

## ANUSHTUP METER IN Sanskrit poetry

The most common meter in scriptural literature is the *anushtup* meter which has eight syllables in each of the four quarters :

**L** denotes long syllable ('*guru*' in Sanskrit);

**S** denotes short syllable ('*laghu*' in Sanskrit)

Short syllables:

1. Normally, all short vowels – a, i, u, ṛ, ḷ.

Long syllables:

2. All long vowels – ā, ī, ū, ṝ.

3. Any short vowel followed by the anusvāra (ṁ).

4. Any short vowel followed by the visarga (ḥ).

5. Any short vowel followed by a double consonant.

(The exceptions to this rule are the double consonants pr, br, kr and those starting with h. In these four cases, the preceding short vowel can optionally remain short.)

6. Optionally, any short vowel at the end of a pāda

SYLLABLES								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
First quarter	-	-	-	-	S	L	-	-
Second quarter	-	-	-	-	S	L	S	-
Third Quarter	-	-	-	-	S	L	-	--

Fourth Quarter	-	-	-	-	S	L	S	-
----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The formula is :

*pancamaM laghu sarvatra saptamaM dvicaturthayoH /  
shhashhTam guru vijAnIyAt etat shlokasya lakshanam //*

Broken into syllables (*aksharas*) this becomes:

Pan-ca-maM-la-**ghu-sar**-va-tra sap-ta-maM-dvi-**ca-tur-tha**-yoH /  
Shhashh-TaM-gu-ru-**vi-jA**-nI-yAt e-tat-shlo-kas-**ya-lak-sha**-Nam //

Further examples:

Gu-rur-brah-mA-**gu-rur**-vishh-NuH gu-rur-de-vo-**ma-hesh-va**-raH /  
Gu-rus-sAk-shAt-**pa-raM**-brah-ma tas-mai-shrI-gu-**ra-ve-na**-maH //

ShrI-rA-ma-rA-**ma-rA**-me-ti ra-me-rA-me-**ma-no-ra**-me /  
Sa-has-ra-nA-**ma-tat**-tul-yaM rA-ma-nA-ma-**va-rA-na**-ne //

### OTHER COMMON METERS

No. of syllables in each quarter	Triad sequence	Name of the meter ( <i>vRRittaM</i> )	Examples
11	SLS / LLS /SLS /LL	Upendra-vajrA	<p><i>1.Namah-shivAbhyAM nava-yauvanAbhyAM</i>  <i>2.manojavaM mAruta tulyavegaM</i></p> <p>(<i>ma-no-ja-/vaM-mA-ru-/ta-tul-ya-/ve-gaM</i>)</p> <p><i>3. avaimi cainAM anagheti kim tu</i></p>

			<b>4.namostu rAmAya salakshmaNAya</b>
	LLS/LLS/SLS/LL <i>ta-ta-ja-gu,gu</i>	Indra-vajrA	1. <i>astyuttarasyAM dishi devatAtmA</i> 2. <i>shri vaidyanAthAya namaH shivAya</i> 3. <i>vAsAmsi jIrNAni yathA vihAya</i> 4. <i>syAdindravajrA tatajAstatogau</i>
	LSL/SSS/LSL/SL	RathoddhatA	1. <i>yatra yatra raghunAtha-kIrtanaM</i>
	LLL/LLS/LLS/LL	ShAlinI	1. <i>ekodevah keshavo vA shivo vA</i> 2. <i>rUpaM yattat-prAhuravyaktam-AdyaM</i>
12	SLL/SLL/SLL/SLL <i>ya-ya-ya-ya</i>	BhujangaprayAta	1. <i>kumAreshasUno guha-skanda-senA</i> 2. <i>sadA rAma rAmeti rAmAmRtaM te</i> 3. <i>bhujangaprayAtashcaturbhir-yakAraiH</i>
	SSS/LSS/LSS/LSL	Druta-vilambita	1. <i>vara-parAshara-gotra-samudbhavaM</i> 2. <i>nigamakalpa-tarorgalitaM phalaM</i>
	SLS/LLS/SLS/LSL	Vamshastha	1. <i>tvameva tAvatparicintaya svayaM</i>
13	SLL/LLL/LSL/LSL/L	ChandriNI	1. <i>suvarNapraAkAre'shAnyadigbhittibhAge</i>
14	LLS/LSS/SLS/SLS/LL	Vasanta-tilaka	1. <i>tvaM nityamukta-parishuddha vibuddha AtmA</i>

	<i>ta-bha-ja-ja-gu,gu</i>		<p>2. <i>mAtA mameti nagarAja sutorupIThaM</i></p> <p>3. <i>jneyaM vasantatilakaM ta-bha-ja jagau gaH</i></p>
17	LLL/LSS/SSS/LLS/LLS/LL	MandAkrAntA	<p>1. <i>kascit kAntA virahaguruNA svAdhikArAt pramattaH</i></p> <p>2. <i>shAntAkAraM bhujagashayanaM padmanAbhaM sureshaM</i></p>
	SLL/LLL/SSS/SSL/LSS/SL	ShikhariNI	<p>1. <i>shivaH shaktyAyukto yadi bhavati shaktaH prabhavituM</i></p>
19	LLL/SSL/SLS/SSL/LLS/LLS/L	ShArdUla-vikrIditaM	<p>1. <i>yAkundendu tushAraHA davaLA yA shubra-vastrAvRtA</i></p> <p>2. <i>vishvaM darpaNa dRshyamAna-nagarI tulyaM nijAntargataM</i></p>
21	LLL/LSL/LSS/SSS/SLL/SLL/SLL	Sragdhara	<p>1. <i>kshirodanvatpradeshe suchimaNivilasatsaikatair-mauktikAnAM</i></p>

	<i><b>Ya-Maa-taa-raa-ja-bhA-na- sa-la-gA</b></i>		
--	--	--	--