

A Classified List of Sanskrit Metres

(1) Ganas with their definitions and symbols

मन्त्रिगुरुल्लघुश्च नकारो, भादिगुरुः पुनरादिलघुर्यः ।
जो गुरुमध्यगतो रलमध्यः सोऽन्तगुरुः कथितोऽन्तलघुस्तः ॥
गुरुरेको गकारस्तु लकारो लघुरेककः ।
क्रमेण त्रैषां रेखाभिः संस्थानं दर्शयते यथा ॥

छन्दोमञ्जरी, प्रथमः स्तवकः 8-9.

| Ancient symbols | Gaṇa | Modern symbols |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| SSS | मगण (All long) | — — — |
| lll | नगण (All short) | ⌋ ⌋ ⌋ |
| Sll | भगण (First letter long) | — ⌋ ⌋ |
| lSs | यगण (First letter short) | ⌋ — — |
| lSl | जगण (Middle letter long) | ⌋ — ⌋ |
| Sls | रगण (Middle letter short) | — ⌋ — |
| llS | सगण (Third letter long) | ⌋ ⌋ — |
| SsI | तगण (Third letter short) | — — ⌋ |
| S | ग (The long letter) | — |
| l | ल (The short letter) | ⌋ |

(2) Works consulted

The classification of metres as arranged by Prof. H. D. Velankar, M. A., in the Jayadāman is reproduced herewith for ready reference. An effort has been made to give Sanskrit definitions in the same metre wherever they are available. The number of letters varies from one letter to 45 letters in a pāda. The main section is given as a Heading with a figure on the right, which represents the number of varieties. The Gaṇas of the metres are arranged alphabetically, followed by the यति and the definitions and the names of the metres given in the different works. The readers are requested to make use of the symbols either ancient or modern, given at the top of this section.

The metres listed are collected from the following 11 old and important treatises on Sanskrit metres, arranged in an approximate chronological order:—

1. Chhandasśāstra of Piṅgala (P) published in the Kāvyaṃālā Series No. 91 (3rd edition), Bombay, 1938.
2. Nāṭyaśāstra of Bharata (Bh) published in the Kāśī Sanskrit Series No. 60, Benares, 1929.
3. Jayadevachhandas of Jayadeva (Jd) published in Jayadāman.
4. Vṛittajāṭisamuchchaya of Virahaṅka (Vjs) published in the Journal BBRAS, 1929 and 1931.

5. Ratnamañjūṣā of an unknown Digambara Jain author (Rm) published by the Bharatiya Jñāna-Piṭha, Durgākunḍa, Benares.

6. Svāyambhūchhandas of Svāyambhū (Sb) published in the Journal BBRAS, 1935.

7. Vṛittaratnākara of Kedāra (Vr) critically edited in Jayadāman.

8. Chhandonusāsana of Jayakīrti (Jk) published also in Jayadāman.

9. Chhandonusāsana of Hemchandra (H) with brief footnotes (Hc) both published in the Jayadāman.

10. Prākṛita Paiṅgala (Pp) published in the Bibliotheca Indica, Calcutta, 1902.

11. Jānāśrayi (Js) published in the Trivendrum Sanskrit series.

A few additional metres which are not given in these older works are added in this list (the choice being purely subjective) from the following five works which, with the exception of the first, are comparatively modern.

1. Utpala's commentary on Varāhamihira's Brihatsamhitā ch. 103, quoted by verses (Utpala, V); published in the Viziānagaram Sanskrit series Vol. X Benares 1895 onwards.

2. Kavidarpaṇa of an unknown author who knows Hemaṅkanda (Kd); published in the Annals BORI. 1935-36.

3. Chhandomañjarī of Gaṅgādasa (Chm.) published in the Kāśī Sanskrit Series No. 55, 1927.

4. Mandāramarandachampū (Mm) published in the Kāvyaṃālā Series, No. 52, Bombay, 1895.

5. Chhandahkaustubha (Ckau) from a manuscript No. 894 of 1886-92 in the Bhāndārkar Research Institute, Poona.

6. Vāṇībhūṣaṇa of Damodar published in the Kāvyaṃālā Series No. 53 (VB).

Prākṛit metres defined in some of these works (Nos. 4. 6. 9. 10) are not included in the Jayadāman. A list and an index of Prākṛit metres collected from eight old works (including the abovementioned ones) prepared on a similar plan is published in the Journal BBRAS., 1946.