



# TOREX

## COUGH SYRUP HAI TO ALVIDA KHANSI



TORQUE

**ELGAAR PARISHAD**

## Brahman Mahasangh 'welcomes' Mevani; calls for open debate on battle of Bhima Koregaon

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE  
PUNE, DECEMBER 27

A DAY AFTER it urged authorities to deny permission for the 'Elgaar Parishad' — an event to mark the 200th year of the Battle of Bhima Koregaon — the Akhil Bhartiya Brahman Mahasangh (ABB) 'welcomed' Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani and other speakers to the conference.

In the battle, which took place on January 1, 1818, the British Army had defeated the Peshwas.

Members of the Dalit community believe that the British force comprised largely of soldiers from the Dalit Mahari community, who waged a 'war for freedom' from the alleged casteism of the Peshwas, who were upper-caste Brahmins.

Anand Dave, district president of ABBM, said, "We are not against Elgaar Parishad, or people gathering at Bhima Koregaon for celebrations. We are only against casteism... We welcome Mevani, JNU student (Umar Khalid) and other speakers to Pune... we are open to interactions with organisers of the conference. If they are willing, let them be an open debate." "Our stand is that both the British Army and the Indian forces, represented by Peshwas, had soldiers from various castes. Many soldiers from Peshwa's army sacrificed their lives in this war. So, as Indians, we feel it's not right to celebrate the victory of the British. In fact, there is a difference of opinion among historians on whether the British Army won at Bhima Koregaon," said Dave.

The British government had erected a lay-stambh (victory memorial) at Perne village near Bhima Koregaon in Pune, in the memory of soldiers in the British Army who had died in the battle. Peshwe said he disagreed with the 'war for freedom' narrative. "Peshwa represented the kingdom of Maratha Chhatrapati and their forces included soldiers and sardars (officers) from different castes, including Dalits. It was a battle between the British Army and the Maratha kingdom. Celebrating the victory of the British is not right. Peshwa played a major role in the rise of the Maratha empire..."

In a press conference on Tuesday, Jyoti Jagtap of Kabir Kala Manch, one of the organisers of the event, had said, "It is time to accept that the Peshwa rule was unjust. We are fighting against the new Peshwas, the current rulers, who continue unjust practices even today."

Prakash Ambedkar, grandson of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prashant Dontha of the Ambedkar Students' Association, Hyderabad, and Maulana Abdul Hamid Azhari, national secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, are among the other speakers at the day-long event, which will be presided over by retired Supreme Court Justice P B Sawant. The participants would later march towards the 'Jaystambh' (victory memorial) in Perne, where a few lakh people are expected to assemble on January 1.

**Have no hopes from BJP govt: Peshwe**

Udayashri Peshwe, one of the descendants of Peshwas, said he found it "strange" that the BJP was supporting the December 31 event at Shaniwar Wada. "Elgaar Parishad is a conspiracy to use the name of the Peshwas for attacking the BJP. But the irony is that the BJP is supporting the event. The organisers have received permission from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for the Shaniwar Wada conference. The BJP is in power in the PMC... still permission was granted for holding the event. It is also known that ministers of the BJP government in Maharashtra will be visiting Bhima Koregaon on January 1. So I have no hopes from the BJP government..." said Peshwe.

Radhika Vemula, mother of Rohith Vemula, a research scholar at University of Hyderabad whose suicide had created an uproar and triggered protests, will inaugurate a pamphlet for the conference makes an appeal to the public, mainly members of Dalit, tribal and minority communities, to unite and be inspired by the heroes of the Bhima Koregaon battle, in order to defeat the "new Peshwas" — BJP, RSS and other "Hindutva" forces.

Rohith Vemula, a research scholar at University of Hyderabad whose suicide had created an uproar and triggered protests, will inaugurate

a pamphlet for the conference makes an appeal to the public, mainly members of Dalit, tribal and minority communities, to unite and be inspired by the heroes of the Bhima Koregaon battle, in order to defeat the "new Peshwas" — BJP, RSS and other "Hindutva" forces.

The British government had erected a lay-stambh (victory memorial) at Perne village near Bhima Koregaon in Pune, in the

memory of soldiers in the British Army who had died in the battle. Peshwe said he disagreed with the 'war for freedom' narrative. "Peshwa represented the kingdom of Maratha Chhatrapati and their forces included soldiers and sardars (officers) from different castes, including Dalits. It was a battle between the British Army and the Maratha kingdom. Celebrating the victory of the British is not right. Peshwa played a major role in the rise of the Maratha empire..."

In a press conference on Tuesday, Jyoti Jagtap of Kabir Kala Manch, one of the organisers of the event, had said, "It is time to accept that the Peshwa rule was unjust. We are fighting against the new Peshwas, the current rulers, who continue unjust practices even today."

Prakash Ambedkar, grandson of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prashant

Dontha of the Ambedkar Students' Association, Hyderabad, and Maulana Abdul Hamid Azhari, national secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, are among the other speakers at the day-long event, which will be presided over by retired Supreme Court Justice P B Sawant. The participants would later march towards the 'Jaystambh' (victory memorial) in Perne, where a few lakh people are expected to assemble on January 1.

**Have no hopes from BJP govt: Peshwe**

Udayashri Peshwe, one of the descendants of Peshwas, said he found it "strange" that the BJP was supporting the December 31 event at Shaniwar Wada. "Elgaar Parishad is a conspiracy to use the name of the Peshwas for attacking the BJP. But the irony is that the BJP is supporting the event. The organisers have received permission from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for the Shaniwar Wada conference. The BJP is in power in the PMC... still permission was granted for holding the event. It is also known that ministers of the BJP government in Maharashtra will be visiting Bhima Koregaon on January 1. So I have no hopes from the BJP government..." said Peshwe.

Radhika Vemula, mother of

Rohith Vemula, a research scholar at University of Hyderabad whose

suicide had created an uproar and triggered protests, will inaugurate

a pamphlet for the conference makes an appeal to the public, mainly members of Dalit, tribal and minority communities, to unite and be inspired by the heroes of the Bhima Koregaon battle, in order to defeat the "new Peshwas" — BJP, RSS and other "Hindutva" forces.

The British government had

erected a lay-stambh (victory

memorial) at Perne village near

Bhima Koregaon in Pune, in the

memory of soldiers in the British

Army who had died in the battle.

Peshwe said he disagreed with

the 'war for freedom' narrative.

"Peshwa represented the

kingdom of Maratha Chhatrapati

and their forces included

soldiers and sardars (officers)

from different castes, including

Dalits. It was a battle between

the British Army and the

Maratha kingdom. Celebrating

the victory of the British is

not right. Peshwa played a

major role in the rise of the

Maratha empire..."

In a press conference on

Tuesday, Jyoti Jagtap of Kabir

Kala Manch, one of the organi-

zers of the event, had said, "It is

time to accept that the Peshwa

rule was unjust. We are fighting

against the new Peshwas, the

current rulers, who continue

unjust practices even today."

Prakash Ambedkar, grandson

of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prashant

Dontha of the Ambedkar

Students' Association, Hyderabad,

and Maulana Abdul Hamid

Azhari, national secretary of the

All India Muslim Personal Law

Board, are among the other spe-

akers at the day-long event,

which will be presided over by

retired Supreme Court Justice P B

Sawant. The participants would

later march towards the 'Jay-

stambh' (victory memorial) in

Perne, where a few lakh people

are expected to assemble on

January 1.

In a press conference on

Tuesday, Jyoti Jagtap of Kabir

Kala Manch, one of the organi-

zers of the event, had said, "It is

time to accept that the Peshwa

rule was unjust. We are fighting

against the new Peshwas, the

current rulers, who continue

unjust practices even today."

Prakash Ambedkar, grandson

of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prashant

Dontha of the Ambedkar

Students' Association, Hyderabad,

and Maulana Abdul Hamid

Azhari, national secretary of the

All India Muslim Personal Law

Board, are among the other spe-

akers at the day-long event,

which will be presided over by

retired Supreme Court Justice P B

Sawant. The participants would

later march towards the 'Jay-

stambh' (victory memorial) in

Perne, where a few lakh people

are expected to assemble on

January 1.

In a press conference on

Tuesday, Jyoti Jagtap of Kabir

Kala Manch, one of the organi-

zers of the event, had said, "It is

time to accept that the Peshwa

rule was unjust. We are fighting

against the new Peshwas, the

current rulers, who continue

unjust practices even today."

Prakash Ambedkar, grandson

of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prashant

Dontha of the Ambedkar

Students' Association, Hyderabad,

and Maulana Abdul Hamid

Azhari, national secretary of the

All India Muslim Personal Law

Board, are among the other spe-

akers at the day-long event,

which will be presided over by

retired Supreme Court Justice P B

Sawant. The participants would

later march towards the 'Jay-

stambh' (victory memorial) in

Perne, where a few lakh people

are expected to assemble on

January 1.

In a press conference on

Tuesday, Jyoti Jagtap of Kabir

Kala Manch, one of the organi-

zers of the event, had said, "It is

time to accept that the Peshwa

rule was unjust. We are fighting

against the new Peshwas, the

current rulers, who continue

unjust practices even today."

Prakash Ambedkar, grandson

of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prashant

Dontha of the Ambedkar

Students' Association, Hyderabad,

and Maulana Abdul Hamid

Azhari, national secretary of the

All India Muslim Personal Law