



DURGADI FORT: HISTORY

NEWS: The Durgadi Fort dispute in Maharashtra's Kalyan

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Durgadi Fort, located in Kalyan, Maharashtra, was originally built by the Adil Shahi Sultanate and later taken over by the Marathas in 1760, who built a temple inside it. In 2023, a Kalyan court ruled the Maharashtra government owned the disputed land, rejecting the Muslim community's claim.



The Durga temple at the Durgadi Fort in Kalyan, with the mosque in the background.
Wikimedia Commons

1. Location & History:

- Durgadi Fort is in Kalyan, Maharashtra, built in the 16th century by the Adil Shahi Sultanate of Bijapur.
- The fort spans 70 acres and contains both a mosque and a temple, originally important for the Muslim community.

2. Maratha & British Changes:

- In 1760, the Marathas took over, renaming it Durgadi Killa and constructing a temple to Goddess Durgadevi.
- The British took control in 1818, and by 1876, the temple ceased being used after its idol was stolen.

3. Dispute Over Control:

- In the 1960s, tensions arose between Hindus and Muslims over control of the fort, especially its use for worship.
- In 1966, the Maharashtra government intervened, allowing Muslims to continue offering Eid prayers but prohibiting any community from claiming full control.



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4. Legal Ruling:

- In 2023, a Kalyan civil court ruled that the Maharashtra government owned the land, rejecting the Muslim community's claim due to the statute of limitations.
- The court did not address the historical religious significance of the fort's structures.

Source : <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-politics/explained-durgadi-fort-dispute-maharashtra-kalyan-9720633/lite/>

