

#J'ADORE

Cute Couple Goals

For some, Valentine's Day is merely a Hallmark, 'mushy' cards holiday, and for some, it's a day to express their undying and eternal love for their significant other.



Whether you're a hopeless romantic who's quite flamboyant with your expressions of affection or an idealist who doesn't believe in all these occasions and treats Valentine's Day like any other day, chances are you have something planned for the day to make your partner feel loved - but you probably have no idea what you're going to wear. Matching couple outfits are an excellent way to show your affection for one another. Whatever the outfit may be, it is sure to bring a smile to your partner's face.

Colour Co-ordinated Outfits

Going matchy-matchy with your guy can either be totally adorable or slightly hideous and weird. But that doesn't mean you cannot look like a power couple on V-Day with outfits that complement each other! Opt for the colour-coordinated way - co-ordinated outfits aren't boring when there's a pop of colour involved.

The Classic Red-and-Black Combo

Nothing can ever go wrong with this outfit. Whether you're a couple who loves to chill in jammies and have a movie marathon at home or the kind that goes all out with candlelight dinners, this outfit idea is stellar and will always be. Your partner could wear a dapper black suit while you could wear a beautiful red chiffon saree (it will totally give off a 'Battameez Dil' vibe, won't it?).



'Coupling' T-shirts with Quotes

While some go for colour-coordinated outfits, some like to be more vocal and expressive about their love and might want their outfits to portray the same. Well, what's better than matching T-shirts with cute quotes or completion quotes on them!

This outfit idea is very similar to the one with the quotes, but instead of quotes, the T-shirts have symbols on them. Remember those cheesy but cute flirty lines you use to acknowledge the value of your partner's presence in your life? For example, "You're the peanut butter to my sandwich," or "You're my Monica, and I'm your Chandler." Well, imagine having those things printed on as symbols on your T-shirt.

Cool, right? No matter how you decide to spend your Valentine's Day, you will definitely get a trendy outfit option from this list. Show off your harmonious relationship with one of these stylish, matching couple outfits and celebrate your love with a hint of style.

Patterns to Match 'Coupling' Outfits
If you and your bae are a little adventurous and want to try something that looks a little out-of-the-box, patterns are something you should definitely try.
Plaid patterned outfits are great too if you want to look like a celeb couple seen walking on the streets by the paparazzi (you could certainly feel like one even if you aren't one, right?). There are many other patterns that you could opt for, like Aztec prints, geometrical prints, etc.
-Shruti Kohari

JP Singh, an IAS, reminisces his first meeting with Lata: "During one of my trips to Mumbai, Dr Rajeev Sharma being an old friend took me along to meet her. As we entered her flat the modest interiors struck me - her awards were lined across the length of the room and in the centre was cane furniture. Lata Ji had just finished pooja, came with a Thali in hand dressed in a house coat and a petticoat. On learning that I was from Rajasthan, she said, "please do me a favour. It's my heart's desire to visit Mira Bai's temple in Chittoor - the temple in which Mirabai is said to have sung bhajans for Krishna. I am prepared to come incognito. I want to sing just one bhajan for Kanha in that siddh mandir." In my career as a lifelong bureaucrat I had seen and heard many people plead. Here before me was the century's most celebrated singer, her eyes deep limpid pools and a sense of longing writ large on what otherwise to the general public is a divinised face."



Lata's Deep Connect With Rajasthan

#MEMORIES

Like the poet of the Romantic Era, John Keat's song bird in Ode to a Nightingale, Lata Mangeshkar the eternal Nightingale of India, lived through life singing a full throated sonnet that still rings even after her demise. The similarity ends there. Keats imagined his songbird to be immortal only to discover his illusion. But India's Nightingale whose soul stirring voice resonates across borders, is timeless.

Ved Ahuja, a one time cricketer and later Honorary Secretary of Polo Club of Jaipur recalls, "In 1961, Rajasthan was playing against the Services and we had a long drive to cover from Race Course New Delhi to Oberoi Maidens, where we were all staying. Lata Mangeshkar and Vinoo Mankad were seated on the back seat of the car and I was in the front. After few minutes on the road I heard Vinoo Mankad say, "Lata Ben Itni duur Jana hai koi gana hi suna do." Imagine my surprise when I actually heard Lata Mangeshkar say, "Ji" and began regaling us with her soft but soulful singing. There were going to be many more occasions when I would witness India's most celebrated play back singer forge rite of passage into people's heart by her small acts of graciousness."

My second encounter was in the winter of 1972. India was playing against MCC at Feroz Shah Kotla ground. The portly Purushotam Rungta or "Bhaijee" as he was known to the world was the officiating President of BCCI. On the morning of the match he got a call from PM house with the Iron Lady Mrs Indira Gandhi on the other side asking for 100 passes for students from Jamnani and Kashmir. I in my capacity as an aide to Bhaiji, like him, was staying in Ashoka Hotel. Those days every pass was numbered as per the seat allotted, barely

As I ushered them through the entrance seeing the chock-a-block stands did no good to my pulse. However, on learning that the Mangeshkar sisters were amongst the spectators the Delhi Cricket Control Board had four additional "Muddhas" placed in the second row. The unwritten law was the 1st row was reserved for the Prime Minister and the President.

That match was also Raj Singh Durgapur's first stint as a commentator with All India Radio. I had specific instructions from him not to avail of the lunch invite that the Association would forward once they learnt of the celebrity presence. "Go out for lunch" were his instructions. An hour into the game the three younger sisters left and at lunchtime Lata and myself headed out.

Raj Singh was almost like family to the Roongtas, whenever in Jaipur he stayed with them. Both of us being fast bowlers at some point of time a healthy professional rivalry saw me bow out of the race so much so that I gave up cricket. During one of our meals Lata broached the topic and said, "aap ko khelna chahiye." I shot back, "Do you know I have burnt my cricket kit and stopped wearing white clothes." "I know that," she said, ever so calmly. Taken aback at her answer I realised where she was coming from but what has stayed with me is her telling me, "we have to develop from our negatives and if things don't work out take another click but there is no option to quit." Life's most profound DIY rule refreshed in a manner that only a skillful shutterbug with a single mindedness of purpose like Lata could propound.

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Being in her presence it was as if ones smaller self began to strip away. I could not help but tell her how beautiful she is. Lata broke into a child like soft giggle and said "aap mazak kar rahe hain." Totally bewildered at her larger than life presence I said, "aap ke muh se phool bhadtey hain." When I reached out for my wallet to settle the bill she chided me, "aap mere chothey Bhai hain, aap ka koi haq nahin banta batuey ko chune ka. Yeh mera saubhagya hai."

Raj Singh being a great stickler for propriety and protocol, the next four days too saw us have private lunches.

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(L to R) Dr Rajeev Sharma, Lata Mangeshkar, Arun Govil, RP Goenka, Haridev Joshi, Gokul Prasadji.



Lata Mangeshkar with Haridev Joshi at the churma dal bati party hosted by Dr Rajeev Sharma at his residence in Jaipur.

Few know that Lata Mangeshkar bought a 3 Star hotel in Udaipur, Raj Darshan, located on Swaroop Sagar with access to boating in the lake. Prior to that the couple's favourite go-to-destination was Fateh Niwas. Lata Di was also very close to Maharana Bhagwat Singh, as he and Raj were buddies, and she very often visited Udaipur till he was alive.

Rashtrapati Bhavana as High Teas were called in then, one of Raj Singh Durgapur's teammates said to him: "Go for the Queen of India she is better than any of your chota mota rajput princess." From time to time I heard Raj's friends poke him about the issue but alas! Raj could never stand up to his father who was absolutely against this alliance.

Raj's favourite song of Lata Di was, "tu jahan bhil raheya mera saya..." One number that played constantly on his car tape-recorder: I'm told Lata Di was given to humming it very often. Once I too have been privy to that touching moment. Maybe they were meant to meet, but not be! It was as if both had the initial Capital of luck missing in the Cosmic Ledger.

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International Book Giving Day

ooks! They hold infinite power. They can transport us to new worlds, teach us new things, inspire us, make us laugh, cry and can provide us with essential memories. As a child, some of your fondest memories may have been the stories you read before bed. As a teenager, you may have continued to read and find a love for books. As adults, maybe you still read or maybe you gave up reading. While many also celebrate Valentine's Day today, consider using this day to spread some cheer through books!

I had a want to raise funds for 20th Lancers, an armoured regiment in the Army, as I am an honorary member of it. So I once asked Didi whether she would do a fund raiser for us. Without a blink she said, "of course but give me six months notice." For Lata di "Country" was ingrained in her being. She was one celebrity who put her money where her mouth was, and while doing charity she made sure she left the camera behind or that it did not follow her. Rajeev Sharma, the Mangeshkar's family physician is a Jaipurite, whose father Gokul Prasad Sharma, a state bureaucrat, post retirement served as chief administrative officer in Bombay Hospital for several years. Raju bhैया to the Mangeshkar clan and Lata's Rakhi brother agrees totally "Yes, she was a do-gooder without any fanfare. Didi's first ever public performance in Jaipur was at my behest for the RPO group's fundraiser for famine relief. After the performance Lata and her

wondered whether Swami Vivekanand had been reincarnated as Lata Mangeshkar. A 500 bed Hospital in Pune and a Music University were her pet projects.

Lata's music or rather singing went beyond entertainment. Her even mindedness even though she lived in a matrix of shifting sands came from her realisation of a Karmic purpose in harmony with the cosmic rhythm.

A devout Krishna devotee all that she loved deeply became a part of her. Twilight years of her life saw her veer more towards Bhakti Sangeet and Mirabai bhajan. If hajri at Shri Nathdwara was mandatory in every trip that she took to Udaipur she never came away from Calcutta without a visit to the Belur Muth.

Lata's chosen path of Bhakti and Karma salvaged a life that was many times caught in the crosshairs of contradictory pulls and pressures. She believed in miracles and spoke of her conversation with Kanha. "He is my sakha and my confidant" she admitted demurely.

London for her was a favourite getaway destination. She liked the city and her love for cricket led her to buy a flat in close proximity to



Lata Didi post Rakhi Tikka with Dr Rajeev Sharma.

entrance came home for a dal bati churma dinner. Haridev Joshi the then Chief Minister also graced the occasion, as did then DGP Police Pitania, and Raghu Singh, amongst other family and friends. I had connected RP Goenka to Lata Didi and he not only accompanied her to Jaipur but was also present at the dinner. The first ever live performance in Jaipur was a huge success when we got here to present a cheque of more than 1 crore for the Chief Minister Relief Fund."

I have never seen anyone live a simpler life, like an essential service where she never called in sick. Lata was as duty bound to her family and friends as she was devoted to her profession. As a foodie she was very fond of Rajasthani food. Till my mother was alive she, together with her sisters, would come over to savour Rajasthani cuisine. churma dal bati being her all time favourite.

Staunch follower of Swami Paramhans, looking at her great body of charity work, I have often

interview that is viral on social media. So like millions of her fans she too had her share of limiting and isolating confines like any other mortal. Was the winner of most awards ever given to a performing artiste and the country's meloey Queen hiding saddest tales behind a sweetest smile. Apparently yes.

Speaking of her smile, says Inderjeet Das, who met Lata at an impressionable age of 20 in the capacity of a Jewellery designer, the first thing that struck me about her was her smile. It was as if she was spreading praan - a life giving energy through her smile to everyone around. A smile millionaire, if her aura was mesmerizing her conduct was magnetizing - one just felt drawn to her."

"That she loved diamonds is not surprising at all. Like the coal that turns into a diamond under pressure Lataji also traversed many barriers to become larger than life legend," points out Indrajit Das, now a city based jewellery designer, who had the good fortune to customise the singer's diamond jewellery way back in 2004. "It was my first job as a professional jewellery designer with Adora - Jewellery manufacturing wing of the M Suresh group. The company decided to launch a signature diamond jewellery collection - the Swaranjali series, named after the most loved iconic play-back singer of our times."

"She was a very humble person with no celebrity tantrums and it felt like I was talking to some next door elderly woman. She would go through the designs one by one, briefed us which ones she liked and why, and then sat down with the team to see the CAD drawings. She personally checked the quality of diamonds and quality of manufacturing of the sample pieces by donning an eyeglass at the factory in SEEPZ Mumbai."

"Whenever Lataji visited us there were security guards, no bouncers, battery of press and the usual high voltage drama that accompanies Bollywood. Her in-depth knowledge of jewellery came from having been a passionate collector."

"She used to wear diamond floral studs, diamond solitaire ring and diamond bangles. Her love for diamonds and interest in design was the same. Lata was a nurturer and her guidance was a learner's guide while I was designing the collection

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