

Call for Papers



Annual International Conference-2026

on

The Ramayanas: Transcultural Narratives, Ethical Dialogues, and Living Traditions
Janakpur, Nepal

The Literary Association of Nepal invites scholars, researchers, and academics to submit papers for the upcoming annual 46th International Conference on *The Ramayanas: Transcultural Narratives, Ethical Dialogues, and Living Traditions*. The objective is to explore the epic's adaptability, moral complexities, and relevance in a globalized world. The conference will fittingly be held in Janakpur, Nepal, the birthplace of Devi Sita., It will explore the diverse retellings, interpretations, and cultural adaptations of the *Ramayana*, examining its influence on literature, religion, performing arts, and socio-political discourse.

The *Ramayana*, attributed to the sage Valmiki, is a foundational text of South Asian civilization. However, far from being a monolithic narrative, the *Ramayana* exists in numerous versions and retellings across the region. From Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and a host of other countries, the epic has evolved into a rich tapestry of cultural, linguistic, religious, and artistic expressions.

Each version reflects the ethos, aesthetics, and moral frameworks of the society in which it is rooted. Nepal's own *Bhanubhakta Ramayana* stands alongside Kampan's *Tamil Ramavataram*, Jain and Buddhist *Ramayanas*, and Southeast Asian versions like the Thai *Ramakien* and the Khmer *Reamker*, Laos *Phra Lak Phra Lam* and many more, including tribal and folk versions. These variations not only challenge the idea of a single authoritative text but also enrich our understanding of shared heritage.

The *Ramayana* is not just a static text but a dynamic, living tradition that intersects with identity, politics, and art. This conference would bridge academia, artists, and communities, offering fresh insights into one of humanity's most enduring stories. By focusing on diversity and ethical debates, it could spark meaningful dialogue in an era of cultural polarization.

Subthemes

We welcome original research on topics including, but not limited to:

- Regional adaptations of the *Ramayana* in South Asian languages and cultures
- Oral, folk, and tribal traditions of the *Ramayana*
- The *Ramayana* in Buddhist, Jain, and other non-Hindu traditions
- The influence of the *Ramayana* on South Asian literature, arts, and performance traditions

- Comparative studies of Valmiki's *Ramayana* and later adaptations
- Political, ethical, and philosophical discourses of *Ramayana* narratives
- Gender and identity in different *Ramayana* versions
- The *Ramayana* in contemporary popular culture (cinema, television, digital media)
- Pedagogy and the *Ramayana*
- Marginalized Voices and Subaltern Retellings
- Ethics, Dharma, and Modernity
- Translations and Transcreations of the *Ramayana*

Submission Guidelines

- Abstract Submission Deadline: September 15, 2025
- Word Limit for Abstracts: 250–300 words
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: December 15, 2025
- Submission Email: lankathmandu@gmail.com
- Formatting: Times New Roman, 12-pt font, single-spaced, following MLA 9th edition

Publication Opportunity

Selected papers will be considered for publication in *Literary Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal of Literary Association of Nepal.

Conference Format & Participation

The conference will feature keynote addresses, paper presentations, and panel discussions with leading scholars. Participants will join in person in Janakpur.

We look forward to your contributions and to engaging discussions on the rich and evolving traditions and relevance of the *Ramayana*.

Contact Information

For queries, please contact:

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