



BONEDI BARI PUJAS – ART AND CULTURE

The *Bonedi Bari Pujas*, or *Durga Pujas*, conducted in Kolkata's aristocratic households, have gained renewed attention as cultural heritage and tradition face the challenges of modernization and economic pressures.

About the Puja

- *Bonedi Bari Pujas* are among the **oldest Durga Puja** celebrations in Kolkata, with origins dating back over 415 years.
 - Bonedi Bari is a Bengali term for the traditional homes of the **upper class, aristocrats, and zamindars of Kolkata**.
- These pujas are held in the **grand houses of Kolkata's elite families (traditional Bengali houses)**
- These rituals are deeply entwined with the history of the **Sabarna Roy Choudhury family** (*zamindars* of vast swathes of land in Mughal Bengal including the villages **Sutanuti, Gobindapur, and Kalikata** which would later become Kolkata), among others.
 - In 1698, the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family was forced to sell these settlements to the British East India Company; and by 1805, the Company had converted these three settlements into a modern city of the 19th century — Calcutta.
 - The same Sabarna Roy Choudhury family is also credited with hosting the first public Durga Puja in Kolkata in the 1600s. Supposedly over 400-years-old now, the Aat-chala Durga Puja of the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family is said to be older than Kolkata itself.



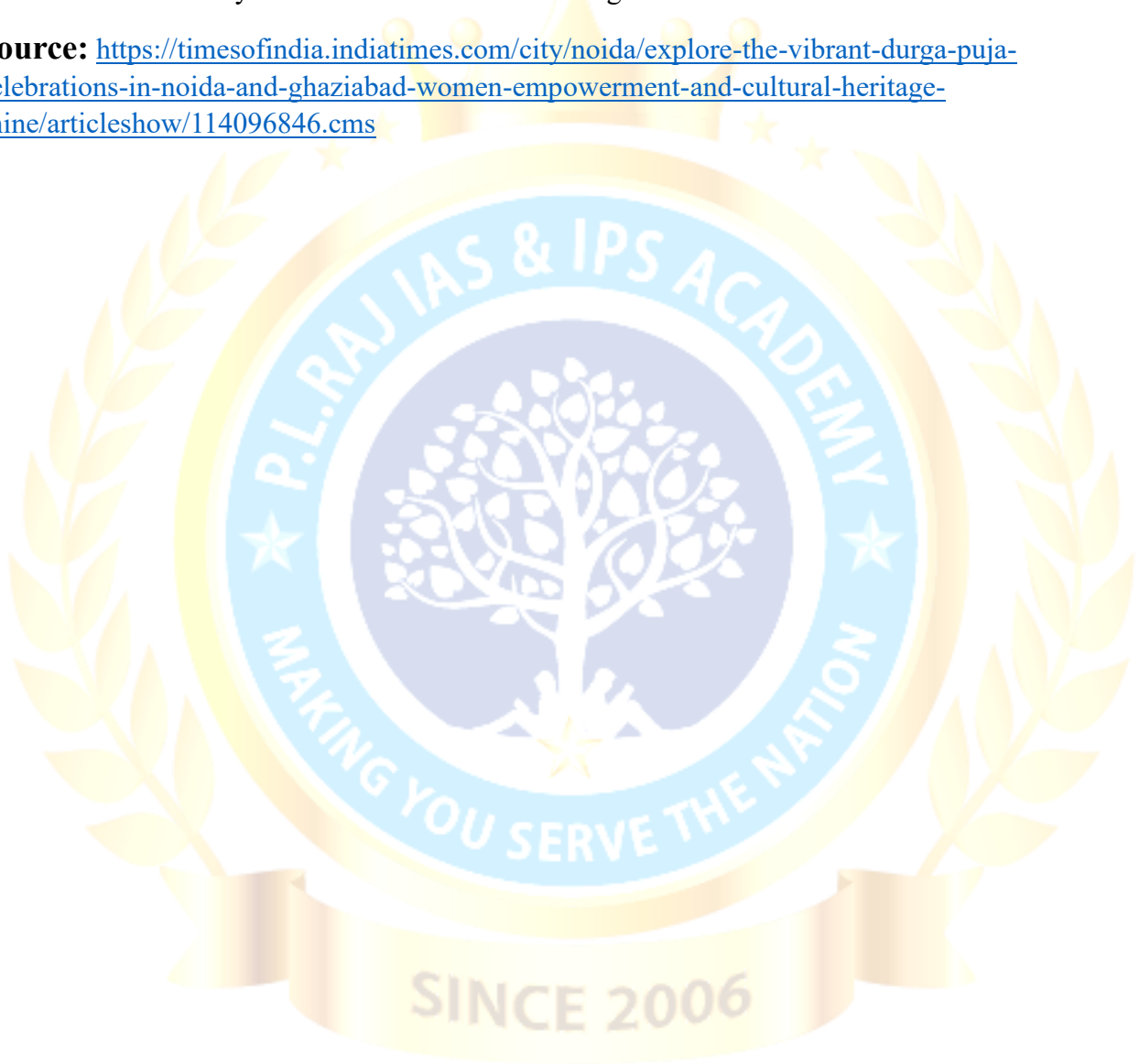


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- These celebrations are not only religious festivals but also a reflection of **Kolkata's rich cultural tapestry**.
 - Traditions such as using old molds for idol-making and maintaining relationships with long-serving artisans highlight the continuity of cultural practices through generations. The involvement of families in these rituals fosters unity and pride, even as many members reside outside the region.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/explore-the-vibrant-durga-puja-celebrations-in-noida-and-ghaziabad-women-empowerment-and-cultural-heritage-shine/articleshow/114096846.cms>



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