

AN AUDIO DRAMA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 29TH APRIL '26

Ancient Epic Meets Modern Audio Drama: The Ramayana Series Premieres Globally May 8, 2026

A 50-episode cinematic audio drama retells Valmiki's epic with immersive sound design for a new generation of listeners

AUCKLAND — *Chinmaya Mission* today announced the global launch and premiere of the first volume of ***Ramayana: The Legend Retold***, an audio drama bringing India's timeless epic to new generations through cinematic sound design, original orchestral score, and an international voice cast. The series premieres **Friday, 8 May 2026, at 7:30 PM NZT** with a free worldwide YouTube Premiere event soon after, featuring select scenes from Volume 1 and a live Q&A with its cast and creators.

The launch comes as audio drama consumption reaches record highs globally, with younger audiences increasingly seeking authentic cultural storytelling in modern formats.

A Bridge Between Ancient Wisdom and Modern Storytelling

Produced by the volunteers of Chinmaya Mission New Zealand with community support over two years, ***Ramayana: The Legend Retold*** adapts Valmiki's 2,500-year-old epic with careful cultural consultation, making the Ramayana accessible to listeners worldwide. The drama explores universal themes of duty, courage, family, and devotion through an immersive cinematic audio experience.

"Listening to stories has a unique way of shaping the mind. What is heard with attention quietly transforms our thinking, our choices and our outlook. The scriptures have always used this medium to communicate the highest values," said **Swami Swaroopananda**, Global Head of Chinmaya Mission.

"Among them, the Ramayana remains a timeless guide. In Shri Rama, we discover the strength to choose rightly, the grace to uphold relationships and the clarity to act without inner conflict. Today, while the love for these stories remains, recalling and sharing them is not always easy. This project aims to retell it with the respect it deserves and the sound design a modern audience expects."

Professional Production for Global Audience

Volume I features 16 episodes of 15 minutes each, designed for bingeable listening on modern platforms. The production includes:

- An all local voice cast
- Cinematic sound design and spatial audio mixing
- Original score by composer Paaree Senguttuvan
- Screenplay written and directed by Nikhil Mokkapati and Br. Ishaan Chaitanya
- Custom art work by artist Marisha Aya

The series will be accompanied by a social media campaign featuring behind-the-scenes content, character guides, and educational materials on TikTok and Instagram, designed to engage younger audiences with the ancient epic.

Global Premiere Event

The premiere event will take place both online and in-person

Ramayana: The Legend Retold (Vol. I) Global Premiere + Live Q&A with Creators & Cast

When: In person Friday, 8 May 2026, 7:30 PM NZT

Online Friday, 8 May 2026, 7:30 PM IST

Where: In person Chinmaya Mission Wellbeing Centre,
63 McKenzie Road, Mangere Bridge, Auckland

Online YouTube Premiere (free worldwide streaming)

RSVP: By 3 May, 2026

Following the premiere, the first volume consisting of 16 episodes will be released on select audio platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, Google Play Books, and ChinmayaClix.

About Chinmaya Mission

Chinmaya Mission is a global spiritual and cultural organization founded in 1953, dedicated to sharing the wisdom of Vedanta and Indian culture. With 350+ centers in over 25 countries, it focuses on making ancient knowledge relevant to modern life through literature, art, and digital media. This audio drama represents the organization's most ambitious digital storytelling initiative to date, with three volumes (50 episodes total) planned for the complete epic.

Availability

Volume I (16 episodes) will be available for purchase at USD \$29.99 on participating platforms following the premiere (Spotify, Apple Music, Google Play Books, ChinmayaClix). The complete series will span three volumes covering the full arc of Valmiki's Ramayana.

Digital Press Kit: High-resolution images, trailer, audio samples, and creator interviews available upon request.

Media Contact

The Ramayana Team

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Interview Opportunities: Creator and cast interviews available upon request.

Press Assets: Trailer, key art, character illustrations, and audio samples available for download.

