



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Durgadi Fort

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Why in the News?

- The **Kalyan civil court** recently ruled that **Durgadi Fort** is owned by the **Maharashtra government**, dismissing the claims made by the **Majlis-E-Mushawarat Trust**.
- The Trust had filed a claim in **1976**, arguing that the fort houses both a **mosque** and an **idgah** (prayer hall), alongside a **temple dedicated to Goddess Durga**.

Key Facts About Durgadi Fort

1. Historical Significance:

- Durgadi Fort dates back to the **16th century**, originally part of the **Adil Shahi Sultanate** based in **Bijapur**.
- It is mentioned in British documents as early as **1570**, housing a **tomb**, **prayer space**, and other structures.
- In **1760**, after the **Marathas** captured **Kalyan**, they built a wooden temple dedicated to **Durgadevi** and renamed the fort **Durgadi Killa** (Fort of Durga).
- After the **British** took control of Kalyan in **1818**, the temple ceased functioning, and by **1876**, the **idol of Goddess Durga** was stolen.

2. Geographical Location:

- Durgadi Fort is located in **Kalyan** in **Thane district**, about **50 km** northeast of **Mumbai**.
- The fort is situated on elevated ground, offering scenic views over the **Ulhas River**.

3. Cultural and Religious Impact:

- The fort holds **significant religious importance** for both Hindus and Muslims.
- Initially, the fort housed a **mosque**, but it was later modified by the Marathas to include a **Durga temple**.
- Durgadi Fort has been a site of **communal tensions**, reflecting the complex intersection of **religious identity** and **historical heritage** in Maharashtra.

Durgadi Fort, with its rich history and religious significance, has played an important role in shaping the cultural and religious landscape of Maharashtra. The recent court ruling reinforces its status under the **Maharashtra government** but also highlights its contested history, which continues to evoke discussions about **communal identity** and **heritage preservation**.

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