

# The Role of Vrata Ceremonies in the Folk Culture of Purba Medinipur: A Review

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**Abstract:** *In the folk culture of Purba Medinipur, the glorious presence of Vrata (vows) ceremony can be seen across a wide spectrum of folk rituals. The largest part of the population of this district is Hinduism. Generally, the five religions such as Saur, Shakta, Ganapatya, Vaishnavism and Shaivism are collectively called Hinduism. Among the followers of these religions, there are many vows held throughout the year. Ekadashi, Shivratri, Santoshi Ma, Vipattarini, Satyanarayana, Shanidev, Lakshmidivi, Sri Krishna Janmashtami, Radhasthmi, Ramnavami and Jitashtami etc. are mentionable among them. Vratas observed as day such as on every Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, Friday and Thursday of every week; as religious month such as Kartik month, Agrahayan month etc. are celebrated by the devotees according to certain rituals throughout the year. The purpose of this article is to explore the evolution of these rituals in Purba Medinipur district and its social usefulness*

**Keywords:** Hinduism, vows, rules, evolution, search