The Kaṭapayādi sūtra as applied to the names of 72 *mēḷakartā* rāgas ("melas")

Numbers indicated by consonants matching the arrangement of letters in the Sanskrit alphabet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Kādinava (9 letters from "Ka", plus "Ñ" for 0): 1 to 5 are *gutturals* (arising from the throat); and 6 to 0 are *palatals* (arising from the back of the palate) **Ka-Kha-Ga-Gha-Ṅa-Ca**-Cha*-**Ja-Jha**-Ña*	ka क	kha ख	ga ग	gha घ	ṅa ङ	ca च	[cha छ]	ja ज	jha झ	[ña ञ]
Ṭādinava (9 letters from "Ṭa", plus "N" for 0): 1 to 5 are *retroflex* (with tongue touching the roof of the mouth); and 6 to 0 are *dentals* (with tongue touching the back of the teeth) **Ṭa-Ṭha**-Ḍa*-Ḍha*-Ṇa*-**Ta**-Tha*-**Da-Dha-Na**	ṭa ट	ṭha ठ	[ḍa ड]	[ḍha ढ]	[ṇa ण]	ta त	[tha थ]	da द	dha ध	na न
Pādipañca (5 letters from "Pa"): five *labials* (arising from the lips) **Pa**-Pha*-Ba*-**Bha-Ma**	pa प	[pha फ]	[ba ब]	bha भ	ma म					
Yādyaṣṭa (8 letters from "Ya") including three variants of "S": *palatal* Ś, *retroflex* Ṣ and *dental* "S" **Ya-Ra-La-Va-Śa-Ṣa-Sa-Ha**	ya य	ra र	la ल	va व	śa श	ṣa ष	sa स	ha ह		
* marks the letters not used for Govindachari's mēḷa-initials e.g. [ña ञ]										
Tip: to memorize the *Kaṭapayādi sūtra* recite the entire series aloud as follows:										
Ka Kha Ga Gha Ṅa Ca Cha Ja Jha Ña **Ṭa Ṭha Ḍa Ḍha Ṇa Ta Tha Da Dha Na** **Pa Pha Ba Bha Ma** **Ya Ra La Va Śa Ṣa Sa Ha**										

Notes (conventions and pronunciation)

The eight letters enclosed by [square brackets] do not figure in Govindachari's 18th c. *mēḷakartā* scheme: they are not found among the two key syllables added or used for mnemonic purposes.

For the *Kaṭapayādi sūtra* to work it is important to clearly pronounce the "h" as transliterated according to Sanskrit conventions for consonants: for instance kha ख and gha घ are distinct aspirated consonants. For example, "kh" is pronounced as in *inkhorn*, and "gh" as in *log house*; and "th" as in *anthill* etc.

Apply this to *mēḷakartā* ragas by pronouncing "Naṭhabhairavi" as to ensure that the letter combination "Naṭha" matches numbers "0" and "2", then reversed to indicate the raga"s 20th position in the *mēḷakartā* scheme (i.e. Naṭhabhairavi with the aspirated "ṭh", not "Naṭabhairavi").

In Sanskrit all consonants contain an "a" unless modified (ka, kha etc.), pronounced as "u" in *but*. This is substituted by other vowels occuring in the names of *mēḷakartā* ragas like Kīravāṇi and Kōkilapriya.

Guttural Ṅ (ṅa ङ) is pronounced like in river Gaṅgā.
Cerebral consonant Ṇ is not applied in the melakarta scheme [ṇa ण].

The three consonants found in the last row – numbers 5, 6 and 7 ("śa", "ṣa" and "s") – each represent a distinct sound: *palatal* Ś, *retroflex* Ṣ and *dental* "S". They are pronounced approximately as in English *shout*, *leash* and *see* respectively: see Śyāmaḷāṅgi (mēḷa 55), Ṣaṇmukhapriya (mēḷa 56) and Simhēndramadhyamam (mēḷa 57).

Sanskrit vowels (a अ, ā आ, i इ, ī ई, u उ, ū ऊ, e ए, ai ऐ, o ओ, au औ, ṛ / ṛ ऋ, ṝ / r̄ ॠ, ḷ / ḷ ऌ, l̄ / ḹ ॡ) and some consonant clusters (kṣa क्ष, tra त्र, jña ज्ञ and śra श्र) are excluded in the above table as they are not needed for the purpose of mēḷa mnemonics (*Kaṭapayādi sūtra*). Some of these do, of course, figure in the "full names" of *mēḷakartā* and other ragas like Gamanaśrama (mēḷa 53).

For learners' convenience all long vowels seen in the names of *mēḷakartā* ragas are marked as such (including those that are always considered as "long" in Sanskrit (ē, ai, ō and au); e.g. Hēmāvati, Kōsalam. Pronounce long Sanskrit vowels approximately as "ā" as in *father*, "ī" as "ee" in *deep*, "ū" as "oo" in *root*, "ē" as "ei" in *reign*, "ai" as "i" in *fine*, "ō" as in *noble*, and "au" as "ow" in *vow*.