CHANDONUKRAMANITKA

Metre in Sanskrit literature is the cadence of an expression that either makes or mars the appreciation of sentiment. A list of metres used by Vasudeva is given below in the ascending order of alphabets.

**Anustubh** (8 syllabic metre)

There are several varieties of this metre, but that which is most in use has eight syllables in each quarter, but of variable quantity. Thus the fifth syllable of each quarter should be short, the sixth long, and the seventh alternately long and short.

This metre has been employed in the following cantos of RV: III.5,10,11,30,31; IV.21,22; V.10,13,16,23; VI.14,25,26,29; VII.2,3,6-8; VIII.11; IX.5,6,8,20,22; X.2.

**Upajati** (11 syllabic metre)

It is a mixed variety of Indravajña and Upendravajña. This is said to have 14 varieties. The upajāti metre shown in the Mahākavya are as follows: I.1,3,4,9-19,22-24; II.2,3,5-7,10-23,33-37,40,41,43-45,48,49; III.1,2,6-9,13,14,22, 23,25-29,32-35,37,38; IV.1-11,13-15,17,18,20,23-27,29,31-34.
Puspitāgrā (A variety of half-equal metre)

ayūjī nayugarephato vakāro/
yuji ca najau jaraṣaṣca puspitāgrā/

It contains 'ne', 'na', 'ra', 'va' in its odd quarters and 'na', 'ja', 'ja', 'ra' followed by a long syllable in its even quarters. Its odd quarters belong to Kāma-mattā metre mentioned by Bharata. Puspitāgrā a combination of twelve and thirteen syllables in alternate feet is also called Aupacchandasikā metre. The verses are: III.36; IX.17,23.

Praharsinī (13 syllabic metre)

tryāśabhirmanajaraṣaḥ praharsinīyam/ It is a common metre, and consists of a 'na-gana', a 'na-gana', a 'ja-gana', a 'ra-gana' and an ultimate long syllable. It has a pause at the end of the third and then at tenth syllable in a foot. The verse in this metre is I.21.
Mandakranta (17 syllabic metre)

mandakranta-ābudhiraśanagaimobhanau taugayugmaṁ/
It consists of 'ma', 'bha', 'na', 'ta', 'ta'gaṇaṁ followed by a spondee with pauses at the fourth and then at the sixth and then at the seventh syllable. This is also called Sridhāra. The verse in this metre is II.39.

Mālinī (15 syllabic metre)

nanamayasyayutevāṁ mālinī bhogilokaṁ/ This is otherwise called nāṇīmukhi by Bharata. Its scheme is two 'na-gaṇa', a 'ma-gaṇa' and two 'va-gaṇa' in a foot with a pause at the end of the eighth syllable. The verses are: I.20; II.38; IX.27.

Vamśasthavila (12 syllabic metre)

vadanti vamśasthavilāṁ jatau jaraṁ/ It has a 'ja-gaṇa', a 'ta-gaṇa', a 'ja-gaṇa' and a 'ra-gaṇa' with a pause only at the end of the foot. It is called Vamśastha by Piṅgalanāga, Vamśasthavila and Vamśastanita by other consonants. The verses are II.1.9,24-32,46,47; III.3; IV.12 and V.19.
Vasantatilaka (14 syllabic metre)

This is the frequent and well-known metre containing four ganas and two super-numery syllables viz. 'ta', 'bha', 'ja', 'ja' and a spondee of two long syllables. It has a pause at the end of the eighth and then at the fourteenth syllable. It is otherwise named as Siddhonnata by Kasyapa and Uddharsini by Saivata. Bhatta Kedara in his Vrta Ratnakara says that Naga calls it Madhu-madhavi (nagena saiva gadita madhu-madhaviti).

The verses in this metre are: I.2,6; II.42; III.4,15-18, 19-21,24; IV.19,28,30,35; VI.21,23; VII.9,22; IX.25.

Sardulavikridita (19 syllabic metre)

It consists of a 'ma-gana', a 'sa-gana' a 'ja-gana' and a 'sa-gana', followed by two 'ta-gana' and a long syllable at the end. It has a pause at the end of the twelfth and the last syllable of every quarter. The verses in this metre are: I.7,8; VIII.12.
śikharinī (17 syllabic metre)

rasairu-dreiśchinnā yamanasabhalāgah śikharinī/ It is the sweetest of the lot and contains 'ya', 'ma', 'na', 'sa', 'bha', and an iambus with one short and a long syllable at the end of a foot, providing pauses at the end of the sixth and then at the eleventh syllable. The verses in this metre are I.5; II.8; IV.16.

svāgata (11 syllabic metre)

svāgata ranabhagai xaurunā ca/ It contains a 'ra-gana', a 'na-gana' and a 'bha-gana' with two long syllables at the end. It has a pause at the end of the third and eighth syllable. The verses are only two i.e., II.4; III.12.

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