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### Structural Analysis Of ChĀpu TĀla In Thirupugazh

Prof. Dr. S.Subbulakshmi.

Director, School Of Music And Fine-Arts,Vels University ( VISTAS ) ,

E-mail ID: [director.music@velsuniv.ac.in](mailto:director.music@velsuniv.ac.in)

#### Abstract:

In Thirupugazh “ pugazh “ indicates glorification. According to Thirukural glorification of God alone can be called pugazh. Arunagirinādar author of Thirupugazh belongs to 15th century. Composed Thirupigazh with a distinction and merit which shows loftiness of content, metrical construction, and language excellence. Its rhythmic structure is chiefly responsible for its alluring appeal to the art of music. The ChĀpu TĀlas are otherwise called Allure of Odd Numbers because they are confined to oddnumbers like 3,5,7,9. Thirupugazh establishes many examples for all kind of ChĀpu tālas like tistra chĀpu , kanda chĀpu , misra chĀpu and sankeerna chĀpu. Thirupugazh is the only text which gives many examples for sankeerna chĀpu which is more significant and valuable. Because of his brilliance in constructing many varieties of chandam for each tāla Arunagirinādar was appreciated and honored as chanda pāvāla peruman that is Master of Rhythm.

**Keywords:** Arunagirinādar , ChĀpu tāla, Tisram , Kandam , Misram ,– Sankeernam , varieties

**Introductoin:** Indian music is composed and performed in a metrical frame work . The talaforms the metrical structure that repeats in a cyclical harmony from the start to end of any particular song. A well composed, expressive, lyrical beauty that blends with melody and rhythm is a distinctly bright feature of Tamil music. Perhaps no other system of music anywhere in the world can boast of such a wealth of exquisitely structured songs set to music with strict rhythm. Thirupugazh of Arungirinādar is the best example for its wonderful rhythmic setting. In each Thirupugazh the rhythms are implied and suggested by the metrical sahithya or words.

**Structure Of Thirupugazh:** Thiru + Pugazh =Thirupugazh “Thiru“ denotes the qualities of beauty, divinity. “Pugazh“ denotes Glorification. These hymns has no division in to sections like Pallavi ,Anu pallavi or Charanam as found in Kirthanās. The Thirupugazh hymns are made up of 1,2,4, or 8 pādas consisting of 4 lines or 8,12,16 or more lines set to a particular



rhythm pattern or Chandam. Thirupugazh hymns shows the richness of Tamil Language and they are the Literary Master piece of rhythm. Each of this hymns is set in a particular rhythmical pattern and the highly metrical style suggests different talas. The chandam or metrical setting is given on the top of each Thirupugazh. The structure of the metrical pattern of the first line of the hymn is found intact and followed in all the succeeding lines. Arunagirinādar the Author of Thirupugazh belongs to 15 th century. Though he composed only in Tamil the hymns abound in Sanskrit expressions, showing that he was equally proficient in both Languages.

**Chandam** : They are the different metrical patterns obtained by combining certain consonants and vowels. Vannam of Tholkappiam found to be one of the origin of Chandam. There are 12 types of Chandas, they are Tatta, Tānda, Taiya, Tanana, Tanna, Tāna, Tanada, Tananda, Tanatāna, Tanataiya, Tanatanana, Tanatanna.

**Chāpu Tala** : Chāpu tāla considered to be originated from folk music. They can be otherwise called Allure of odd numbers because they are found in numbers 3, 5, 7, 9

### **Chāpu Tala varieties:**

- 1) Tisra chāpu - 3beats
- 2) Kanda Chāpu - 5beats
- 3) Misra Chāpu - 7beats
- 4) Sankeerna Chāpu - 9beats

The term Chāpu itself is changed from the Tamil word “ Sāyppu” which means bent or slanting of two components or Angās. The duration value of the one is shorter than that of others. The two parts has increasing counts such as tisram ( 1+2) Kandam ( 2+3) Misram ( 3+4) Sankeernam (4+5)

<b>Chāpu Tāla</b>	<b>- Poorvānga</b>	<b>- Uthrānga</b>
Tisra Chāpu-	- 1 ( ta )	- 2 ( ki ta )
Kanda Chāpu	- 2 ( ta ka )	- 3 ( ta ki ta )
Misra Chāpu	- 3 ( ta kit a )	- 4 ( ta ka di mi )
Sankeerna Chāpu	- 4 ( ta ka di mi )	- 5 ( ta ka t aki ta )

By default chāpu tāla refers to Misra Chapu. Misra means mixing and in the context Chāpu it means mixing the meters of Tisram and Chatusram ( 3+ 4 or 4 + 3 ) In Hindustani ragas misra is added to ragas as suffix which means inclusion or mixing of Foreign notes or phrases. Sankeernam refers to the same concept of joining 4+ 5 or 5+ 4.



## THISRA CHAPU TALA :

Tisra means three. It has three beats with the syllables ta + kita ( 1+ 2) This is one of the tāla seen from very early period that is from folk. This tāla when reckoned at first speed shows Tisra Chapu that is ta + kita When at second speed they will become tisra nadai of that particular tāla.

### Examples from Thirupugazh

#### 1) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tanda tanana tanda tanana

Song - Mangai siruvar thangal kilaignar.

#### 2) Thiruchendur

Chandam - tanda tanda tanda Tanda

Song - vandu vandu muntha vazhndu

#### 3) Pazhani

Chandam - tanana tanana tanana tanana

Song - kariya peri yia erumai kadavu

#### 4) Pazhani

Chandam - tanana tanana tanana Tanana

Song - tamaru mamaru manaiyu miniya

#### 5) Pazhani

Chandam - tanana tanana tanana Tanana

Song - timira vutati yanaya naraga

#### 6) Thiruthanigai

Chandam - tananat tananat tananat Tananat

Song - Amaivut radaiya pasiyut ravaruk

#### 7) Thiruthanigai

Chandam - tattā tattā tattātattā

Song - Thuppā rappā datree moikā

#### 8) Thiruthanigai

Chandam - tatta tatta tatta tatta

Song - Porpa tatti naittu tittu

#### 9) Thirukkazhukundram



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Chandam - tãna tatta tãna tatta

Song - Veda verpi lepu natil

10) Uthiramerur

Chandam - tãna tanda tãna tanda

Song - Tole lambu Seena rambu

11) Enngan

Chandam - tãnda tanda tãnda tanda

Song - Tanda nandi mirda naindu

12) Siruvai

Chandam - tanana tãna tanana tanda

Song - Piravi yãna sadami rangi

13) Dhevanur

Chandam - tãna tãna tanda tanda

Song - Aaru mãru manju manju

14) Dhevanur

Chandam - tãna tãna tanda tanda

Song - Tãra kãsu ransa rindu

15) Nagapatnam

Chandam - tãna tatta tatta tanda

Song - Ola mitti raitte zhunda

16) Virinjipuram

Chandam - tanana tanda tãna tanana

Song - Maruvu Manju booda murimai

17) Podhu

Chandam - tãna tãna tãna tanda

Song - Aara vãra mãyi rundu18) Podhu

Chandam - tãna tanda tãna tanda

Song - Neeru menbu tòli nãru

19) Pazhamudirsòlai

Chandam - tanana tãna tãna tãna

Song - Thudiko nòiga lòdu vatri



20) Podhu - This is in second speed

Chandam - tanatānana tanatānana tanatānana

Song - Madaneviya kanaiyāḷiru vinaiyāḷpuvi

**Varieties Of Tisra Chandam from Thirupugazh - 13 Varieties are seen.**

- 1) tanda tanana
- 2) tanda tanda
- 3) tanana tanana
- 4) tananat tananat
- 5) tatta tatta
- 6) tattā tattā
- 7) tāna tatta
- 8) tāna tāna
- 9) tāna tanda
- 10) tanana tāna
- 11) tanana tanana
- 12) tanana tanda
- 13) tana thaa nana

**KANDA CHAPU TALA:**

Kandam means five. This tala has five beats with syllables taka + takita ( 2 + 3). When rendered in first speed it is kanda chāpu and in second speed it will become the Nadai of that particular tāla. Almost all composers in the music field has composed songs in kanda chāpu tāla. We can observe this kandam with single chandam and double chandam and triple chandam in a single song itself in Thirupugazh.

**Examples from Thirupugazh**

1) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tana tanana tana tanana tana tanana tana tanana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song -Ari vazhiya maya lperuga vurai yumara vizh isuzhala



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2) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tandanana tandanand tandanana tandanand - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Tandaiyanivendayang ginginicha dangaiyum

3) Pazhani

Chandam - tãnatana tãnatana tãnatana tãnatana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Arumugam ãrumugam ãrumugam ãrumugam

4) Pazhani

Chandam - tanatananat tanatananat tanatananat - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Dinamilisat gunamilinar riramiliyar

5) - Thirutanigai

Chandam - tanattana tanattana tanattana tanattana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Iruppaval thiruppugal virupodu padippava

6) - Thirutanigai

Chandam - tanatana tanattam tanatana tanattam - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Sinatavar mudikumpagaitavar kudikum

7) - Kadirãmam

Chandam - tanattã tanattã tanattã tanattã - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Saratte yudittã yuratte guditte

8) - Kailai malai

Chandam - tanatanat tanatãna tanatanat tanatãna - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Puviyadanir prabuvãna pugalivit tagarpõla

9) - Kollimalai

Chandam - taiyatana tãnanda taiyatana tãnanda - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Tollaimudal tãnondru melli yiru vedangal

10) - Thiruchengodu

Chandam - tãnatana tana tãna tãnatana tanatãna - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Kãlanidat tanugãde kãsiyinir piravãde

11) - Virãlimalai

Chandam - tanãtana tanã tana tanãtana tanatana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Ilãbamil polãvurai solãmana tabõdana

12) - Karuvur



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Chandam - tanatānat tana tāna tanatānat tanatāna - ( 2 +3 )

Song - Madiyālvit taganāgi manatālut tamanāgi

13) - Thiruvārur

Chandam - tānāna tattanana tānāna tattanana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Oonāru mutpiniyum mānāga vittavuda

14) - Thiruvīdaikazhi

Chandam - tanatanana tanatāna tanatanana tanatāna - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Pazhiyurusat tagamāna kudilaiyedut tizhivāna

15) - Podhu

Chandam - tanatāna tandatana tanatāna tandatana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Sivagnāna pundariga malarmādu dankalavi

16) - Podhu

Chandam - tānatana tānatana tānatana tānatana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Soodinuna vāsaitani lesuzhalu meenadena

17) - Podhu

Chandam - tanattanda tanatanana tanattanda tanatanana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Tiraivanja iruvinaigal naraiyanga malamazhiya

18) - Podhu

Chandam - tānatta tānatta tānatta tānatta - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Tōlathi yālappi nālōppi lādutra

19) - Podhu

Chandam - tanandā tanandā tanandā tanandā - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Perungā riyampōl varunge dudambāl

20) - Thiruvarunai

Chandam - tanatanana tanatāna tanatanana tanatāna - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Iravupagar palakalum iyalisaimut tamizhkūri

21) - Thiruvarunai

Chandam - tanatāna tattanana tanatāna tattanana - ( 2 + 3 )

Song - Valivāda pittamodu kalamālai ivippurudi

22) - Thiruvarunai

Chandam - tanatanat tanatanat tanatanat tanatanat - ( 2 + 3 )



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Song	- Karimuhak	kadakilirt	tradigakar	pagamadak	
23)	- Chidambaram				
Chandam	- tanatanana	tanatāna	tanatanana	tanatāna	- ( 2 + 3 )
Song	- Sudaranaiya	tirumeni	udaiyazhagu	mudugnana	
24)	- Konganagiri				
Chandam	- tandatana	tattatana	tandatana	tattatana	- ( 2 + 3 )
Song	- Ingaranai	otthamana	maimpulama	gatrivala	
25)	- Virālimalai				
Chandam	- tanātana	tanātana	tanātana	tanātana	- ( 2 + 3 )
Song	- Nirāmaya	purādana	parāpara	varāmruda	
26)	- Podhu				
Chandam	- tattatana	tattatana	tattatana	tattatana	- ( 2 + 3 )
Song	- Pakkarai	vichitramani	porkalanai	ittanadai	
27)	- Podhu ( with	<b>3 Chandam</b>	<b>in a</b>	<b>Line)</b>	
Chandam	- tandatana	tānatana	tanatāna		- ( 2 + 3 )
Song	-Umbartharu	tenumani	kasivāgi		

### Varieties Of Kanda Chāpu Seen In Thirupugazh :

**Single Chandam :** Single chandam is followed in one whole Thirupugazh with respect to above examples . we can find out 11 Varieties of single chandam in kanda chāpu .

- 1) tanatanana
- 2) tānatana
- 3) tanattana
- 4) tanatāna
- 5) tanātana
- 6) tanattā
- 7) tānatta
- 8) tanandā
- 9) tanatanat
- 10) tanātana
- 11) tattatana





**Double Chandam:** Some Thirupugazhs are seen with double chandam in a single line .We can find out 11 varieties of double chandam in Kanda chäpu. They are

- 1) tanatanana tanatäna
- 2) tayyatana tänanda
- 3) tänatanat tanatäna
- 4) tänäna tattatana
- 5) tanatanana tanatäna
- 6) tanatäna tandatana
- 7) tanattanda tanatanana
- 8) tanatäna tattatana
- 9) tanatanan tanatäna
- 10) tandanad tänatana
- 11) tandatana tattatana

**Triple Chandam :** One whole Thirupugazh is coined with 3 chandam of kadam in a line

Chandam :	tandatanat	tänatanat	tanatäna
Song:	Umbartaru	tenumani	kasivägi
	onnkadalir	rtenamuda	tunarvuri
	inbarasa	teparugi	palakälum
	endanuyir	kädaravut	rarulväye

## MISRA CHAPPU TÄLA :

Misra Chäpu generally considered as Chäpu täla. Misra means 7 .This has 7 beats with the syllables takita+ takadimi .When rendered as takita + takadimi it is called as Krama Chäpu and as takadimi + takita it is called as Viloma Chäpu.This täla is also handled by almost all composers in music field.Viloma Chäpu is used by Syama sastry other than Arunagirinädar.

## Examples from Thirupugazh

1) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tänat tänana tänta tänana tänat tänana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Semak komala pädat thämarai serda -.....

2) Pazhani -

Chandam - tanana Tanatana tanana Tanatana tanana tanatana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Kurudi malasala mozhugu narakuda lariya puzhuvadu



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3) Pazhani -

Chandam - tãna Tanandana tãna Tanandana tãna tanandana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Moola mandira mòda lingilai yeeva dingilai

4) Swãmimalai -

Chandam - tanana Tanatana tanana Tanatana tanana tanatana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Kumara gurupara muruga saravana guhasan mugakari

5) Swãmimalai -

Chandam - tãna Tanatana tãna Tanatana tãna tanatana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Pãdi madinadi pòdu manisadai nãda naruliya

6) Thirutanigai -

Chandam - tãna Tattana tãna Tattana tãna tattana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Edu puttiyai yãe nakkini yãrai nattidu

7) Thirutanigai -

Chandam - tanana Tãnanam tanana Tãnanam tanana tãnanam - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Pahali rãvinung karuvi yãlanam parugi yãvikon

8) Theerthamalai -

Chandam - tãtta tanatana tãtta tanatana tãtta tanatana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Pãtti lurugilai kettu muirugilai kùtru varuvazhi

9) Virãlimalai -

Chandam - tanda tãnana tãna tãnana tanda tãnana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Indu bũdamu mãru समयamu mantra vedamu

10) Vidaikkazhi -

Chandam - tanana tattana tanana tattana tanana tattana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song -Pagaru muttamizh porulu meittava payanu meppadi

11) Podhu -

Chandam - tãtta tãnana tãtta tanana tãtta tãnana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Etti levarai pãtti lesila neeti leyini



12) Podhu -

Chandam - tanana tättana tanana Tättana tanana tättana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Poduva dāyini mudakla dāipaga liravu pòipugal

13 Podhu -

Chandam - tñanand tanatana tñanand tanatana tñanand tanatana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Vādand talaivali soolam peruvayi rāgum piniyivai

14) Kānjipuram -

Chandam - tñana tattana tñana tattana tñana tattana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - cheeci muppura kādu nirezha sādī nittirai

15) Kānjipuram -

Chandam - tanana tattana tanana tattana tanana tattana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Padiro zhukkamu madama nattula padiba rittuda

16) Chidambaram -

Chandam - tanana tñana tanana tñana tanana tñana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Irulu morgati ranuko nādapo nidama deriye

17) **The First Thirupugazh Of Arunagirinadar – Misram in second speed**

Chandam - tattattana tattat tanatana tattattana tatat tanatana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Muttaitaru pattit tirunagai attikkirai sattich saravana

**Vilòma Chāppu :**

1) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tananā tanana tananā tanana tananā tanana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Nilaiyā porulai udalāk karudi nedunāt pozhudu

2) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tandana tñana tandana tñana tandana tñana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Vindadi noori vandadu kāyam vendadu kòdi

3) Thirutanigai -

Chandam - tanatana tñana tanatana tñana tanatana tñana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Irumalu ròga muyalagn vāda meriguna nāsi

4) Thirutanigai -



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Chandam - tanatana tãnam tanatana tãnam tanatana tãnam - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Kalaimada vãrtham silaiyada nãlum kanavalai yãlum

5) Kundrutòràdal -

Chandam - tanatana tanana tanatana tanana tanatana tanana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Ezhutigal buvana nodiyala vadanil leriseida ruliya

6) Pandanai nallur -

Chandam - tanatana tannda tanatana tannda tanatana tannda - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Iruvinai yannja varuvinaï kennja irulpini tunnja

7) Podhu -

Chandam - tanatana tanana tanatana tanana tanatana tanana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Tiripura madanai orunodi yadanil leriseida ruliya

8) Podhu -

Chandam - tãnana tanana tãnana tanana tãnana tanana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Tòrana kanaga vãsalil muzhavu tòmura sadira

9) Chidambaram

Chandam - tanatana tanana tanatana tanana tanatana tanana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Ezhukadal manalai alavidin adigam menadidar piravi

10) Pazhamudirsòlai

Chandam - tanatana tãna tanatana tãna tanatana tãna - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Agaramu mãgi adipanu mãgi adigamu mãgi

### Songs In Misra Nadai :

1) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tanat tandana tanat tandana tanat tandana - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - Tarik kungalai negikl kumpara thavik kumkodi

2) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tanat tandandam tanat tandandam tanat tandandam - ( 3 + 4 )

Song - manat thinbang kenath tangaim pulat tendran

3) Kãnjipuram -

Chandam - tanat tattat tanattattat tanattattat - ( 3 + 4 )



**Varieties Of Misra Chäpu Seen In Thirupugazh :**

**Krama Chäpu in Misra Chäpu :** In this we observe 13 +1 varieties.

- 1) tänat tänana
- 2) tanana tanatana
- 3) tanana tattana
- 4) tanana täšana
- 5) tanana tänana
- 6) täna tandana
- 7) täna tattana
- 8) täna tänanam
- 9) tätta tanatana
- 10) tätta tänana
- 11) tanda tänana
- 12) tänan tanatana
- 13) tattattana tattattanatana ( second speed )

**Vilöma Chäpu in Misra Chäpu :** In this we observe 8 varieties .

- 1) tananä tanana
- 2) tandana täna
- 3) tanatana täna
- 4) tanatana tänam
- 5) tanatana tanana
- 6) tanatana tanda
- 7) tänanatanana
- 8) tanatanatäna

**Misra Nadai :** There are three types.

- 1) tanat tandana
- 2) tanat tandand
- 3) tanat tattat

**SANGEERNA CHAPU TALA :**



This is one of the rarest tāla handled by Arunagirinādhara. No other Composer had coined songs in this tāla. Only pallavis are handled in this tāla in karnatic music field. We can confirm that Thirupugazh is the only text shows examples for this tāla. This is in the form of takadimi + takatakita (4+5) or takatakita+ takadimi (5+4) with a total of 9 beats.

## Examples from Thirupugazh

### 1) Thiruchendur -

Chandam - tanttat tandanam tanttat tandanam - (4+5)

Song - Nidikkup pingalan padatuk kindiran

### 2) Thirupparangundram -

Chandam - tanttat tandanam tanttat tandanam - (4+5)

Song - tadakkai pangayam kodaiku kondaltan

### 3) Thiruvengadam -

Chandam - tāntana tānatana tāntana tānatana - (4+5)

Song - Sāndamil mōgaveri kāndiya vāvanila

### 4) Thirupukoliyur -

Chandam - tattana tānāna tattana tānāna - (4+5)

Song- Pakkuva vāsāra latsana sāgādi

### 5) Thiruperur -

Chandam - tānā tanatāna tānā tanatāna - (4+5)

Song - Teerā piniteera seevāt tumagnāna

### 6) Madurai -

Chandam - tānat tanatāna tānat tanatāna - (4+5)

Song - Neetat tuvamāgi nemat tunaiyāgi

### 7) Podhu -

Chandam - tāndana tānatana tāndan tānatana - (4+5)

Song - Sāngari pādiyida vōngiya gnānasuga

### 8) Podhu -

chandam - tattatanā tāna tattattana tāna tattattana tāna - (6+3)

Song - Suttadu pō lāsai Vittulakā sāra dukkamilā gnāna

### 9) Kānjipuram -

Chandam - tattattana tāna tattat tana tāna - (6+3)



Song - Atraikirai tedi attat ttilu māsai

10) Chidambaram -

Chandam - tǎnǎ tanat tana tǎnǎ tanat tana - ( 4+ 5 )

Song - Nǎdǎ pirappu mudi yǎdò venakk rudi

## Varieties Of Sankeerna Chǎpu Seen In Thirupugazh :

In Thirupugazh we observe Nine varieties of Sankeerna Chǎpu.

- 1) tanatat tandanam
- 2) tǎtana tǎna tana
- 3) tǎna tanatǎna
- 4) tat tana tǎnǎna
- 5) tǎna tanatǎna
- 6) tǎnat tana tanatǎna
- 7) tǎtana tǎnatana
- 8) tat tanatǎna tana
- 9) tat tat tana tǎna
- 9) tana tat tanda nam

**Conclusion** :Thirupugazh is far excellent from the point of view of loftiness of content, excellence of metrical construction and the beauty of language.The fascinating variety and the beauty of their rhythmic structure is chiefly responsible for their alluring appeal in art music concerts. The thevǎram hymns of Saivaite saints represents a repository of PANNS of AncientTamil music like that Thirupugazh hymns must be considered asa treasure house of Tǎlas.Thirupugazh is the only text gives example for many rare tǎlas seen in 108 tǎlas. The varieties of chadam seen in Chǎpu tǎlas like tisra chapu ,kanda chǎpu , misra chǎpu and sankeerna chǎpu shows Arunagirinadar’s literary excellence and mastery over rhythm and tǎla.

## Chandham Varieties In Chǎpu Tǎla seen In Thirupugazh :

- 1) Tisra Chǎpu tǎla - 13 varieties.
- 2) kanda Chǎpu tǎla - 23 varieties.
- 3) Misra Chǎpu tǎla - 22 varieties
- 4) Snggeerna Chǎpu tǎla - 9 varieties

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