



## FAMOUS 'BONEDI BARI' PUJAS OF KOLKATA

- Bhawanipur Mallick Bari's Puja
- Chaatubabu Latubaabu's Puja
- Girish Ghosh's Puja
- Haatkholo Dutta Bari's Puja
- Jagat Ram Mukherjee's Puja
- Nilmoni Sen's Puja
- Pathuriaghata's Khelat Chandra Ghosh's Puja
- Rani Rashmoni's Puja
- Sabarna Roy Chowdhury Bari's Puja
- Sobhabajar Raj Bari's Puja

## FAMOUS 'BAROWARI' PUJAS OF KOLKATA

- 66 Palli Sarbojanin Durgatsab
- Adi Ballygunge Sarbojanin
- Ahiritola Sarbojanin
- Babubagan Sarbojanin
- Badamtala Ashar Shangha
- Ballygunge Cultural Association
- Barisa Srishti Club Sarbojanin
- Barisha Yubak Brinda
- Bosepukur Sitala Mandir
- Bosepukur Talbagan Sarbojanin
- Chaltabagan Sarbojanin
- College Square Sarbojanin
- Ekdalia Evergreen
- Jodhpur Park
- Kumartuli Park
- Maddox Square Sarbojanin
- Md. Ali Park
- Mudiali Club Sarbojanin
- Santosh Mitra Square
- Selimpur Pally
- Shib Mandir Sarbojanin
- Shimla Bayam Samiti
- Shinghi Park Sarbojanin
- Suruchi Sangha



For reservation & more information please contact :

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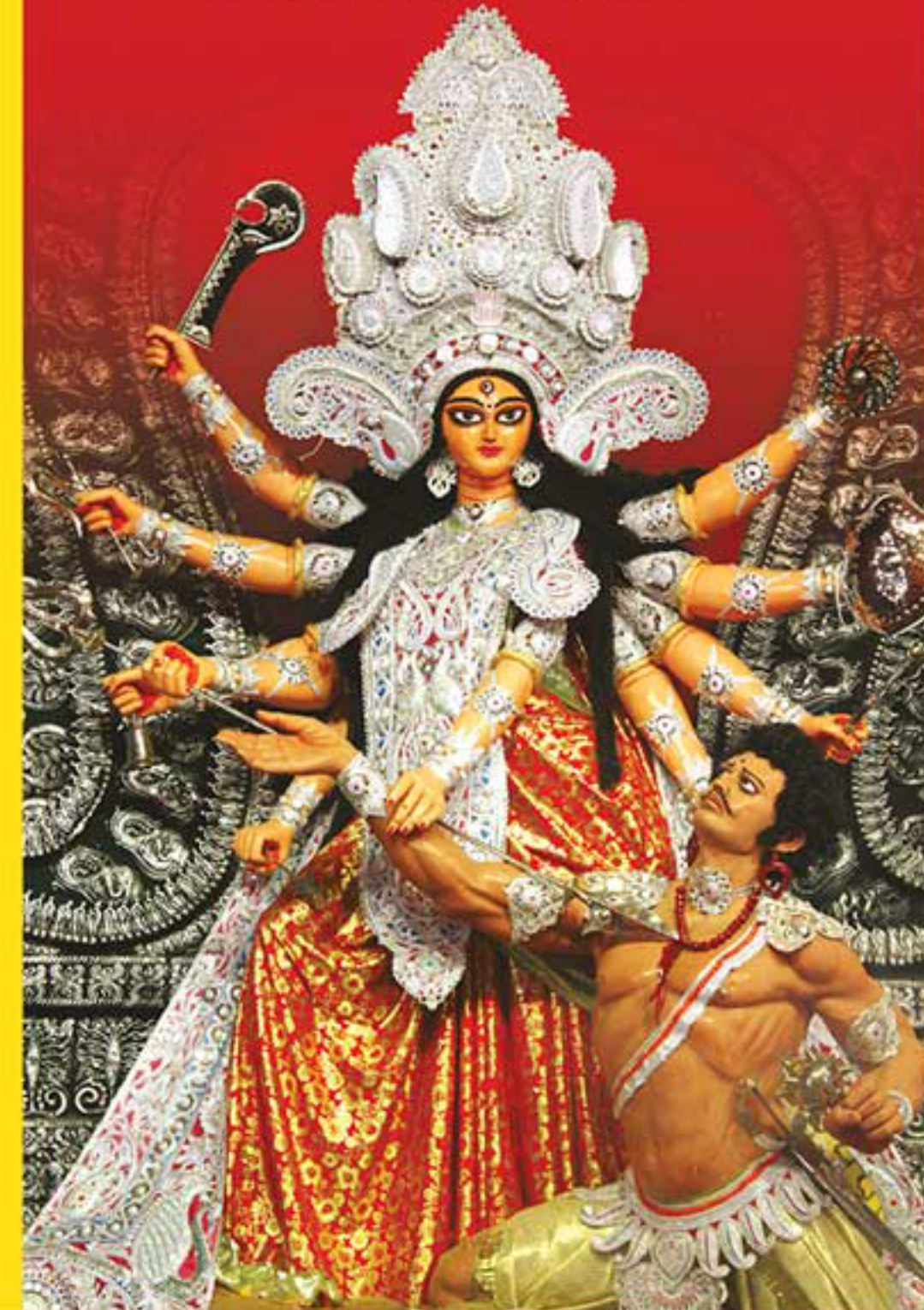
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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL



## DURGA PUJA!

CELEBRATION FROM THE  
HEARTLAND OF BENGAL





## IT DOESN'T GET BIGGER THAN THIS!

Durga Puja, the greatest festival of India, is not merely a religious phenomenon. It is a socio-cultural fiesta that doesn't have many parallels in the world.

Around the year, people of Bengal yearn for the arrival of Devi Durga. With her arrival the mundane becomes magical and the year round drudgery of life vanishes with a pompous four day-long celebration. The grandeur of the event adds a different dimension to the city.



## THE MYTHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The origin of this festival, which epitomises the victory of good over evil, can be traced back to the days of Ramayana.

Many believe that Lord Rama was the first person to worship Goddess Durga before setting out on a war against Ravana. With the blessings of Mother Goddess, he was successfully able to defeat the Raksasha King on the day of Dusshera or Dashami (the last day of the festival).

## AN ARISTOCRATIC AFFAIR

It is believed that the Sabarna Roy Chowdhurys – the erstwhile zamindars (landlords) of Kolkata – were the first modern Bengalis to worship Goddess Durga back in 1610.

In 1608, Maharaja Man Singh installed Laxmikanta Roy Chowdhury as the zamindar of a vast area of land in Bengal. Some say, Laxmikanta began the celebrations a couple of years later as a token of gratitude towards the Divine Mother.

## THE COMMON TOUCH

Earlier, it was often the case that the commoners weren't given much importance in this festival of the Bonedis (aristocrats). As a result of this, Bengal's first 'Barowari Durga Puja' came into being.

In 1761, a group of twelve friends (Baro – twelve; Yaar – friend) organised the first 'Commoners' Durga Puja' in Guptipara which is located 90 KM to the north of Kolkata.

## DURGA PUJA TODAY

With the passage of time, Barowari Pujas started gaining more popularity amongst the general population. In the recent past, the organisers of these Pujas have stepped up the game by a notch, courtesy their idea of 'Themed Pujas'.

Sculptures and Pandals, made of various materials, comprising of almost everything under the sun, have been attracting tourists and art enthusiasts to Kolkata during the Pujas for quite some time, now.



## THE DIVINE PARADE

Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, came up with a unique proposition last year which saw thirty-eight of Kolkata's award-winning Durga idols troop down the Red Road on their way to immersion at Babu Ghat.

The spectacle, attended by thousands of onlookers, was immensely appreciated.

This year, the extravaganza is expected to feature more than fifty idols and is a must-attend if you're in Kolkata during that time of the year. The great spectacle will find a special place in your heart.

