

Vibrant hues

There is something about the red and white; it reminds me of Apu and Durga, or Devdas and Paro, and invariably in a Sarat or autumn setting. Where the young women are draped in flowy cotton white saris, the borders of which are painted red, running through the high white fluffy kansgrass, their hair blowing in the autumnal wind. The romance of the clear azure sky dotted with soft white clouds, the ochre red sunsets, these colours usher, with the sweet whistle of the conch shell, the coming home of Durga the Goddess to her home on Earth.

Let it be said, I let my imagination loose where the authors leave off. Yes, its Puja time and the red and white is the theme colour of the month.

The women in a kora or off-white jamdani, stitched in intricate designs in red thread, draped in rustic 'ek pach' style or worn without pleats, few heirloom gold jewelleryes and a brass plate filled with red hibiscus, few grass slivers, a sindur pot in their hands; it's a typical Hindu woman in her puja avatar. In fact, she is a vision of the goddess herself.

Our favourite look is the red and white combination, or mix and match for the aura of elegance it creates during Durga's homecoming.

The white sari contrasts with her vermilion 'teep' on the forehead and that passionate splatter of the powder on the hair partings, her feet and palms painted red with 'alta.' There is a definitive love story to see when her beau stands beside her in freshly starched white panjabi and dhooti. This

is a very traditional and classical scene of puja. However, with changing times and evolving fashion, the red and white combinations often change to either all white jamdani with a red sleeveless blouse or an all red silk sari in beautiful designs stitched in rich silk threads. The best part of puja fashion is you can opt for other colours and designs on six different days.

White is a mixture of seven different colours; hence it symbolises a little bit of purity, cleanliness, peace and knowledge. Red indicates both sensuality and purity. It is also the colour of Shakti (power). Thus, these colours truly represent the goddess mood, especially on Nabami.

There is actually colour coded fashion for each day of Durga puja. There are nine colours associated with the goddess and to wear clothes accordingly, it is believed that it brings prosperity, blessings and good luck. Yet, it is the red and white that strikes as the quintessential puja hue — white signifies peace and purity; red signifies beauty and fearlessness!

This week, Star Lifestyle brings to you our puja fashion mini portfolio, shot just for you, my readers.

— RBR

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Meghla
Jewellery: Jarwa House
Wardrobe: Tangail Saree Kutir Ltd.
Make-up: Hossain
Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Location: InterContinental Dhaka



◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Experiences will have lessons to learn. Don't jump to conclusions. Speak your mind. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Put effort into any work. Limitations at work will be annoying. Pamper yourself for a change. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Keep your mind open for some knowledge. Moneymaking opportunities will flourish. Do something constructive outside. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Find ways to please your partner. Your debating skills will come in handy. Make time for some learning. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Don't lend or borrow. Avoid taking any sides. Try not to ignore someone. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Avoid unnecessary confrontations. Try being considerate to children. Make career moves as they come. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Don't agree to things in a rush. Avoid misbehaving with your partner. Listen in order to gain wisdom. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Extra money can find its way to you. Don't bottle up the truth. Try not to torment yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Family members can make unreasonable demands. Lend an ear to an old friend. Don't be too quick to react. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Get out and have some fun. Your family might not support your decisions. Plan some outdoor events. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Pick your associates wisely. Matters at home will go smoothly. Avoid ventures that only appear to be lucrative. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Be an observer before getting involved. Look into new courses or hobbies. Avoid troublesome situations. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.