

## Raga of the Month- October, 2019

### Raga Hemavati

In this month, we shall study Raga Hemavati. Hemavati is the 58<sup>th</sup> Melakarta of Carnatic Music. Its scale is SRgmPDn, that is, Shuddha Re and Dha; Komal Ga and Ni and Teevra Madhyam. In other words, it is similar to Thata Kafi which has Shuddha Madhyam, whereas Hemavati has teevra madhyam, other notes being same.

Raga MadhuKouns was perhaps the first Raga, belonging to Hemavati Melakarta, to be adopted in Hindustani Music. Audios of the following 11 Ragas, classified under Hemavati Melakarta, are now available on the web site. Their brief information is given below:

1. Madhupriya, NirmalKouns - Omission of R;
2. AnilMadhyam - Omission of D;
3. HariKouns - Omission of R and P;
4. MadhuKouns - Omission of R and D;
5. Addition of Shuddha Nishad- SaraswatiRanjani;
6. Hemavati, MadhuSaraswati, Tushari, Anjali and Mukundpriya - Sampurna;

Raga Hemavati is documented in 4 books- Information and their brief remarks about the melody structure are given below-

1. RagaNidhi-Vol.2, Prof. B Subbarao : {Re is omitted or used slightly in Aroha; VakraSancharas in both Aroha and Avaroha- PD, mP, nD, nPD, Halt on Teevra Madhyama and Andolan on Gandhar; Chhaya of Multani and Madhuvanti} ;
2. RagaVidnyan- Vol.7- Pt. Vinayakrao Patwardhan : {Audava-R and D are omitted in Aroha , Chhaya of Madhuvanti and Bhimpalasi};
3. NavaRagaNirmiti- Dr. S A Tenkshe : {Prominence of Madhuvanti in Poorvanga and Bhimpalasi in Uttaranga}; and
4. Raga Darshan Part 2- Pt. Manikbuwa Thakurdas- The Raga is included under the name "Goudi"- Rishabh and Pancham are prominent.

Since a formal melody structure for the Raga is not established, 4 audios available present shades of different Ragas within the large canvas of Melakarta Hemavati, based on the creativity and high level of musicianship of the Maestros. A sample file containing excerpts of the audios presented by Ustad Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia is presented.

Hemavati is the 4th Melakarta in the 10th chakra Disi as per Vyankatmukhi's 72 Melakarta system of classification.. The mnemonic phrase is sa ri gi mi pa dhi ni. Its ārohaṇa-avarohaṇa structure in Carnatic Music is : ārohaṇa: S R<sub>2</sub> G<sub>2</sub> M<sub>2</sub> P D<sub>2</sub> N<sub>2</sub> Ś  
avarohaṇa: Ś N<sub>2</sub> D<sub>2</sub> P M<sub>2</sub> G<sub>2</sub> R<sub>2</sub> S; Translating the information to Hindustani Music system the scale is SRgmPDn, that is, Shuddha Re and Dha; Komal Ga and Ni; and Teevra Madhyama. It is worthwhile to note that Hemavati has **pratimadhyama**, **whereas** Kharaharpriya Melakarta no.22 (**Kafi Thata of Hindustani Music**) has Shuddha Madhyam, other notes being same.