

There will never be another LATA MANGESHKAR

India's Nightingale passes away at 92

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As celebrations of Saraswati Puja ended, the world incurred the irrevocable loss of the 'Saraswati' of music, the next morning.

Lata Mangeshkar, India's indomitable songstress, passed away at 8:12 am yesterday at the age of 92, due to post-covid complications.

She left behind a legacy of more than 30,000 songs across 36 different languages.

Intriguingly, that is not why she is considered one of the greatest musicians to ever live – her longevity, exceptional humility, sheer conviction and god-gifted voice made her second to none. For more than 7 decades, she was the top singer in a country, in which music is held in the highest of regards. Her accomplishments had earned her the moniker of "Nightingale of India".

India declared a two-day national mourning following the news, and its national flag would fly at half-mast.

"I consider it my honour that I have always received immense affection from Lata didi," wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter. "My interactions with her will remain unforgettable."

"A great void has been created in



Lata Mangeshkar was the face of Indian music for over 7 decades.

Lata Mangeshkar's rendition of "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon, Zara Aankh Me Bhar Lo Pani" moved India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to tears, in 1962.

Some of her iconic songs are "Lag Ja Gale", "Ek Pyar Ka Nagma Hain", "Ajeeb Dastan Hain Ye", "Baahon Mein Chaale Ao", "Meere Khwabon Mein Jo Aayein", "Kora Kaagaz Tha," among many others.

Among countless other accolades, Lata Mangeshkar was the recipient of three National Awards, the Padma Bhushan award in the 1969, and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999.

Lata Mangeshkar, on various occasions, had said that if she could, she would keep singing until her last breath. In recent times, the legend had reservations about the direction that Bollywood had taken in terms of music, but kept singing a in other mediums.

Words will never be enough to encapsulate the legacy of Lata Mangeshkar, as noted by eminent Indian lyricist Javed Akhtar. "If there is anything called perfection, Lata Mangeshkar had achieved it," he told the media yesterday.

Lata Mangeshkar was not just a musician; she was the personification of music. As the world bids goodbye to her physical existence, she can never truly die as an entity, as an institution.

the subcontinent's musical arena with the demise of the Sursamraggi," said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her condolence message.

People from all over the world, irrespective of national borders, paid tribute to the songstress on social media. From actors and entertainers to politicians and cricketers, the entire world was heartbroken.

Lata Mangeshkar was born on September 28, 1929 to Marathi musician Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar and Shevanti in Indore. She was the oldest of her siblings Meena Khadikar, Asha Bhosle, Usha Mangeshkar and Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

Before making a mark as a singer, Lata had faced the camera as an actress. She worked as an actress in over eight films from 1942 to 1948.

Lata Mangeshkar's debut song 'Nachu Yaa Gade, Khelu Saari Mani Haus Bhaari' for Marathi film 'Kiti Hasaal' (1942) was dropped from the final cut of the film.

Her first Hindi song was "Mata Ek Sapoot Ki Duniya Badal De Tu" for the Marathi film "Gajaabhaau", in 1943.

She did not have to look back after that, as she went on to become the top name in the music industries of not just Bollywood, but lent her god-gifted voice to regional films as well. She also directed the music for 5 films.



Taken on the day of Lata Mangeshkar's first recording: September 9, 1938. Photo taken from Instagram.

"I will continue to sing till my last breath. We Mangeshkars are a family devoted to music. Take music away from our lives, and we are nothing."

Lata Mangeshkar to Indian media in 2018

An unparalleled career

Interesting facts about Lata Mangeshkar

Although Lata Mangeshkar's importance in the world of music can be talked about for days on end, her greater legacy was that of a humble artiste, whose passion for her craft was unparalleled. That being said, let us look at some interesting facts about her career.

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1. Lata Mangeshkar's first recorded song was "Naachu Yaa Gade, Khelu Saari Mani Haus Bhaari" in 1942 for the Marathi movie, "Kiti Hasaal." However, the song was removed from the film's final cut.
2. Her last recorded song was "Saugandh Mujhe Is Mitti Ki". It was a tribute to the Indian Army, and it was released on March 30, 2019.
3. Lata Mangeshkar's last full album was from the film, "Veer-Zaara", in 2004. In the movie, she lent her voice to songs like "Tere Liye", "Aisa Des Hai Mera", and "Yeh Hum Aa Gaye Hain Kahaan", among others.
4. The Guinness Book of World Records' 1974 edition listed Lata Mangeshkar as the artiste with the most recordings. However, Mohammed Rafi, contested the claim. As a result, her entry was removed in 1991 until 2011, when Guinness listed Lata's sister Asha Bhosle as the most



Lata Mangeshkar was the first Indian artiste to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

a special perfume was created in 1999, which was called the "Lata Eau de Parfum". It has a mixture of 78 different essences, with hints of a floral scent.

7. The legendary singer received 25 rupees as her first salary, for singing on stage.
8. Lata Mangeshkar's breakthrough song was "Aayega Aanevala", picturised on Madhubala, in the film, "Mahal".
9. She once said while speaking to Bollywood

A perfume launched in honour of Lata Mangeshkar, in 1999.

Hungama that she does not listen to her own songs as if she did, she would find a hundred faults in her singing.

10. Lata Mangeshkar was the first ever Indian to perform in the prestigious Royal Albert Hall, London. The government of France feted her with

the 'Officer of the Legion of Honour' in 2007, which is the country's highest civilian award.

11. The veteran artiste sang on the radio for the first time in December 16, 1941. Since then, she had recorded over 30, 000 songs in 36 languages.
12. In September 2021, celebrated filmmaker and composer, Vishal Bhardwaj, treated fans by releasing an unreleased track by her, titled, "Theek Nahi Lagta". Recorded in the 90s, the song was written by Gulzar, and later got shelved.
13. Ritu Nanda, Raj Kapoor's daughter, revealed that Lata Mangeshkar was the inspiration behind his film, "Satyam Shivam Sundaram", and he wanted to cast her in the film.
14. Lata Mangeshkar launched her music label, LM Music, in 2013. By this time, she had thousands of songs in several Indian languages, from Punjabi to Tamil, Bengali, and across genres from Gurbani to ghazals, qawwalis, and classical compositions.



Lata Mangeshkar with Raj Kapoor

recorded artiste. Currently, Pulapaka Susheela holds the record.

5. Lata Mangeshkar made her movie debut in the Marathi film, "Pahili Mangalaa-gaur" in 1942, at the age of 13. She essayed the role of the younger sister of the lead actress, Snehprabha Pradhan.

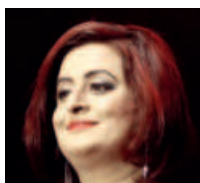
6. Honouring the legendary singer,



Sabina Yasmin



Ferdausi Rahman



Alif Alauddin



Runa Laila with Lata Mangeshkar.

The voice that inspired millions

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Every year on my birthday, she would send me a sari: Runa Laila

The voice that has inspired millions like me is now singing for the angels in heaven. Over the years, we built up a beautiful relationship of love and mutual respect. We exchanged messages on a daily basis and had long telephone conversations, talking about music in general.

Every year on my birthday, she would send me a sari. When we spoke last, she told me that I was her younger sister and she loves me very much and respects my talent. I am filled with a sense of desolation and emptiness that will remain with me forever, that I won't hear that lovely voice again, saying Runa ji Aap kaisi hain? (How are you dear Runa?). I shall cherish your blessings and love till the end, Saraswati Maa. My Didi.

I could not sing in front of her: Sabina Yasmin

SD Burman had come to the Bangladesh Film Festival in India, and asked me to perform. When I saw Lata Mangeshkar in the hall, I immediately froze, as I could not believe that I was seeing her in person. I could not bring myself to sing in front of her.

Nonetheless, I performed, and she listened attentively. She smiled at me, and blessed me afterwards. I will never forget that day.

I will always regret for not being able to meet her in person: Ferdausi Rahman

I doubt we will have another great artiste like her in this continent ever again. She won the hearts of people of all ages. She had such a melodious voice. Although I have visited Mumbai numerous times, I never got to meet her. I will always regret not meeting her in person. She was really lucky to receive love from millions of people during her lifetime.

My mother and I listened to her songs every afternoon: Alif Alauddin

Celebrating 400 years of Kolkata, I went to the city with my parents, and Lata Mangeshkar also attended the occasion. Runa Laila and Bhupen Hazarika along with Abbu (Alauddin Ali), were invited among others at the Kolkata Stadium.

My mother was very excited, as we were staying at the same hotel as Lata Mangeshkar. She called me close to her, and took a picture with me. I was amazed with the respect my parents paid to her. My mother and I listened to her songs every afternoon. Thank you, for all the memories.