



## Structural Analysis - Rhythmic Patterns of Aādhi Tāla in Thirupugazh

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### Abstract

Indian music is renowned for its rhythmic complexity and when it comes to the fascinating structure of rhythmic cycles the South Indian Carnatic music tradition becomes the King in previous decades and even today also. Tāla is the time measure or rhythm cycle in Indian Carnatic music. Each type of Tāla cycle continuously goes through a set or number of beats. The cycle will repeat over and over again because each and every tāla has a structure that is governed by the rules pertaining to it. The most common tāla is Aādhi tāla which is one of the most popular tāla used in Carnatic music. Aādi means first or original. This is the Primery tāla. Aādhi tāla with the cycle of eight beats is certainly the earliest to follow. Thirupugazh is a Chandam (Rhythmic) based text composed by Arunagiri Nadar who belongs to 15th Century. The hymns are constructed particularly in high rhythmic flow which becomes the best example for important tālas like 35 tālas, 175 tālas, 108 tālas and so on. All Thirupugazh Hymns are composed on Lord Muruga and it is well known for its metrical complexity. The anthology is considered one of the central works of Medieval Tamil Literature, both of its poetical and musical qualities. Because of this Thirupugazh Arunagiri Nadar is praised as incomparable Master of Rhythm in Indian Music. Aādhi tāla with respect to speeds (first and second) and Gati varieties (Tisra, Chatusra, Kanda, Misra) are analyzed through Thirupugazh.

**Keywords:** Aādhi tāla, Thirupugazh, Chandam, Gati varieties, Tisra, Chatusra, Kanda, Misra

## INTRODUCTION

Carnatic music with its rhythmic complexity and Raga system becomes one of the best and creative Fine Arts in the world. The tāla or rhythm binds you to the music, helps you to cohere with the skeleton which holds the melody together and it astonishes especially with its complex rhythm. Tāla is the term used in Carnatic music for the rhythmic pattern of any composition. Carnatic music uses a comprehensive system for the specification of tālas called Saptha tāla system or 35 tāla systems. Tāla is the time measure or rhythm cycle in Indian Carnatic music. Each type of rhythm or Tāla cycle continuously goes through a set or number of beats. The cycle will repeat over and over again because each and every tāla has a structure that is governed by the rules pertaining to it. The most common tāla is Aādhi tāla.

### Aādhi Tāla

This is one of the most popular tāla used in Carnatic music. Aādi means First or original. This is the Primery tāla. Aādhi tāla with the cycle of eight beats is certainly the earliest to follow. It belongs to Sulādi tāla system of classification. Its technical name according to tāla system is Chatusra Jāti Ttriputa tāla. The structure of Aādhi tāla is | O O. | is lagu and O is drutham. As it belongs to chatusra jāti the duration of Lagu is 4 beats and drutham is 2 beats and totally lagu + drutham + drutham = 8 beats. Almost 75 % of the compositions in the music field belong to this tāla only.

### Gatis in Aādhi Tāla

Gati is the time taken for each beat. Gatis are the sub counts. Gati of a tāla specifies the sub division of a beat in a composition. It is also referred as Nadai. There are five varieties of Gati.

- 1) Tisra gati
- 2) Chatusra gati
- 3) Kanta gati

- 4) misra gati
- 5) sankeerna gati

**Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in chatusra gati is called as Aādhi tāla.**

**The varieties of Aādhitāla are**

- 1) Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in Tisra gati- - 8 - 3 = 24 counts
- 2) Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in Chatusra gati - 8 - 4 = 32 counts
- 3) Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in Kanta gati - 8 - 5 = 40 counts
- 4) Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in Misra gati - 8 - 7 = 56 counts
- 5) Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in Sankeerna gati - 8 - 9 = 72 counts

### **Aādhi Tāla and Other Talas**

The other Tālas reckoned now in Aādhi tala are Desādi tala, Madyadi tāla, and Chatusra Eka tāla. Desādi tāla and Madyādi tāla which has a total count 4 (one wave and three beats) seen in Tyagarajar Krities are now presented in Aādhi tāla only. Two chatusra Eka tālas are presented in both. There are some talas which has the same count of Aādhi tāla (8) in 35 talas. They are

- 1) Tisra jāti Matya tāla
- 2) Kanta jāti Janba tāla
- 3) Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla
- 4) chatusra jāti Eka tāla. (These tālas are presented in Aādhi for easy rendering.)
- 5) Similar to Aādhi tāla is the 4/4 Time Signature in Western music It is also called as Common Time. It is widely used in most forms of Western music.

### **Chandam in Aādhi Tāla – CHATUSRA GATI**

**Examples from Thirupugazh - First Speed**

#### **1) Thiruchendur**

Chandam : Tana tāna tanda tana tāna tanda (4+4)

Song : Viral māra naindu malar vāli sinda

#### **2) Pazhani**

Chandam : Tanana tana tanana tandatta tandatana (4+4)

Song : Adala vida lamuda landatta tandatana

#### **3) Pazhani**

Chandam : Tanana tana tanana tanana tana tanana (4+4)

Song : Kadalai pori avarai palaka nika zhainagar

#### **4) Pazhani**

Chandam : Tāna tana tanana tāna tana tanana (4+4)

Song : Seera lasadanvinai kāran muraimaiyili

#### **5) Swamimalai**

Chandam : Tana tāna tatta tana tāna tatta (4+4)

Song : Sega māyai uttre naga vāzhvil vaittai

#### **6) Thiruthanigai**

Chandam : Tanat Tāna tānam tanat tana tānam (4+4)

Song : Enakkena yāvum padaithida nālum

#### **7) Thirukazhukundram**

Chandam : Tana Tanana tāna tana tanana tāna (4+4)

Song : Ezhugu nirai nābi aripiramar sòdi

#### **8) Kadirkāmam**

Chandam : Tana Tanana tāna tana tanana tāna (4+4)

Song : Tiruma galu lāvu mirupuyamu rāri

#### **9) Thiruchengodu**

Chandam : Ta Tāna tanda tatāna tānda (4+4)

Song : Anbāga vandu untālpā nindu

#### **10) Thiruchengodu**

Chandam : Tat Tatana tāna tattatana tāna (4+4)

Song : Purpadame nāma arpanilai yāda

#### **11) Vallimalai**

Chandam : Tayyatana tāna tayyatana tāna (4+4)

Song : Allivizhi yālum mullainagai yālum

- 12) **Vallimalai**  
 Chandam : Tayyatana täna tayyatana täna (4+4)  
 Song : Iyya muru nõyum maiyyaluma vävi
- 13) **Vallimalai**  
 Chandam : Tantätta tayya tanatätta tayya (4+4)  
 Song : Kudiväzhkkai yannai manaiyätti pillai
- 14) **Viralimalai**  
 Chandam : Tänäna täna tänäna täna (4+4)  
 Song : Mäläsai kõba möyāde nälum
- 15) **Thirumayilai**  
 Chandam : Tanana tana tanana tanana tana tanana (4+4)  
 Song : Amaru mamararini ladiga naya numari
- 16) **Thirumayilai**  
 Chandam : tananā tananā tana tananā (4+4)  
 Song : Tiraivār kadalsoozh puvi tanile
- 17) **Nimbapuram**  
 Chandam : tandatana täna tandatana täna (4+4)  
 Song : Anjuvida booda mungarana nālu
- 18) **Pāgai**  
 Chandam : täna tanandana täna tanandana (4+4)  
 Song : Eelai surangulir vāda menumpala
- 19) **Madurai**  
 Chandam : täna tana tatta tänatana tatta (4+4)  
 Song : Aanai muga varku nerilaiya bakta
- 20) **Sri Mushtam**  
 Chandam : tananat ta täna tananatta täna (4+4)  
 Song : Kazhai muttu mälai puyal muttu mälai
- 21) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tänanā tatta tänanā tatta (4+4)  
 Song : Aasaikoor patta nenmanò padma
- 22) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tänanā tanatana tänanā tanatana (4+4)  
 Song : Oonun dasaiudal tänon badu vazhi
- 23) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tänä tananda tänä tananda (4+4)  
 Song : Oone relumbu seese malanga
- 24) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tananā tanatta tananā tanatta (4+4)  
 Song : Ozhukoo renitta modutò ludutti
- 25) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tandand tananda tandand tananda (4+4)  
 Song : Sandam punaindu Sandanj siranda
- 26) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tänatana tatta tänatana tatta (4+4)  
 Song : Seeda malam veppu vādamigupitta
- 27) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tatta tanatana tatta tanatanana (4+4)  
 Song : Tatta namumadimai sutra modu pudalvar
- 28) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tänä tanatana tänä tanatanana (4+4)  
 Song : Moolā nilamadin mele manaduru
- 29) **Podhu**  
 Chandam : tänanā tanatana tänanā tanatanana (4+4)  
 Song : Vādand talavali soolam peruvayi

**30) Känjipuram**

Chandam : tattadana tanda tattadana tanda (4+4)

Song : Naccharava mendru naccharava mendru

**31) Thiruvānaikka**

Chandam : tanda tättana tanda tättana (4+4)

Song : Vamba rācchila kanna midunjama

**32) Chidambaram**

Chandam : tanatana täna tanatana täna (4+4)

Song : Kanagasa baimevu menaduguru nādar

**33) Chidambaram**

Chandam : tattana täna tattana täna (4+4)

Song : Kaitaruna sōdi attimuga veda

**34) Pazhamudirsōlai**

Chandam : tanana tattat tanana tattat (4+4)

Song : Talaimayir kokkuk kokkana raittu

**35) Pazhamudirsōlai**

Chandam : tänana tanatta tänana tanattat (4+4)

Song : Vādinai adrtta velviliyar tangal

**36) Thiruthanigai**

Chandam : tanatana tänat tanatana tänat (4+4)

Song : Parivuru nārart razhalmadi veesa

**Varieties of Chandam seen in Aādhi tāla - First speed****We can observe 35 varieties in Aādhi tāla Chatusra Gati**

- 1) tanatāna tanda tanatāna tanda
- 2) Tanana tana Tanana tandatta tandatana
- 3) Tanana tana Tanana Tanana tana tanana
- 4) täna tana Tanana täna tanatanana
- 5) tana täna tatta tana täna tatta
- 6) tana Tanana täna tana Tanana täna
- 7) tattāna tanda tattāna tanda
- 8) tattatana täna tattatana täna
- 9) tayya tana täna tayya tana täna
- 10) tana tätta tayya tana tätta tayya
- 11) tänäna täna tänäna täna
- 12) tanda tana täna tanda tana täna
- 13) täna tanandana täna tanandana
- 14) täna tana tatta täna tana tatta
- 15) Tanana tanandana Tanana tanandana
- 16) tänatta täna tänatta täna
- 17) tänanä tatta tänanä tatta
- 18) tänand tanatana tänand tanatana
- 19) tananä tanatta tananä tanatta
- 20) tandand tananda tandand tananda
- 21) täna tana tatta täna tana tatta
- 22) tatta tana Tanana tatta tana tanana
- 23) tänä tanatana tänä tanatana
- 24) tattatana tanda tattatana tanda
- 25) tanda tātātana tanda tänanandana
- 26) tananä tanattana tananätanattana
- 27) tattattatana täna tattattatana täna
- 28) tanda tättana tanda tättana
- 29) tattatana täna tattatana täna

- 30) tana tana tattat tanatana tattat  
 31) tñana tanatta tñana tanatta  
 32) Tanana tana tñana Tanana tana tñana  
 33) tanattana tñanam tanattana tñanam  
 34) tñā tananda tñā tananda  
 35) tana tana tñat tanatana tñat

## Chandam in Aādhī Tāla - CHATUSRA GATI

### Examples from Thirupugazh - Second Speed

#### 1) Podhu

Chandam : tattana tanatana tattana tanatana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Kaittala niraikani appamo daval pori

#### 2) Thirupparangundram

Chandam : tanatta tanandana tanatana tanatana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Unaidi nam tozhu dilanuna diyalbinai

#### 3) SriSailam

Chandam : tanatana tanatana tanatana tanatana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Orupadu mirupadu marupadu mudanaru

#### 4) Thiruvengadam

Chandam : tanatana tanatana tanatana tanatana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Saravana bavanidi saravana bavanidi

#### 5) Pazhani

Chandam : tananda tanatana tanatana tanatana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Kurambai malasalam vazhuvalu ninamodu

#### 6) Swāmimalai

Chandam : tanatana tanatana tana tā ; , na ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Niraimadi mugamenum oli yā ; , le

#### 7) Kadirkāmam

Chandam : tanatana tanatana tanatana tanatana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Kadakada karuvigal dayavagi radirkadir

#### 8) sirāpalli

Chandam : tananat tananat tananat tananat ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Buvanat torupotr trodisir trudarak

#### 9) Chengodu

Chandam : tattana tattana tattana tattana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Pattarga napriya nirtana ditidu

#### 10) Vallimalai

Chandam : tanatana tatanatana tanatana tanaqtana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : gaganamu manilamu manalpunal nilamanam

#### 11) Avināsi

Chandam : tanatta tantana tñana tñana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Manathi raindezhu meelaiyu melida

#### 12) Ezhukarai nādu

Chandam : tanatana tāttana tananana tāttana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Virakara nōkkiya murugiyum vāzhtiyum

#### 13) Karuvur

Chandam : tanatta tantana tñana tñana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Manathi raindezhu meelaiyu melida

#### 14) Kumbakōnam

Chandam : tanatta tantana tanatana tandatt ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song : Karuttha kunjiyum velariye zhungoth

#### 15) Kadavur

Chandam : tātta tanatana tñana tñana ( 4+4 +4+4)

Song	: Ettin vidipadi yòkodu mǎpura	
<b>16) Mayilai</b>		
Chandam	: tananǎ tananǎtana tananǎ tananǎtana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Tiraivār kadalsul puvī tanile ulakòrodu	
<b>17) Mǎndurai</b>		
Chandam	: tǎndana tananda tǎndana tananda	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Aangudal valaindu neengupal negizhdu	
<b>18) Vakkarai</b>		
Chandam	: tanatana tattana tanatana tattana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Kalakale nacchila kalaigalpi dhatruva	
<b>19) Tiruvārur</b>		
Chandam	: tǎnǎ tǎnǎ tanatana tanatana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Pǎlò thenò palavuru sulaiyadu	
<b>20) Vizhimizhalai</b>		
Chandam	: tananǎ tananǎ tananǎ tananǎ	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Eruvāi karuvāi thanile uruvāvai	
<b>21) Nāgapatnam</b>		
Chandam	: tananǎ tananǎ tananǎ tananǎ	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Vizhudǎ denave karudǎ udalai	
<b>22) Punavāyil</b>		
Chandam	: tananan tandana tǎnana tandana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Uraiyunj sendradu nǎvum ularndadu	
<b>23) Vadugur</b>		
Chandam	: tanatana tananǎ tanatana tananǎ	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Ariyaya nariyǎ thavareri puramoo	
<b>24) Vayalur</b>		
Chandam	: tǎnana tanatta tǎnana tanatta	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Tǎmarain mattu vāsama larotta	
<b>25) Viruthāchalam</b>		
Chandam	: tanatana tanatana tanatana tanatana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Tirumozhi yuraipera aranuna duzhipani	
<b>26) Podhu</b>		
Chandam	: tattana tanatana tǎnǎ tanatana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Ettuda norutholai vǎyǎ adupasu	
<b>27) Thiruvārunai</b>		
Chandam	: tanatana tǎnana tanatana tǎnana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Kayalvizhi thenenai seyalazhi thāyena	
<b>28) Thiruvārunai</b>		
Chandam	: tananǎ tananǎ tananǎ tananǎ	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Sivamǎ dhadane adhubò gamadāi	
<b>29) Tiruthani</b>		
Chandam	: tanatana tandana tandana tandana	( 4+4 +4+4)
Song	: Karuviyi hazhduma runduve gunduru	

### Varieties of Chandam seen in Aādhi tāla - second speed:

We observe 29 varieties of Aādhi tāla chandam

**Aādhi tāla in TISRA GATI:**

The structure of Aādhi tāla is | O O. When it belongs to Tisra gati the duration of each beat is 3 (takita) and totally lagu + drutham + drutham = 8 x 3 = 24.

### Chandam in Aādhi Tāla - Tisra Gati

Examples from Thirupugazh -

**1) Pazhani**

Chandam : tanana tanana tanana tanana ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Kariya periya erumai kadavu

**2) Pazhani**

Chandam : tanana tanana tanana tanana ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Tamaru mamaru manaiyu miniya

**3) Karungundram**

Chandam : täna tatta täna tatta ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Veda verpi lepu nattil

**4) Uthrapperur**

Chandam : täna tanda täna tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Tòle lumbu seena rambu

**5) Enngan**

Chandam : tanda tanda tanda tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Sanda nandi mirnda naindu

**6) Siruvai**

Chandam : tanana täna tanana tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Piravi yäna sadami rangi

**7) Devanur**

Chandam : täna täna tanda tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Aaru märu manju manjum

**8) Nagapatnam**

Chandam : täna tanda tatta tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Ola mitti raite zhunda

**9) Vaithisvarankoil**

Chandam : täna täna tatta tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Mäli näle dutta kandal

**10) Podhu**

Chandam : täna täna täna tanda ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Aara vāra mäyi rundu

**11) Podhu**

Chandam : täna tanda täna täna ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Neeru menbu tòli nälu

**12) Podhu**

Chandam : Tanana täna täna tatta ( 3+3+3+3)

Song : Tudiko noiha lodu vattri

**Varieties of Sandam seen in Aādhi täla - Thisra gati**

We observe 11 varieties. They are

- 1) tanana tanana tanana tanana
- 2) täna tatta täna tatta
- 3) tanda tanda tanda tanda
- 4) tanana täna tanana tanda
- 5) täna täna tanda tanda
- 6) täna tanda tatta tanda
- 7) täna täna tatta tanda
- 8) täna täna täna tanda
- 9) täna tanda täna täna
- 10) tanana täna täna tatta
- 11) täna tanda täna tanda

**Aādhi täla in KANDA GATI:**

The structure of Aadhi täla is | O O. When it belongs to Kanda gati the duration of each beat is Five ( taka takita ) and so totally lagu + drutham + drutham = 8 x 4 = 40.

**Chandam in Aādhi Tāla - Kanda Gati****Examples from Thirupugazh -****1) Thiruchendur**

Chandam : tānanā tandanam tānanā tandanam ( 5+5+5+5+ )

Song : Kālanār vengodun toodarpā sangoden

**2) Thiruthanigai**

Chandam : tanattana tanattana tanattana tanattana ( 5+5+5+5+ )

Song : Iruppaval tiruppugazh viruppodu padippavar

**3) Kadirkāmam**

Chandam : tanattā tanattā tanattā tanattā

Song : Saratte udittā yuratte guditte ( 5+5+5+5+ )

**4) Konganagiri**

Chandam : tattadana tattadana tattadana tattadana

Song : Ingaranai otthamana maimpulama hatrivana ( 5+5+5+5+ )

**5) Viralimalai**

Chandam : tanādana tanādana tanādana tanādana ( 5+5+5+5+ )

Song : Ilābamala polāvurai solāmana tabōdana

**6) Viralimalai**

Chandam : tanādana tanādana tanādana tanādana ( 5+5+5+5+ )

Song : Nirāmaya purādana parāpara varāmruḍa

**7) Podhu**

Chandam : tānatta tānatta tānatta tānatta

Song : Tolatti yālappi nāloppi vāḍuttra ( 5+5+5+5+ )

**8) Podhu**

Chandam : tanandā tanandā tanandā tanandā

Song : Perungā riyampol varunge dudambāl ( 5+5+5+5+ )

**Varieties of Chandam seen in Aadhi tāla - Kanda Gati****We observe 8 varieties. They are**

1) tānanā tandanam tānanā tandanam

2) tanattana tanattana tanattana tanattana

3) tattadana tattadana tattadana tattadana

4) tattadana tattadana tattadana tattadana

5) tanādana tanādana tanādana tanādana

6) tanādana tanādana tanādana tanādana

7) tānatta tānatta tānatta tānatta

8) tanandā tanandā tanandā tanandā

**Aādhi tāla in MISRA GATI:**

The structure of Aadhi tāla is | O O. When it belongs to Misra gati the duration of each beat is seven (takita takadimi) and so totally lagu + drutham + drutham =  $8 \times 7 = 56$ .

**Chandam in Aādhi Tāla - Misra Gati****Examples from Thirupugazh****1) Thiruchendur**

Chandam : tanattandana tanattandana tanattandana ( 7+7+7+7 )

Song : Tharikkumkalai nehizhkkumpara thavikkumkodi

**2) Kāngipuram**

Chandam : tanattattat tanattattat tanattattat ( 7+7+7+7 )

Song : Enakkuchatr runakkuchatr renekkattat

**3) Chidambaram**

Chandam : tandatandanat tānatandanat tandatandanat ( 7+7+7+7 )

Song : Vandu vandu vith turiendranudal venduvenduvith

**4) Pazhamudirsōlai**

Chandam : tanatanatāna tanatanatāna tanatanatāna ( 7+7+7+7 )

Song : Agaramumāgi adipanumāgi adigamumāgi

### 5) Thiruchendur

Chandam : tanattandan tanattandan tanattandan (7+7+7+7)  
Song : Manathinbang genatthangaip pulatthenran

### Varieties of Chandam seen in Aadhi tāla - Misra Gati

We observe 5 varieties. They are

- 1) tanattandana tanattandana tanattandana
- 2) tanattattat tanattattat tanattattat
- 3) tandatandanat tānatandanat tandatandanat
- 4) tanatanāna tanatanāna tanatanāna
- 5) tanattandan tanattandan tanattandan

## CONCLUSION

Aādhi Tāla is one of the most popular tāla used in Karnatic music. This is the Primery tāla. Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in chatusra gati is the technical name of Aādhi tāla. The varieties of Aādhi tāla according to Gati beda Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in tisra gati, Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in chatusra gati, Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in Kanta gati, Chatusra jāti Triputa tāla in misra gati are analyzed with respect to Chandam of Thirupugazh. We observe

- 1) 11 varieties in Tisra Gati - Aādhi Tāla.
- 2) 35 varieties in Chatusra Gati - Aādhi Tāla.
- 3) 8 varieties in Kanda Gati - Aādhi Tāla.
- 4) 5 varieties in Misra Gati - Aādhi Tāla.
- 5) 29 varieties in Aadhi tāla - second speed, through Chandam in Thirupugazh

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