Nitesh Tiwari's film 'Ramayana: Part One' released in several languages

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News

'Ramayana: Part One', directed by Nitesh Tiwari and based on Valmiki's Ramayana, was released in India on 5 November 2026 (overseas releases were staggered). It stars Ranbir Kapoor (Rama), Sai Pallavi (Sita), Yash (Ravana) and Ravie Dubey (Lakshmana); Sunny Deol appears as Hanuman in a post-credits scene. It is produced by Namit Malhotra (Prime Focus / DNEG) with Yash's Monster Mind Creations, at a reported cost of about ₹4,000 crore. Made in Hindi, it was released with versions in several languages including English; the trailer came out in five languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. Sony Pictures is the international distributor, and release was planned in more than 100 countries. The music is by Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman. The makers reported a worldwide first-day collection of about ₹155 crore.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Film	Ramayana: Part One
Release	5 November 2026 (India; overseas staggered)
Director	Nitesh Tiwari
Based on	Valmiki's Ramayana

Point	Details
Cast	Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Yash, Ravie Dubey
Music	Hans Zimmer, A.R. Rahman
Languages	Hindi + other-language versions; trailer in 5 languages
International release	Sony Pictures; 100+ countries (planned)

Background

- Literature – Valmiki: The Sanskrit Ramayana is hailed as the 'Adi Kavya' (first poem) and Valmiki as the 'Adi Kavi'. It has about 24,000 shlokas in seven kandas (Bala, Ayodhya, Aranya, Kishkindha, Sundara, Yuddha, Uttara).
- In Indian languages: Kamban – 'Ramavataram' (Kamba Ramayanam) in Tamil; Tulsidas – 'Ramcharitmanas' in Awadhi (begun 1574); Krittibas – Bengali; Ezhuthachan – Malayalam 'Adhyatma Ramayanam Kilippattu'; Ranganatha Ramayanam – Telugu.
- Ramayana worldwide: 'Ramakien' in Thailand (its national epic), 'Reamker' in Cambodia, 'Kakawin Ramayana' in Java (Indonesia), 'Hikayat Seri Rama' in Malaysia, 'Yama Zatdaw' in Myanmar and 'Phra Lak Phra Lam' in Laos – showing India's cultural ties with Southeast Asia.
- Economy/soft power: Global releases of Indian films are part of India's soft power and creative ('orange') economy. Big-budget VFX work reflects the growth of India's visual-effects industry.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: Kamban (12th century, Chola era) is believed to have been born at Therazhundur in present Mayiladuthurai district; Sadayappa Vallal of Thiruvennainallur was his patron. Kamban stopped with the Yuddha Kanda; the Tamil Uttara Kandam is traditionally attributed to Ottakoothar (some scholars dispute this). One of the film's composers is Chennai's A.R. Rahman.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Film: Ramayana: Part One; Release: 5 November 2026 (India; overseas staggered); Director: Nitesh Tiwari; Based on: Valmiki's Ramayana.

What is the background to this news?

Literature – Valmiki: The Sanskrit Ramayana is hailed as the 'Adi Kavya' (first poem) and Valmiki as the 'Adi Kavi'. It has about 24,000 shlokas in seven kandas (Bala, Ayodhya, Aranya, Kishkindha, Sundara, Yuddha, Uttara).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who was the patron of Kamban, the author of the Kamba Ramayanam?

A) Pandithurai Thevar

B) Seethakathi

C) Sadayappa Vallal

D) Vallal Pari

Answer: C – Explanation: Sadayappa Vallal of Thiruvennainallur, praised often in the epic. Pandithurai Thevar founded the Fourth Tamil Sangam (1901); Seethakathi was Umaru Pulavar's patron.

2. How is Valmiki's Sanskrit Ramayana traditionally hailed?

A) Adi Kavya (the first poem)

B) The Fifth Veda

C) A Pancha-mahakavya

D) A Smriti law text

Answer: A – Explanation: The Ramayana is the 'Adi Kavya' and Valmiki the 'Adi Kavi'. The Mahabharata is the one called the 'Fifth Veda'; the Ramayana has seven kandas, about 24,000 shlokas.

3. In which language did Tulsidas compose the 'Ramcharitmanas'?

A) Braj Bhasha

B) Sanskrit

C) Maithili

D) Awadhi

Answer: D – Explanation: Awadhi – 16th century, Akbar's time. Surdas wrote in Braj Bhasha and Vidyapati in Maithili.

4. 'Ramakien', a version of the Ramayana, is the national epic of which country?

A) Cambodia

B) Thailand

C) Myanmar

D) Indonesia

Answer: B – Explanation: Thailand. Cambodia has the Reamker, Myanmar the Yama Zatdaw, Indonesia (Java) the Kakawin Ramayana.

5. After Kamban ended with the Yuddha Kanda, who is credited with the Tamil 'Uttara Kandam'?

A) Ottakoothar

B) Pugazhendi

C) Sekkizhar

D) Jayankondar

Answer: A – Explanation: Ottakoothar (the traditional view; some scholars dispute it), court poet of three Chola kings. Pugazhendi wrote Nalavenba, Sekkizhar the Periya Puranam, Jayankondar the Kalingathu Parani.

Sources: The Federal; Open Magazine; Outlook India; Telangana Today; The Telegraph t2; Khaleej Times (Hanuman scene). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.