

7.12 **Maathra, Chhanda** and **Thaal** (Beat, meter & rhythm)

The following terminologies are used to define the timing pattern of Indian music :

Maathra = beat. The unit of time in Indian music is called a *Maathra*.

Chhanda = meter. A regular numerical division of a collection of *Maathras* is called a *Chhanda*.

Thaal = A *Thaal* is a collection of *Maathras* regulated by *Chhanda*.

Thaali or **Thaal** = A *Thaali* or *Thaal* is a beat with a stroke in music and is denoted by **1,2,3,4** etc. The beats of *Thaals* are played with the right hand.

Khaali or **Faank** = A *Khaali* or *Faank* is a beat without a stroke in music and is denoted by **0**. The stroke or beat of a *Faank* are played with the left hand.

Som = Beginning of a cycle of *Thaal*, denoted by "1'", "2'", "+" or "x" and marked where the stress of the music is heaviest. Once the first *Som* is marked, the rest of the song or piece of music is marked automatically.

Pod = foot. A *Pod* is each division - *Thaals* or *Faank* - of a *Thaal* cycle and is denoted by "I |", "| |" or "| I"

Thheka = Full-length notation of *Thaal* is called *Thheka*.

Bol = Note for each *Maathra* of a *Thaal* is called *Bol*. Different beat instruments have different *Bols* for same *Thaal*.

Followings are some examples of *Thaals* of different *Chhandas* with their *Thhekas* arranged and grouped according to their number of beats: -

I. **Thaal** of 4 **Maathras**

1. *Chhanda* of 2|2 *Maathras* *

I A A | A A I
1' 0

Thabla : I Dha Dhin | Na Thin I

II. **Thaals** of 5 **Mathras**

2. *Chhanda* of 3|2 *Maathras* : **Jhampak**

I A A A | A A I
1' 2

Thabla : I Dhi Dhi Na | Dhi Na I

3. *Chhanda* of 2|3 *Maathras* : **Ardha** (half) **Jhaanpthaal**

I A A | A A A I
1' 2

Thabla : I Dhi Na | Dhi Dhi Na I

III. *Thaals* of 6 *Maathras*

4. *Chhanda* of 3|3 *Maathras* : **Daadra**

I A A A | A A A I
1' 0

Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na | Na Thi Na I

5. *Chhanda* of 2|4 *Maathras* : **Sasthhi-thaal** *

I A A | A A A A I
1' 2

Thabla : I Dhi Na | Dha Dhi Dhi Na I

6. *Chhanda* of 4|2 *Maathras* *

I A A A A | A A I
1' 2

Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na Dhi | Dha Dhi I

7. *Chhanda* of continuous 6 *Maathras* *

I A A A A A I
1'

Thabla : I Dhi Na Na Dhi Na Dhi I

IV. *Thaals* of 7 *Maathras*

8. *Chhanda* of 3|2|2 *Maathras* : **Theora**

I A A A | A A | A A I
1' 2 3

Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na | Dhi Na | Dhi Na I
1' 2 3

Paakhowaj : I Dha Ghene Nug | Gaw Ddi | Ghene Nug I

9. *Chhanda* of 3|2|2 *Maathras* : **Roopak**

I A A A | A A | A A I
0 1 2

Thabla : I Thin Thin Na | Dhi Na | Dhi Na I

10. *Chhanda* of 3|4 *Maathras* *

I A A A | A A A A I
1' 2
Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na | Dhi Na Na Dhi I

V. *Thaals* of 8 *Maathras*

11. *Chhanda* of 4|4 *Maathras* : ***Kaahaarwa***

I A A A A | A A A A I
1' 0
Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na Thi | Na Dhi Dha Dhi I

12. *Chhanda* of 2|2|2|2 *Maathras* : ***Yath*** (8 *Maathras*)

Thabla

I A A | A A | A A | A A I
1' 2 0 3
I Dha Dhin | Dha Dhadha Dhin | Na Thin | Dha Dhadha Dhin I

13. *Chhanda* of 3|2|3 *Maathras* : ***Roopakrha*** *

I A A A | A A | A A A I
1' 2 3
Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na | Dhi Na | Dhi Dhi Na I
1' 2 3
Paakhowaj: I Dhaage Thete Thete | Thaage Thete | Kete Thaage The-
te I

VI. *Thaals* of 9 *Maathras*

14. *Chhanda* of 3|2|2|2 *Maathras* : ***Navathaal*** *

Paakhowaj

I A A A | A A | A A | A A I
1' 2 3 4
I Dha Den Tha | Thete Katha | Gadi Ghene | Dhaage Thete I

15. *Chhanda* of 5|4 *Maathras* : (poetic *Chhanda*) *

I A A A A A | A A A A I
1' 2
Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na Dhi Na | Dha Dhi Dhi Na I

16. Chhanda of 3|6 Maathras (poetic Chhanda)*

I A A A | A A A A A I
1' 2

Thabla : I Dha Dhi Na | Dha Dhi Dhi Na Dhi Na I

17. Chhanda of continuous 9 Maathras (poetic Chhanda) *

I A A A A A A A A I
1'

Thabla : I Dhi Dhi Na Dha Dhi Na Dha Dhi Na I

VII. Thaals of 10 Maatraas

18. Chhanda of 2|3|2|3 Maathras : **Jhaanpthaal**

I A A | A A A | A A | A A A I
1' 2 0 3

Thabla : I Dhi Na | Dhi Dhi Na | Thi Na | Dhi Dhi Na I
1' 2 0 3

Paakhowaj : I Dha Ge | Dha Ge Din | Tha Ke | Dha Ge Din I

19. Chhanda of 4|2|4 Maathras : **Soorfaankthaal/Soorfaanktha**

Paakhowaj

I A A A A | A A | A A A A I
1' 2 3

I Dha Gherhe Nug Dhi | Gherhe Nug | Gaw Ddi Gherhe Nug I

Alternative Chhanda of 2|2|2|2 Maathras (: **Soolthaal**)

I A A | A A | A A | A A I
1' 0 2 3 0

I Dha Gherhe | Nug Dhi | Gherhe Nug | Gaw Ddi | Gherhe Nug I

20. Chhanda of 5|5 Maathras (poetic Chhanda) *

I A A A A | A A A A A I
1' 0

Thabla : I Dha Dhi Dhi Na Dhi | Na Dhi Dhi Na Thi I

21. Chhanda of 3|2|3|2 Maathras *

I A A A | A A | A A A | A A I
1' 2 0 3

Thabla : I Dhi Dhi Na | Dhi Na | Thi Thi Na | Dhi Na I

VIII. Thaals of 11 Maathras

22. *Chhanda* of 3|2|2|4 *Maathras* : **Ekaadashi**

I A A A A A A A
1' 2 3
<i>Paakhowaj</i> : I Dha Den Tha Thete Katha Gadi Ghene
A A A A I
4
Dhaage Thete Thaag Thete I

23. *Chhanda* of 3|4|4 *Maathras* (poetic *Chhanda*) *

I A A A A A A A A A A A I
1' 2 3
<i>Thabla</i> : I Dha Dhi Na Dha Dhi Dhi Na Dha Dhi There Kete I

IX. Thaals of 12 Maathras

24. *Chhanda* of 3|3|3|3 *Maathras* : **Ekthaal**

Thabla

I A A A A A A A A A A A A I
1' 2 0 3
I Dha Dhi Na Na Thi Na Kath Thete Dhin Thete Dhin Thete I

25. *Chhanda* of 4|4|4 *Maathras* : **Chathurmaathrik Ekthaal**

Thabla

I A A A A A A A A A A A A I
1' 2 3
I Dhin Dhin Na Na Dhin Na Kath The Dha Therekete Dhin Na I

26. *Chhanda* of 2|2|2|2|2|2 *Maathras* : **Chouthaal**

Paakhowaj

I A A A A A A A A A A I
1' 0 2 0 3 4
I Dha Dha Din Tha Kath Thaage Din Tha Thete Katha Gadi Ghene I

27. *Chhanda* of 2|4|2|4 *Maathras* *

I A A A A A A A A A A A A I
1' 2 3 4
<i>Thabla</i> : I Dhi Na Dha Dhi Dhi Na Thi Na Dha Dhi Dhi Na I

XI. Thaal of 15 Maathras

31. *Chhanda* of 4|4|4|3 *Maathras* : **Pancham-Sawari** [**Harsa Maathra**
(short strokes)]

	I	A		A		A		A		
		1'								
<i>Thabla</i> :	I	Dha	A	Kete	Thaag	Thhoon	Na	Kete	Thaag	
					A		A		A	
					2					
					There	Kete	Thaag	Dith	Tha	Kete
		A			A		A			A
		3								4
		Thaag	Thete	Thete	Thaag	Ne	Dha	Kete	Thaag	
										Thaag
										Dith
										A
										I

XII. Thaal of 16 Maathras

32. *Chhanda* of 4|4|4|4 *Maathras* : **Threethaal**

	I	A		A		A		A			A		A		A		A		
		1'						2					0						
<i>Thabla</i> :	I	Dha	Dhin	Dhin	Na		Na	Dhin	Dhin	Na		Na	Thin	Thin	Na				
													A		A		A		A
													3						
													Thete	Dhin	Dhin	Na	I		

33. *Chhanda* of 4|4|4|4 *Maathras* : **Bilambitha** (slow) **Threethaal**

	I	A		A		A		A			A		A		A		
		1'									2						
<i>Thabla</i> :	I	Dha	Dhin	Dhin	Dha		Dhith	Thaage	Therekete	Dhi							
												A		A		A	
												0				3	
												Na	Thin	Thin	Tha		Kath
																	Dhage
																	Therekete
																	Dhi
																	I

34. *Chhanda* of 4|4|4|4 *Maathras* : **Aarha-thheka** or **Thilwarh**

Thabla

I	A		A	A	A		A	A		A		A	A	A		A	A		A	A	I
	1'						2					0				3					
I	Ghi	A	Dha	Gi		A	Ghi	Tha	A		Ki	A	Tha	Gi		A	Ghi	Dha	A	I	

