**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)

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **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** | **-** | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 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 MOST COMMON METERS**

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| **No. of syllables in each quarter** | **Triad sequence** | **Name** | **Examples** |
| **11** | **SLS / LLS /SLS /LL** | **Upendra-vajrA** | **1.Namah-shivAbhyAM nava-yauvanAbhyAM**  **2.manojavaM mAruta tulyavegaM**   1. **avaimi cainAM anagheti kim tu**   **4.namostu rAmAya salakshmaNAya** |
|  | **LLS/LLS/SLS/LL(S)** | **Indra-vajrA**  **(also: upajAti)** | 1. **astyuttarasyAM dishi devatAtmA** 2. **shri vaidyanAthAya namaH shivAya** 3. **vAsAmsi jIrNAni yathA vihAya** |
|  | **LSL/SSS/LSL/SL** | **RathoddhatA** | 1. **yatra yatra raghunAtha-kIrtanaM** |
|  | **LLL/LLS/LLS/LL** | **ShAlinI** | **1.ekodevah keshavo vA shivo vA** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **12** | **SLL/SLL/SLL/SLL** | **BhujangaprayAta** | 1. **kumAreshasUno guha-skanda-senA** 2. **sadA rAma rAmeti rAmAmRtaM te** |
|  | **SSS/LSS/LSS/LSL** | **Druta-vilambita** | 1. **vara-parAshara-gotra-samudbhavaM** 2. **nigamakalpa-tarorgalitaM phalaM** |
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|  | **SLS/LLS/SLS/LSL** | **Vamshastha** | 1. **tvameva tAvatparicintaya svayaM** |
| **13** | **SLL/LLL/LSL/LSL/L** | **ChandriNI** | **1.suvarNaprAkAre'shAnyadigbhittibhAge** |
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| **14** | **LLS/LSS/SLS/SLS/LL** | **Vasanta-tilaka** | 1. **tvaM nityamukta-parishuddha vibuddha AtmA** 2. **mAtA mameti nagarAja sutorupIThaM** |
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| **17** | **LLL/LSS/SSS/LLS/LLS/LL** | **MandAkrAntA** | 1. **kascit kAntA virahaguruNA svAdhikArAt pramattaH** 2. **shAntAkAraM bhujagashayanaM padmanAbhaM sureshaM** |
|  | **SLL/LLL/SSS/SSL/LSS/SL** | **ShikhariNI** | **1. shivaH shaktyAyukto yadi bhavati shaktaH prabhavituM** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **19** | **LLL/SSL/SLS/SSL/LLS/LLS/L** | **ShArdUla-vikrIditaM** | 1. **yAkundendu tushArahA davaLA yA shubra-vastrAvRtA** 2. **vishvaM darpaNa dRshyamAna-nagarI tulyaM nijAntargataM** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **21** | **LLL/LSL/LSS/SSS/SLL/SLL/SLL** | **Sragdhara** | 1. **kshirodanvatpradeshe suchimaNivilasatsaikatair-mauktikAnAM** |
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