RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Sanskrit Metres
वृत्तमालिका

(With Devanāgarī Script)

PREPARED JOINTLY BY

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Prepared jointly by Kashinath Nyaupane and Wieslaw Mical.

This Teaching Aid for learning the Sanskrit language includes a CD with sound recordings of Sanskrit metres and this Booklet which contains texts of the chanted samples. The samples are chanted by Kashinath Nyaupane.

A separate booklet is available displaying the Sanskrit Devanagari script as a transcribed romanized text.

Recordings of the Sanskrit samples were made by Kevin McMillin at the Rᴀɴɢᴊᴜɴɢ Yᴇsʜᴇ Iɴsᴛɪᴛᴜᴛᴇ.

English proofing and corrections by Tyler Cann.

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विश्वविनोदिनि नन्दिनुते
गिरिवरविन्ध्यशिरो ऽधिनिवासिनि
विष्णुविलासिनि जिष्णुनुते।
भगवति हे शितिकण्ठकुटुम्बिनि
भूरिकुटुम्बिनि भूतिकृते
जय जय हे महिषासुरमर्दिनि
रम्यकपर्दिनि शैलसुते॥

३० मात्रात्मिका जातिः॥

Jāti has 30 *mātrā*s (in a *pāda*).

The *yati* is 16 *mātrā*s by 14.

32. *gīti*

जय शिवशङ्कर शम्भो
जय गिरिजाधीश।
जय जय साम्ब सदाशिव
पशुपति जगदीश॥

ओं हर हर हर महादेव॥

२२ मात्रात्मिका गीतिः॥

Gīti has 22 *mātrā*s (in a *pāda*).

The *yati* is 12 *mātrā*s by 10.

Lexicon of Sanskrit Prosody

- *akṣara* – a syllable
- *ardhasamavṛtta* – a sub-category of *vṛtta*, where the alternate *pāda*s have the same prosodic structure.
- *gadya* – prose
- *gaṇa* – a prosodic unit of three syllables (*akṣara*); there are eight *gaṇa*s, as there are eight possible permutations of short and long syllables in a group of three.
- *guru* – a 'heavy' (long) syllable
- *jāti* – a sub-category of padya, where a *pāda* is defined by the number of syllabic 'measures' (*mātrā*).
- *laghu* – a 'light' (short) syllable
- *mātrā* – a 'measure' used in specifying the length of a *pāda* in metres of *jāti* type; a short (laghu) syllable measures 1 *mātrā*, and a long (guru) syllable, 2 *mātrā*s.
- *pāda* – a quarter-verse. It may be subdivided into *gaṇa*s, i.e. prosodic units of three syllables.
- *padya* – a stanza (which is subdivided into four *pāda*s); any composition in verse.
- *samavṛtta* – a sub-category of *vṛtta*, where all *pāda*s have the same prosodic structure.
- *viṣamavṛtta* – a sub-category of *vṛtta*, where all *pāda*s have a different prosodic structure.
- *vṛtta* – a sub-category of *padya*, where the prosodic structure of a *pāda* is defined by the number <u>and</u> position (short versus long) of syllables.
- *yati* – the way in which the caesura divides a *pāda*. E.g., if the caesura divides an 11 syllable *pāda* into groups of seven and four syllables, we denote that *yati* as 7 by 4.

Definitions of *gaṇa*s

('‿' stands for a short syllable, and '–', for a long one):

- *ya*   ‿ – –
- *ra*   – ‿ –
- *ta*   – – ‿
- *bha* – ‿ ‿
- *ja*   ‿ – ‿
- *sa*   ‿ ‿ –
- *ma*   – – –
- *na*   ‿ ‿ ‿

The above code-names may be combined, and those combinations abbreviated, e.g. a combination of *na* and *ya* could be expressed by *nayau*, or *nyau*.

Short and long syllables are denoted by:

- *la* (short)
- *ga* (long)

31. *āryā*

मृगमीनसज्जनानां
 तृणजलसन्तोषविहितवृत्तीनाम्।
लुब्धकधीवरपिशुना
 निष्कारणं वैरिणो जगति॥

यस्याः पादे प्रथमे द्वादशमात्रास्तथा तृतीये ऽपि।
अष्टादश द्वितीये चतुर्थके पञ्चदश सार्या॥

The metre whose 1st and 3rd *pāda*s consist of 12 *mātrā*s, the 2nd of 18 *mātrā*s, and the 4th of 15 *mātrā*s, is *āryā*.

Illustrations of the Main 33 Sanskrit Metres

30. *puṣpitāgrā* (12 and 13 syllables)

त्रिभुवनभुवनाभिरामकोशं
सकलकलङ्कहरं परं प्रकाशम्।
अशरणशरणं शरण्यमीशं
हरमजमीश्वरमच्युतं प्रपद्ये॥

(from the *Yogavāsiṣṭham*)

अयुजि नयुगरेफितो यकारो
युजि तु नजौ जरगाश्च पुष्पिताग्रा॥

If the 1st and the 3rd *pāda*s consist of *na* (◡ ◡ ◡),
   na (◡ ◡ ◡), *ra* (– ◡ –) and *ya* (◡ – –), and the
   2nd and the 4th of *na* (◡ ◡ ◡), *ja* (◡ – ◡), *ja* (◡ – ◡),
   ra (– ◡ –) and *ga* (–); the metre is *puṣpitāgrā*.

The *yati* in the 1st and 3rd *pāda*s is 7 by 5, and in the 2nd
   and 4th, 8 by 5.

In the presentation that follows the metres are divided into three groups, and arranged, within each group, in the order of the number of syllables. The text of each sample is followed by a *sūtra* (an aphorism) in Sanskrit and English (the translation into English is not literal) describing the metre. The samples may be chanted by the reader while listening to the accompanying Compact Disk.

A. *Samavṛtta* Metres

1. *Śaśivadanā* (6 syllables to a *pāda*)

शशिवदनानां
व्रजतरुणीनाम्।
अधरसुधोर्मि
मधुरिपुरैच्छत्॥

शशिवदना न्यौ॥

Śaśivadanā (i.e. its *pāda*) is composed of *na* (˘ ˘ ˘)
and *ya* (˘ – –).

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29. *śiśulīlā* (11 and 12 syllables)

सुगतान्ससुतान्सधर्मकायान्
प्रणिपत्यादरतो ऽखिलांश्च वन्द्यान्।
सुगतात्मजसंवरावतारं
कथयिष्यामि यथागमं समासात्॥

(*Bodhicaryāvatāraḥ 1.1*)

प्रथमे ससजा गयुग्मयुक्ता
शिशुलीला चरमे सभौ रयौ चेत्॥

If the first and third *pāda*s consist of *sa* (˘ ˘ –),
sa (˘ ˘ –), *ja* (˘ – ˘), *ga* (–) and *ga* (–), and
the second and the fourth of *sa* (˘ ˘ –),
bha (– ˘ ˘), *ra* (– ˘ –), and *ya* (˘ – –);
the metre is *śiśulīlā*.

The *yati* in the 1st and 3rd *pāda*s is 6 by 5, and in the 2nd
and 4th, 7 by 5.

28. *viyoginī* (11 syllables)

क्षणसम्पदियं सुदुर्लभा
प्रतिलब्धा पुरुषार्थसाधनी।
यदि नात्र विचिन्त्यते हितं
पुनरप्येष समागमः कुतः॥

(*Bodhicaryāvatāraḥ* 1.4)

विषमे यदि सौ जगौ समे
सभरा ल्गौ च तदा वियोगिनी॥

If the first and third *pāda*s consist of *sa* (◡◡ –),
     sa (◡◡ –), *ja* (◡ – ◡) and *ga* (–), and the second
     and fourth consist of *sa* (◡◡ –), *bha* (– ◡ ◡),
     ra (– ◡ –), *la* (◡) and *ga* (–), the metre is *viyoginī*.

The *yati* in the 1ˢᵗ and 3ʳᵈ *pāda*s is 6 by 4, and in the 2ⁿᵈ
     and 4ᵗʰ *pāda*s, 7 by 4.

2. *vidyullekhā* (6 syllables)

राधा जाता कृष्णः
कृष्णो जातो राधा।
वृन्दारण्ये रासे
स्फीते चान्द्रे हासे॥

विद्युल्लेखा मो मः॥

Vidyullekhā is composed of *ma* (– – –) and *ma* (– – –).

The *yati* is 3 by 3.

3. *anuṣṭubh* (8 syllables)

वागर्थाविव सम्पृक्तौ
वागर्थप्रतिपत्तये।
जगतः पितरौ वन्दे
पार्वतीपरमेश्वरौ॥

(*Raghuvaṃśamahākāvyam* 1.1)

गन्तुकामस्य गन्तुश्च
यथा भेदः प्रतीयते।
तथा भेदो ऽनयोर्ज्ञेयो
यथासङ्ख्येन पण्डितैः॥

(*Bodhicaryāvatāraḥ* 1.13)

27. *sragdharā* (21 syllables)

येषां श्रीमद्यशोदासुतपदकमले नास्ति भक्तिर्नराणां
येषामाभिरकन्याप्रियगुणकथने नानुरक्ता रसज्ञा।
येषां श्रीकृष्णलीलाललितरसकथाकर्णने नैव कर्णो
धिक्तान्धिक्तान्धिगेतान्कथयति सततं कीर्तनस्थो
                                                    मृदङ्गः॥

(*Śrīmadbhāgavatam*)

म्रभ्नैर्यानां त्रयेण त्रिमुनियतियुता स्रग्धरा कीर्तितेयम्॥

Sragdharā is said to be composed of *ma* (– – –),
     ra (– ◡ –), *bha* (– ◡ ◡), *na* (◡ ◡ ◡) and three
     ya (◡ – –), with the *yati* 7 by 7 by 7.

26. *Śārdūlavikrīḍita* (19 syllables)

एके सत्पुरुषाः परार्थघटकाः स्वार्थान्परित्यज्य ये
सामान्यास्तु परार्थमुद्यमभृतः स्वार्थाविरोधेन ये ।
ते ऽमी मानुषराक्षसाः परहितान्स्वार्थाय निघ्नन्ति ये
ये तु घ्नन्ति निरर्थकं परहितं ते के न जानीमहे॥

सूर्याश्वैर्मसजस्ततः सगुरवः शार्दूलविक्रीडितम्॥

Śārdūlavikrīḍita is composed of *ma* (– – –), *sa* (◡ ◡ –)
   ja (◡ – ◡), *sa* (◡ ◡ –), *ta* (– – ◡), *ta* (– – ◡)
   and a long syllable, with the *yati* 12 by 7.

Unlike in other metres, the *pāda* in *anuṣṭubh* is not subdivided into *gaṇa*s. Each *pāda* follows instead the following pattern of short and long syllables ('◡' denotes that the syllable may be short or long):

◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ – – ◡
◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ – – ◡
◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ – – ◡
◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ ◡ – ◡ ◡

श्लोके षष्ठं गुरु ज्ञेयं सर्वत्र लघु पञ्चमम्।
द्विचतुष्पादयोर्ह्रस्वं सप्तमं दीर्घमन्ययोः॥

In *anuṣṭubh,* the sixth syllable should be known as long; the fifth one always as short.

In the second and fourth *pāda*s, the seventh syllable is short; in the other two *pāda*s, long.

4. *pramāṇikā* (8 syllables)

पुनातु भक्तिरच्युता
सदाच्युताङ्घ्रिपद्मयोः।
श्रुतिस्मृतिप्रमाणिका
भवाम्बुराशितारिका॥

प्रमाणिका जरौ लगौ॥

Pramāṇikā is composed of *ja* ($\smile$ $-$ $\smile$), *ra* ($-$ $\smile$ $-$), *la* ($\smile$) and *ga* ($-$).

The *yati* is 4 by 4.

25. kokilaka (17 syllables)

जय जय जह्न्जामजित दोषगृभीतगुणां
त्वमसि यदात्मना समवरुद्धसमस्तभगः।
अगजगदोकसामखिलशक्त्यवबोधक ते
क्वचिदजयात्मना च चरतो ऽनुचरेन्निगमः॥

यदि भवतो नजौ भजजला गुरु कोकिलकम्॥

If it is composed of *na* ($\smile$ $\smile$ $\smile$), *ja* ($\smile$ $-$ $\smile$), *bha* ($-$ $\smile$ $\smile$), *ja* ($\smile$ $-$ $\smile$), *ja* ($\smile$ $-$ $\smile$), *la* ($\smile$) and a long syllable, the metre is *kokilaka*.

The *yati* is 7 by 10.

24. *hariṇī* (17 syllables)

बहुलरजसे विश्वोत्पत्तौ भवाय नमो नमः
प्रबलतमसे तत्संहारे हराय नमो नमः।
जनसुखकृते सत्त्वोद्रिक्तौ मृडाय नमो नमः
प्रमहसि पदे निस्त्रैगुण्ये शिवाय नमो नमः॥

नसमरसला गः षड्वेदैर्हयैर्हरिणी मता॥

Hariṇī is composed of na (⌣⌣⌣), sa (⌣⌣ –), ma (– – –),
ra (– ⌣ –), sa (⌣⌣ –), la (⌣) and ga (–),
with the *yati* 6 by 4 by 7.

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5. *indravajrā* (11 syllables)

रात्रौ यथा मेघघनान्धकारे
विद्युत्क्षणं दर्शयति प्रकाशम्।
बुद्धानुभावेन तथा कदाचिल्
लोकस्य पुण्येषु मतिः क्षणं स्यात्॥

(*Bodhicaryāvatāraḥ* 1.5)

स्यादिन्द्रवज्रा यदि तौ जगौ गः॥

If it consists of *ta* (– – ⌣), *ta* (– – ⌣), *ja* (⌣ – ⌣), *ga* (–)
and *ga* (–), the metre is *indravajrā*.

The *yati* is 5 by 6.

6. *upendravajrā* (11 syllables)

महीधरा रत्नमयास्तथान्ये
वनप्रदेशाश्च विवेकरम्याः।
लताः सुपुष्पाभरणोज्ज्वलाश्च
द्रुमाश्च ये सत्फलनम्रशाखाः॥

(*Bodhicaryāvatāraḥ* 2.3)

उपेन्द्रवज्रा जतजास्ततो गौः॥

Upendravajrā is composed of *ja* ($\smile$ – $\smile$), *ta* (– – $\smile$), *ja* ($\smile$ – $\smile$), *ga* (–) and *ga* (–)[1].

The *yati* is 5 by 6.

23. *mandākrāntā* (17 syllables)

त्वामालिख्य प्रणयकुपितां धातुरागैः शिलायाम्
आत्मानं ते चरणपतितं यावदिच्छामि कर्तुम्।
अस्रैस्तावन्मुहुरुपचितैर्दृष्टिरालिप्यते मे
क्रूरस्तस्मिन्नपि न सहते सङ्गमं नौ कृतान्तः॥

(*Kālidāsa: Meghadūtaḥ*)

मन्दाक्रान्ताम्बुधिरसनगैर्मो भनौ तौ गयुग्मम्॥

Mandākrāntā is composed ot *ma* (– – –), *bha* (– $\smile$ $\smile$), *na* ($\smile$ $\smile$ $\smile$), *ta* (– – $\smile$), *ta* (– – $\smile$), *ga* (–) and *ga* (–), with the *yati* 4 by 6 by 7.

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1   The two *ga* are expressed in the above aphorism (*sūtra*) by *gauḥ* (a 'cow'), which is a mnemonic device.

22. *pṛthvī* (17 syllables)

लभेत सिकतासु तैलमपि यत्नतः पीडयन्
पिबेच्च मृगतृष्णिकासु सलिलं पिपासार्दितः।
भुजङ्गमपि कोपितं शिरसि पुष्पवद्धारयेत्
न तु प्रतिनिविष्टमूर्खजनचित्तमाराधयेत्॥

(*Bhartṛhari: Nītiśatakam*)

जसौ जसयला वसुग्रहयतिश्च पृथ्वी गुरुः॥

Pṛthvī is composed of *ja* (⌣ – ⌣), *sa* (⌣ ⌣ –), *ja* (⌣ – ⌣), *sa* (⌣ ⌣ –), *ya* (⌣ – –), *la* (⌣) and *ga* (–), with the *yati* 8 by 9.

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7. *upajāti* (11 syllables)

ब्रह्मालवालं भुवनैकपालं
यशोविशालं शिशुपालकालम्।
संसारमायामतिमोहजालं
बालं मुकुन्दं शिरसा नमामि॥

अनन्तरोदीरितलक्ष्मभाजौ
पादौ यदीयावुपजातयस्ताः।
इत्थं किलान्यास्वपि मिश्रितासु
वदन्ति जातिष्विदमेव नाम॥

Upajāti is a combination of *upendravajra* and *indravajra*.[2]

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2   For *indravajra* and *upendravajra* see above.

8. *śālinī* (11 syllables)

पुञ्जीभूतं प्रेम गोपाङ्गनानां
मूर्तीभूतं भागधेयं यदूनाम्।
एकीभूतं गुरुवित्तं श्रुतीनाम्
श्यामीभूतं ब्रह्म मे सन्निधत्ताम्॥

मात्तौ गौ चेत्, शालिनी वेदलोकैः॥

If *ma* (– – –) is followed by two *ta* (– – ◡) and two *ga* (–),
   the metre is *śālinī*, with the *yati* 4 by 7.

21. *Śikhariṇī* (17 syllables)

अनाघ्रातं पुष्पं किसलयमलूनं कररुहैर्
अनाविद्धं रत्नं मधु नवमनास्वादितरसम्।
अखण्डं पुण्यानां फलमिव च तद्रूपमनघं
न जाने भोक्तारं कमिह समुपस्थास्यति विधिः॥

(*Śakuntalābhijñānam*)

रसै रुद्रैश्छिन्ना यमनसभला गः शिखरिणी॥

Śikhariṇī has the *yati* 6 by 11, and is composed of
   ya (◡ – –), *ma* (– – –), *na* (◡ ◡ ◡), *sa* (◡ ◡ –),
   bha (– ◡ ◡), *la* (◡) and *ga* (–).

20. *pañcacāmara* (16 syllables)

भजे व्रजैकनन्दनं समस्तपापखण्डनं
स्वभक्तचित्तरञ्जनं सदैव नन्दनन्दनम्।
सुपिच्छगुच्छमालकं सुनादवेणुहस्तकम्
अनङ्गरङ्गसागरं नमामि कृष्णनागरम्॥

जरौ जरौ ततो जगौ च पञ्चचामरं वदेत्॥

One should recite *pañcacāmara* as consisting of
   ja ($\smile$ – $\smile$), *ra* (– $\smile$ –), *ja* ($\smile$ – $\smile$), *ra* (– $\smile$ –),
   then *ja* ($\smile$ – $\smile$) and *ga* (–).

The *yati* is 8 by 8.

9. *rathoddhatā* (11 syllables)

नन्दनन्दनपदारविन्दयोः
स्यन्दमानमकरन्दबिन्दवः।
सिन्धवः परमसौख्यसम्पदाम्
नन्दयन्तु हृदयं ममानिशम्॥

रात्परैर्नरलगै रथोद्धता॥

With *na* ($\smile$ $\smile$ $\smile$), *ra* (– $\smile$ –), *la* ($\smile$) and *ga* (–) following
   after *ra* (– $\smile$ –), the metre is *rathoddhatā*.

The *yati* is 7 by 4.

10. *svāgatā* (11 syllables)

शातकुम्भरुचिहारिदुकूलः
केकिचन्द्रकविराजितचूलः।
नव्ययौवनलसद्ब्रजनारी-
रञ्जनो जयति कुञ्जविहारी॥

स्वागता रनभगौर्गुरुणा च॥

Svāgatā consists of *ra* (– ◡ –), *na* (◡ ◡ ◡),
   bha (– ◡ ◡) and two 'heavy' *ga* (–).

The *yati* is 7 by 4.

19. *mālinī* (15 syllables)

मनसि वचसि काये पुण्यपीयूषपूर्णास्
त्रिभुवनमुपकारश्रेणिभिः प्रीणयन्तः।
परगुणपरमाणून्पर्वतीकृत्य नित्यं
निजहृदि विकसन्तः सन्ति सन्तः कियन्तः॥

(from the *Nitiśatakam*)

ननमयययुतेयं मालिनी भोगिलोकैः॥

Mālinī is composed of *na* (◡ ◡ ◡), *na* (◡ ◡ ◡), *ma* (– – –),
   ya (◡ – –) and y*a* (◡ – –), with the *yati* 8 by 7.

18. *vasantatilakā* (14 syllables)

रत्नाकरस्तव गृहं गृहिणी च पद्मा
किं देयमस्ति भवते जगदीश्वराय।
आभीरवामनयनाहृतमानसाय
दत्तं मनो यदुपते कृपया गृहाण॥

ज्ञेया वसन्ततिलका तभजा जगौ गः॥

Vasantatilakā should be known as consisting of
ta (– – ◡), bha (– ◡ ◡), ja (◡ – ◡), ja (◡ – ◡),
ga (–) and ga (–).

The *yati* is 8 by 6.

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11. *indirā* (11 syllables)

जयति ते ऽधिकं जन्मना व्रजः
श्रयत इन्दिरा शश्वदत्र हि।
दयित दृश्यतां दिक्षु तावकास्
त्वयि धृतासवस्त्वां विचिन्वते॥

नररलैर्गुराविन्दिरा मता॥

When a long syllable is preceded by *na* (◡ ◡ ◡),
ra (– ◡ –), *ra* (– ◡ –) and *la* (◡),
the metre is *indirā*.

The *yati* is 6 by 5.

12. *vaṃśastha* (12 syllables)

रजोजुषे जन्मनि सत्त्ववृत्तये
स्थितौ प्रजानां प्रलये तमः स्पृशे।
अजाय सर्गस्थितिनाशहेतवे
त्रयीमयाय त्रिगुणात्मने नमः॥

जतौ तु वंशस्थमुदीरितं जरौ॥

Vaṃśastha is described as composed of *ja* (∪ – ∪),
   ta (– – ∪), *ja* (∪ – ∪) and *ra* (– ∪ –).

The *yati* is 5 by 7.

17. *praharṣiṇī* (13 syllables)

गोपीनामधरसुधारसस्य पानैर्
उत्तुङ्गस्तनकलशोपगूहनैश्च।
आश्चर्यैरपि रतिविभ्रमैर्मुरारेः
संसारे मतिरभवत्प्रहर्षिणीहः॥

त्र्याशाभिर्मनजरगाः प्रहर्षिणीयम्॥

Praharṣiṇī is composed of *ma* (– – –), *na* (∪ ∪ ∪),
   ja (∪ – ∪), *ra* (– ∪ –) and *ga* (–),
   with the *yati* 3 by10.

16. *drutavilambita* (12 syllables)

अशनमाचर काञ्चनभाजने
त्वमपि कुक्कुर मा कुरु विस्मयम्।
इह हि पामरनायकमन्दिरे
न हि सतामसतां च विवेचनम्॥

द्रुतविलम्बितमाह नभौ भरौ॥

Drutavilambita is composed of *na* (˘ ˘ ˘), *bha* (– ˘ ˘),
 bha (– ˘ ˘) and *ra* (– ˘ –).

The *yati* is 7 by 5.

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13. *bhujaṅgaprayāta* (12 syllables)

गले रुण्डमालं तनौ सर्पजालं
महाकालकालं गणेशाधिपालम्।
जटाजूटभङ्गोत्तरङ्गैर्विशालम्
शिवं शङ्करं शम्भुमीशानमीडे॥

भुजङ्गप्रयातं चतुर्भिर्यकारैः॥

Bhujaṅgaprayāta is composed of four *ya* (˘ – –).

The *yati* is 6 by 6.

14. *toṭaka* (12 syllables)

अधरं मधुरं वदनं मधुरं
नयनं मधुरं हसितं मधुरम्।
हृदयं मधुरं गमनं मधुरं
मधुराधिपतेरखिलं मधुरम्॥

वद तोटकमब्धिसकारयुतम्॥

You should recite *toṭaka* as consisting of four *sa* (◡ ◡ –).

15. *sragviṇī* (12 syllables)

अच्युतं केशवं रामनारायणं
कृष्णदामोदरं वासुदेवं हरिम्।
श्रीधरं माधवं गोपिकावल्लभं
जानकीनायकं रामचन्द्रं भजे॥

कीर्तितैषा चतूरेफिका स्रग्विणी॥

Sragviṇī is described as composed of four *ra* (– ◡ –).

The *yati* is 6 by 6.