



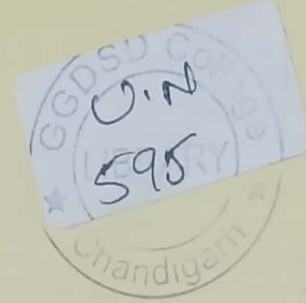
# UNIVERSITY NEWS

*A Weekly Journal of Higher Education*

**Association of Indian Universities**

Vol. 63 • No. 42 • October 20-26, 2025

595



**Upinder Dhar and Santosh Dhar**

Indian Knowledge System: The Role of Lakshman in *Ramayana*

**Prem Kumar Kalra**

From Algorithms to Alchemy: The Transformative Power of Emotional Intelligence

**Aparajita Sengupta and Harish Kumar**

Inclusion and Equity in Indian Education through the Lens of NEP-2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2023

**Pratishtha Singh and Geeta R Thakur**

A Comparative Analysis of Assessment Practices in Traditional and Online Higher Education Environments

**Shrikant Madhav Vaidya**

A Moment of Pride and Possibility

– Convocation Address

In This Issue	
CONTENTS	PAGE
<b>Articles</b>	
Indian Knowledge System: The Role of Lakshman in <i>Ramayana</i>	3
From Algorithms to Alchemy: The Transformative Power of Emotional Intelligence	5
Inclusion and Equity in Indian Education through the Lens of NEP-2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2023	11
A Comparative Analysis of Assessment Practices in Traditional and Online Higher Education Environments	22
<b>Convocation Address</b>	
Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, Punjab	30
<b>Campus News</b>	
Theses of the Month (Social Sciences)	41
Advertisement	45

**Subscription Tariff**  
(Effective April 01, 2025)

	Inland	
	Institutions	Academics/ Students (at residential address only)
	Rs.	Rs.
1 year	2500.00	1000.00
2 years	4400.00	1800.00

Subscription is payable in advance by Bank Draft/MO/NEFT only in favour of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

**Patron**

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak

**Editorial Committee Chairperson**

Dr (Ms) Pankaj Mittal

**Editorial Committee**

Dr Amarendra Pani  
Dr Mamta Rani Agarwal  
Dr Youd Vir Singh

**Editor**

Dr Sistla Rama Devi Pani

# Indian Knowledge System: The Role of Lakshman in *Ramayana*

Upinder Dhar\* and Santosh Dhar\*\*

The name Lakshman is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Lakshmana', which means 'one who has the signs of fortune'. The word has two parts. The first one is 'laksh' which signifies a mark or sign, and the second is 'mana', which denotes possession. Thus, Lakshman is often interpreted as someone who possesses auspicious signs or qualities. Across different texts and regions, Lakshman is known by various names and epithets. In some South Indian traditions, he is referred to as 'Ilaiya Perumal', meaning the younger brother of the Lord. In other texts, he is called 'Saumitra', indicating his lineage as the son of Sumitra, one of King Dasharath's queens.

Lakshman, also known as Lakshmana, is a revered figure in the *Ramayan*. He is the younger brother of Lord Ram, the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu, and is remembered for his unwavering loyalty, courage, and devotion. Lakshman is not just a supportive sibling but also a significant deity in his own right, embodying the virtues of brotherly love, sacrifice, and duty. Lakshman holds a special place to perform his duty in the *Ramayan*, as he accompanies Shree Ram into exile and plays a crucial role in the battle against the demon king Ravan. Lakshman's attributes of loyalty, bravery, and righteousness make him an enduring symbol of familial duty and moral integrity. Even in contemporary times, the character of Lakshman is celebrated across various forms of art and culture. His story is often depicted in plays, dance forms, and literature, inspiring many to embody his qualities.

In *Ramayan*, the relationship between Lord Ram and his devoted younger brother Lakshman is not merely a familial bond but a symbol of unwavering loyalty, sacrifice, and fraternal love. This article attempts to delve into the depths of the sibling relationship between Ram and Lakshman, exploring the nuances that make their connection an enduring and revered aspect of Indian mythology. The relationship between Shree Ram and Lakshman began in their childhood, marked by shared experiences and an unspoken understanding. Growing up in the serene hermitage of Sage Vasishth, the brothers not only learnt the art of archery and warfare together but also developed a profound spiritual connection. This early camaraderie became the foundation for the extraordinary journey they were destined to undertake.

## Lakshman's Unwavering Devotion

Lakshman's devotion to Shree Ram is unparalleled in its depth and selflessness. When Ram was exiled to the forest, Lakshman, without giving a second thought, willingly accompanied him without a moment's hesitation, leaving behind the comforts of the royal palace. His decision wasn't just an act of brotherly love; it symbolised

\*Former Vice Chancellor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore and JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur. Currently, Chairman and Distinguished Professor, People Development Foundation India, 204, Aura-1, Grande Exotica Bicholi Mardana, Indore-452016. E-mail: upinderdhar@gmail.com

\*\* Former Rector and Dean, Faculty of Doctoral Studies and Research, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore