ram, along with his brother Lakshman, crossed the sea to reach Lanka and defeated Ravan, as recounted in the epic Ramayana . It is believed that Lord Ram performed the worship of Lord Shiva at this place.



08-08-2020

The Lakshman Temple, Sirpur, is a 7th century AD brick temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The intricate carvings on the exterior of the temple make it special. These designs include Lord Vishnu, Krishna Leela symbols and Vaishnava Dwarpal.



07-10-2008
Dussehra



First Day Cover issued on Festivals of India, 07-10-2008

Dussehra is a major festival celebrated in India and other parts of the world that marks the victory of good over evil. The origin of Dussehra can be traced back to the Ramayana. According to the legend, the battle between Ram and Ravan continued for ten days, and on the tenth day, Ram emerged victorious, symbolizing the victory of good over evil.



07-10-2008



05-11-2012



21-09-2017

In the lead-up to Diwali, celebrants prepare by cleaning, renovating, and decorating their homes and workplaces with divas (oil lamps) and rangolis (colorful art patterns).



First Day Cover issued on India Canada : Joint Issue, 21-09-2017

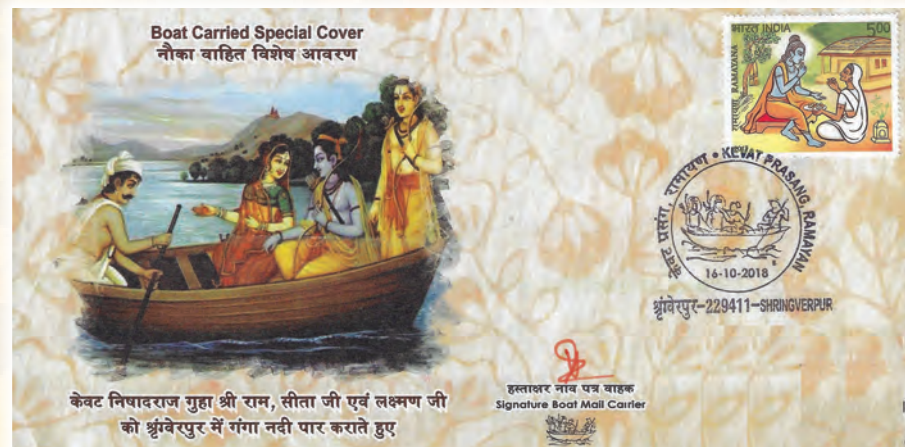
Diwali is a celebration of the day Ram returned to his kingdom in Ayodhya with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshman after defeating the demon Ravan in Lanka and serving 14 years of exile.

SPECIAL COVER



Special cover on 187,213 lit earthen lamps in Ayodhya, issued on 18-10-2017

Special cover depicting Lord Ram along with Sita and Lakshman crossing the river Ganga at Sringeripur in the boat of Kevat Nishadraj Guha, issued on 16-10-2018



Special cover on Tulsi Upvan, Motijheel, Kanpur, issued on 29-12-2018

Special cover on Ram Ki Paidi on the bank of the Saryu river in Ayodhya, issued on 5-01-2019



Special cover on Global Encyclopaedia of the Ramayana in Ayodhya, issued on 05-08-2020

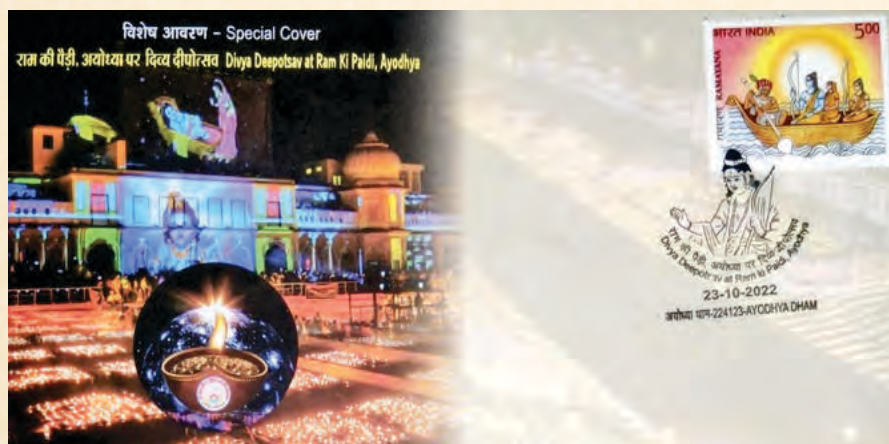
Special cover on Sri Ramlala Temple in Ayodhya, issued on 13-11-2020





Special cover on 'Ram ki Paidi'
lit with lamps in Ayodhya, issued
on 13-11-2020

Special cover on Divya Deepotsav
at Ram Ki Paidi, Ayodhya,
issued on 03-11-2021



Special cover on Divya Deepotsav
at Ram Ki Paidi, Ayodhya,
issued on 23-10-2022

INDONESIA



1971
Ram, Sita and the golden
deer Marich

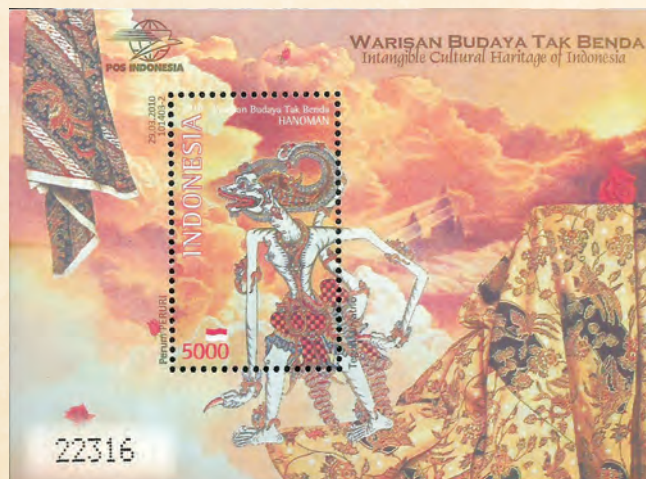


1971
Lord Ram and the demon
deer Marich with Ravan in
the background

First Day Cover issued on Ramayana Ballet in 1962



First Day Cover issued during Asian games 1962,
depicting Lord Ram with his divine bow



Hanuman, 2010



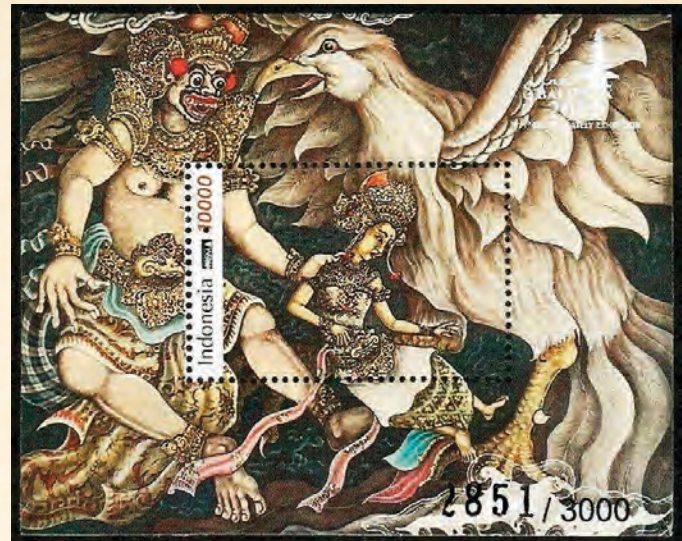
Indonesia-Thailand Joint issue stamp on
Ramayana 2V Hologram, 2016



A mini sheet issued on Angad, Hanuman, Sugriwa & Bali, 2016

Baliphex 2019
issued a set of five stamps on
Ramayana featuring
Ram, Sita, Lakshman,
Hanuman and Jatayu





A beautiful pair of Souvenir Sheet on Ravan taking away Sita and Jatayu trying to stop him, Baliphex 2019





Miniature Sheet issued on The Ramayana, Baliphex 2021



The Great Ramayana : Sri Rama Ayodhya Lila

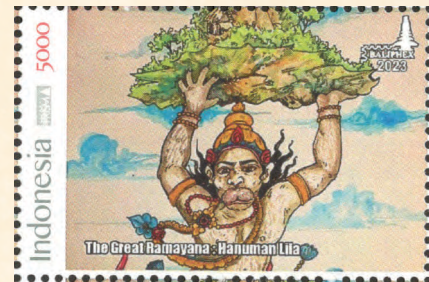
27/1000



Jatayu Lila



Sita Ram



Hanuman Lila



The Great Ramayana

Miniature Sheet issued in Baliphex 2023 on 'The Great Ramayana: Sri Ram Ayodhya Lila'

LAO PDR



1955

A set of six stamps released
on the characters of The Ramayana



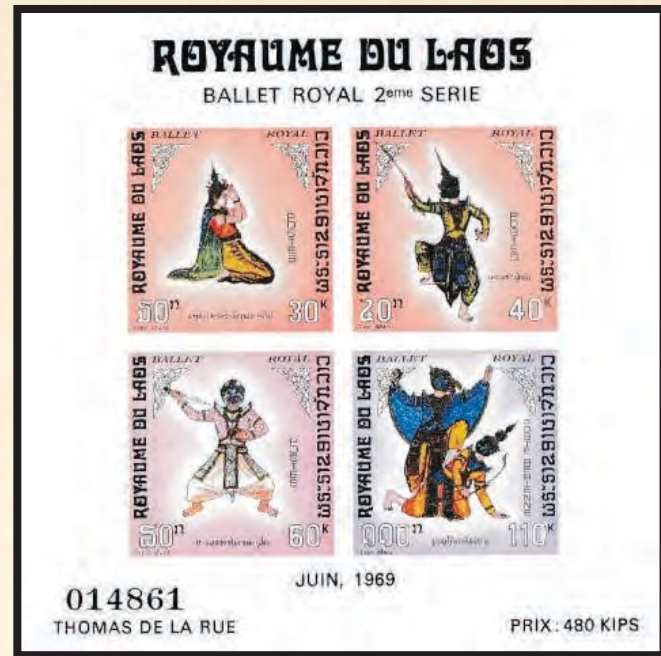
1971

Matsya fighting with Lord Hanuman



Ravan, King of the demons
Laos - 1955 - proof

Laos, a landlocked country in Southeast Asia, has been actively participating in releasing stamps on the famous Hindu epic, Ramayana



1969

A set of eight stamps featuring scenes from the Ramayana



1962

Jatayu (Son of Garuda),
King of Birds, half man and half bird



1962

Stage drama of
Ramayana



1997
The mask represents
King Ram



1997
The mask represents the
demon King Ravan



1970
Angada, Indrajit's half-brother,
receives Indrajit's head in a cup
after he was killed in the battle,
carved capital, Wat Xieng Thong,
Luang Prabang, Laos



2004
A set of 4 stamps featuring scenes from the Ramayana



2006
This stamp depicts sculptures from the
Xieng Khouane Buddha Park near
Vientiane. The left side of the stamp
depicts Hanuman and Matsya's stone
relief from a temple nearby.

NEPAL



1967
Ram Navami



1974
King Janak



1991
Vivah Mandap -The marriage of
Lord Ram and Sita



First Day Cover issued on Rama Navami in 1967



1968
Sita Jayanti

Sita Jayanti marks the birthday of Sita, the embodiment of purity and wifely devotion. King Janak found Sita while plowing the field. Thus she is considered the daughter of Mother Earth.

Ram Navami is a Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ram to King Dasharath of Ayodhya. It is celebrated on the ninth day of Chaitra month (the first month in the Hindu lunar calendar). Lord Ram is believed to be the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The Hindus celebrate this day by going to temples, observing fasts and seeking Lord Ram's blessings.

NEW ZEALAND



First Day Cover issued on Diwali, 2021

Diwali is the most celebrated Hindu festival in New Zealand. It is known as the 'festival of lights'. For some, it is the end of the harvest season and the start of a new year. Featured here is a Rangoli decoration, and each the four stamps represent the ways in which Diwali is celebrated.



First Day Cover issued on Diwali, 2021



Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is associated with various mythological and historical events, but the most widely accepted story behind Diwali is the return of Lord Ram, his wife Sita and his brother Lakshman to their kingdom Ayodhya after 14 years of exile.

A miniature sheet issued on Diwali, 2021

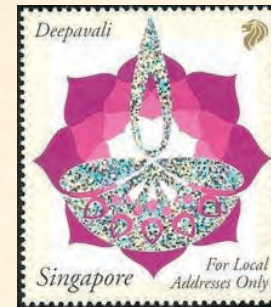
SINGAPORE



First Day Cover issued on 'Festivals', 2002



2002



2002



2004



2004



2006



2006



2010



2010

These stamps, issued by Singapore Post, depict the colourful elements of Diwali which in turn reflect Singapore's rich and vibrant multicultural heritage.

SRILANKA



2003



2015



Special Cover issued on Shree Seethai Temple-Seetha Eliya, Nuwara Eliya, 2023



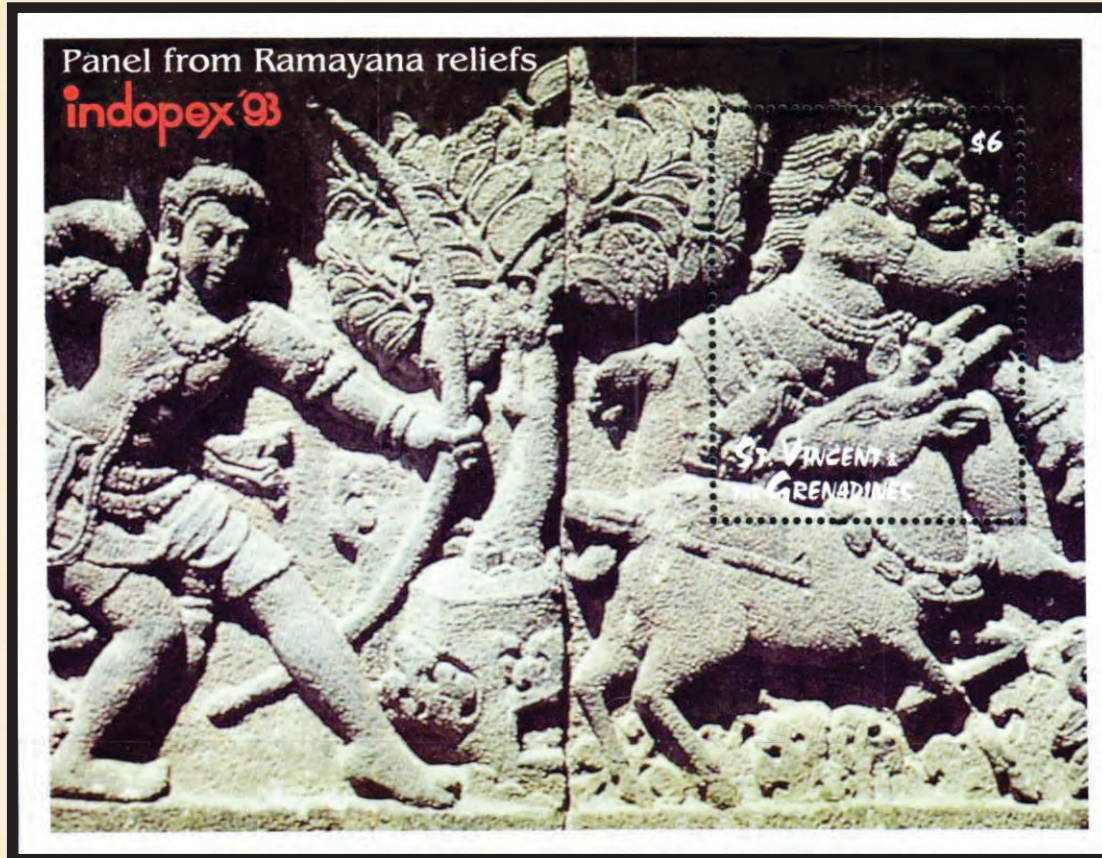
2023



2023

Sita Amman temple is the only Hindu Temple which is dedicated to Princess Sita in Sri Lanka. This is one of the important places in Sri Lanka since it has mentions in the Ramayana. Sita Amman Temple is located in Nuwara Eliya. According to the epic of Ramayana it is believed that Hanuman burnt this area before he left Sri Lanka. The footprints of Lord Hanuman can be seen even today near the stream close to the Sita Amman Temple.

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES



1993

Ram shoots an arrow to the deer, which is actually Marich the demon sent by Ravan to isolate Sita in order to abduct her. Panel of Ramayana reliefs, Prambanan Temple.

THAILAND



1973

A set of eight stamps depicting various scenes and places from the Ramayana, mainly, Ashok Vatika, Ravan's Parasol, Vanar Sena's crossing of the sea, etc.



First Day Cover issued on Khon Mask, 1975



Angad



Mahiravan



Sugriv



Indrajit

Khon Mask, 1981



1963
Thai International Letter
Writing Week stamp depicting Garud



2014
Stamps showing Ram & Sita, Ravan, Hanuman &
Ram's battle with Ravan



1976
International letter writing week
stamp depicting Garud

2014
Stamps showing Khon masks of
Tosakanth (Ravan), Kumbhakarn,
Pipek (Vibhishan), Thut (Dushana),
Khorn (Khara), Trisian (Trishira),
Surpanakha & Indrajit



1996
Ram and Marich, the deer



First Day Cover issued on Thai Heritage Conservation Day 2015, Khon Mask



2015
Hanuman protecting Ram in his mouth, Emerald Buddha temple wall painting, Bangkok



Thailand-Indonesia joint issue stamp depicts mural of Ramayana from the Emerald Buddha Temple in Bangkok, 2016

TOGO

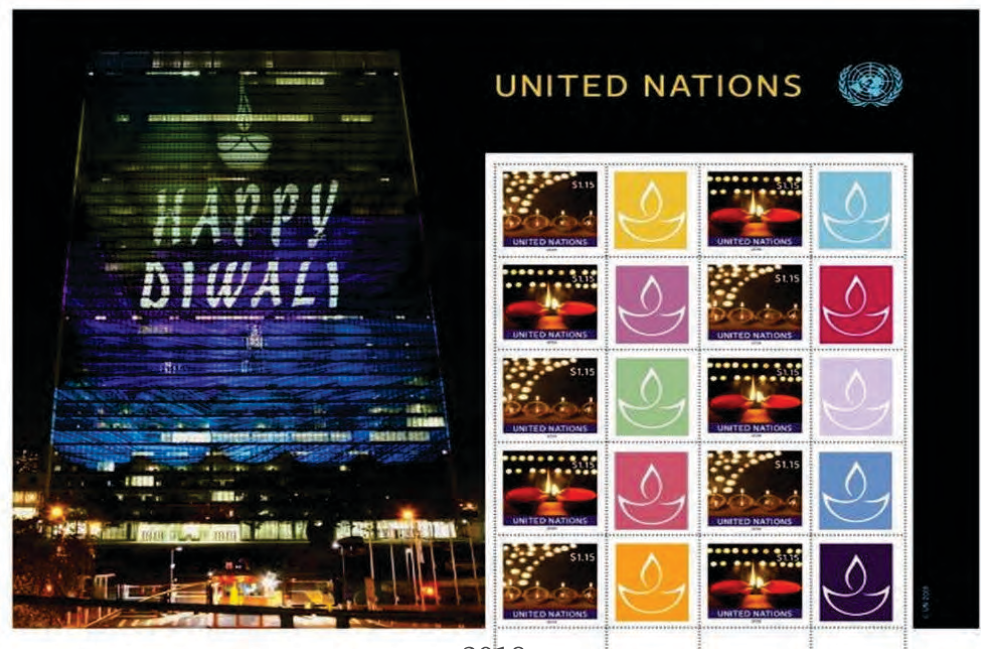


2013

A stamp on a painting depicting a scene from
The Ramayana

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Postal Administration issued a special event sheet on October 28, 2018 to commemorate the festival of Diwali. The sheet contains ten stamps and tabs featuring festive lights and the symbolic lamps known as diyas. The background of the sheet features the United Nations Headquarters building illuminated with the message of "Happy Diwali" to celebrate the spirit of the festival.



2018

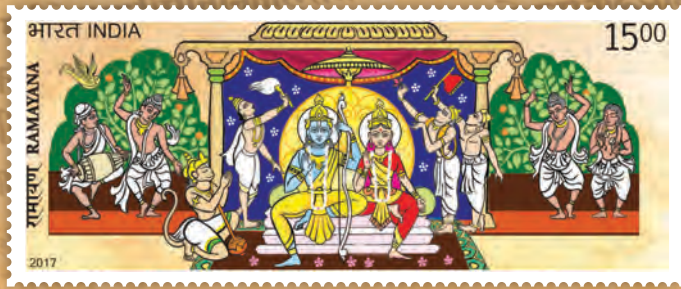
USA



First Day Cover issued on Diwali, 2016

The US Postal Service (USPS) commemorated the Hindu festival of Diwali by dedicating the 'Diwali Forever' stamp. The stamp shows a photo of a traditional 'diya with rose petals' lit against a sparkling gold background and the words 'Forever USA 2016' written below.





भारतीय डाक



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