

---

# Indian Raga Certification

Hindustani Instrumental Syllabus: Levels 1 to 4

---

## Level 1

### Overview:

The aim of this level is for the student to develop a basic sense of Swara (Note) and Taal (Rhythm) so that he/she is able to play notes accurately and with ease in the SwaraSaptak (Octave). The student is introduced to the preliminary concepts of Hindustani classical music such as Raag, Bandish and is able to play in the basic framework of a Raag.

### SwarGyan:

Swar Alankars help develop a strong note sense in the student. The student should be able to play the following Swar Alankars (in Swar and in Aakar) in a medium pace:

- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Dha-Ni-Sa | Sa-Ni-Dha-Pa-Ma-Ga-Re-Sa
- Sa-Re-Ga, Re-Ga-Ma, Ga-Ma-Pa, ... , Dha-Ni-Sa | Sa-Ni-Dha, Ni-Dha-Pa, ..., Ga-Re-Sa
- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa,....., Pa-Dha-Ni-Sa | Sa-Ni-Dha-Pa,....., Ma-Ga-Re-Sa
- Sa-Re-Sa-Re-Ga, Re-Ga-Re-Ga-Ma,...
- Sa-Ga, Re-Ma, Ga-Pa,...., Pa-Ni, Dha-Sa | Sa-Dha, Ni-Pa,....., Ma-Re, Ga-Sa
- Sa-Ga-Re-Sa, Re-Ma-Ga-Re,...

### RaagGyan:

A Raag is the basis of Indian classical music. A student should understand the concept of Raag at a high level and should be able to explain it in simple words. He/She should be able to play Aaroh-Avroh and a Drut (Razakhani) Bandish in the following Raags:

Bhoop, Vrindavani Sarang, Kaafi, Yaman

### TaalGyan:

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the following Taals with their Bols:

Teental, Ektaal, Dadra

**Recommended Listening:** Listen to small pieces by various artists in the syllabus Raags, also try to listen to some songs based on these Raags

### **Sample Question Set:**

1. Please complete the following Alankar: Sa-Re-Ga-Ma, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, ... in Swar and Aakar.
2. Describe the Taal- teental and recite teentaal by showing Taali/Khaali using your hands.
3. Play the Aroh Avroh of Raag Kaafi and Raag Bhoop.
4. Please play the aroh avroh in Raag Yaman in teentaal.

### **Assessment Criteria:**

The student will be assessed on the accuracy of notes and sense of beat. It is also important that the student knows each Raag correctly and adheres to the rules of the Raag while presenting it.

---

---

## **Level 2**

---

---

### **Overview:**

Now that the student has a basic note and beat sense, in this level we will work on strengthening this sense even more. The student learns more Raags and should be able to improvise a bit in the Raags (some Aalap-Sargam-Taana). The student should also know and be able to identify the predominant instruments associated with the music by their sound.

### **SwarGyan:**

In this level, we will make the Swar Alankars more complex. The student should be able to play the following Swar Alankars in a medium and fast pace and also be able to predict the next piece of an Alankaar given the initial pattern:

- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Dha, ...
- Sa-Re-Sa-Re-Ga, Re-Ga-Re-Ga-Ma, ...
- Sa-Re-Ga-Re-Ga-Sa-Re, Re-Ga-Ma-Ga-Ma-Re-Ga, ...
- Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Ma-Ga-Re-Sa, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Pa-Ma-Ga-Re, Ga-Ma-Pa, ...
- Sa-Re-Sa-Ma-Ga-Re, Re-Ga-Re-Pa-Ma-Ga, ...

The student should also be able to play these and previous Alankaars in the Raags covered so far.

### **RaagGyan:**

The student should now train to present a Raag in greater detail. He/She should be able to play Aaroh-Avroh, a brief Vistaar and a Drut (Razakhani) Bandish with a few Aalap-Sargam-Taana in

the following Raags:

Bhairav, Bhimpalasi, Khamaj, Bihag

The student should know a dhun in at least three of the above raagas.

**TaalGyan:**

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the following Taals with their Bols in a medium and fast pace:

Jhaptal, Rupak, Chautaal, Dhamaar

**Miscellaneous:**

- (Optional, Recommended) Student should be able to identify the following instruments by their sound: Tanpura, Tabla and Dagma, Harmonium, Sarangi, Flute, Sitar
- Student should be able to identify the Raag in the syllabus by listening to a brief Vistaar in it
- Student should be able to directly play any note in the octave.

**Recommended Listening:** Listen to instrumental pieces of various artists in the syllabus Raags, try to listen to instrumental pieces in the Raags too.

**Sample Question Set:**

1. Please complete the following Alankar: Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Ga-Re-Sa, Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Ma-Ga-Re,..
2. Describe the Taal- Rupak and recite it by showing Taali/Khaali using your hands
3. Play a brief Vistaar in Raag Bihag
4. Please play a Bandish with some Aalap-Taana in Raag Bhimpalasi

**Assessment Criteria:**

The student will be assessed on the accuracy of notes and sense of beat (A stronger sense than the previous level is expected here). It is also important that the student knows each Raag correctly and adheres to the rules of the Raag while presenting it. While playing Aalap-Taana in the Bandish, the student should be able to return to the Bandish on the correct beat.

---

---

## Level 3

---

---

**Knowledge of concepts from Levels 1 and 2 along with the following:**

**RaagGyan:**

The student should be able to play Aaroh-Avroh, a brief Vistaar and a Drut (Razakhani) Bandish with a few Aalap-Sargam-Taana in the following Raags:

Kedar, Durga, Baageshri, Asavari, Des

**TaalGyan:**

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the following Taals with their Bols:

Matta, Tilwada, Ada choutaal

**Sample Question Set:**

1. Play the Aaroh-Avaroh of raag Baageshri or raag Des.
2. Describe the Taal Matta or Tilwada and recite it by showing Taali/Khaali using your hands.
3. Play a brief Vistaar in Raag Kedar or Raag Bhairav.
4. Please play a dhun of your choice.
5. Please play a Drut (Razakhani) bandish in Raag Asavari or Raag Des.

---

---

## Level 4

---

---

**In addition to the syllabus for the earlier levels the applicant should also know:**

**RaagGyan:**

The student should be able to play a Vilambit (Mashidkhani) Bandish and Drut (Razhakhani) Bandish in the following Ragas for around 15 min. He/She should be able to improvise (play Alaap-Taana-Sargam) in these Ragas:

Yaman, Bhoop, Bhimpalasi, Bihag

**TaalGyan:**

The student should be able to explain the Khand (Partitions), Sum, Khaali and recite the Taals in all the previous levels and also be able to recite the Taals in double or triple speed of keeping beat.

**Sample Question Set:**

1. Play the vilambit (Mashidkhani) bandish of Raga Yaman or Raga Bihag (Specify the Taal of the bandish and play the bandish directly without any vistaar)
2. Play Vistaar of Raga Bhairav or Raga Kaafi.
3. Play Drut Bandish in Raga Durga or Raga Asavari with a few Aalap-Sargam in Sthayi and Antara.
4. Play Drut Bandish in Raga Bhimpalasi or Raga Baageshri and sing a few Taana in the Bandish
5. Play a dhun in a Raga of your choice.
6. Recite Jhaptaal and Taal Tilwada in normal speed first and then in twice the speed.