

❖ TITLE: MEMORY, MYTH AND MEMORIAL

(The battle over **Bhima-Koregaon** is not just one of history, it is a battle for identity and equality)

About the Battle of Bhima-Koregaon

- ❖ It all began with a **pillar**, a little war memorial commemorating what history books antiseptically called the **third Anglo-Maratha war**.
- ❖ The **British** had established the pillar in Bhima-Koregaon village.
- ❖ **In January 1927**, Babasaheb Ambedkar visited the site and gave it this new legitimacy. **The Bhima-Koregaon Ranstambh Seva Sangh** was formed to commemorate the battle of the Dalits for self-respect and equality.
- ❖ The battle now is not just one of memory, it is a battle for **identity and equality**.
- ❖ Dalit scholars point to **Vadhu Budruk**, a village close to Bhima-Koregaon and the controversy around **Sambhaji, the eldest son of Shivaji**.

WRITER'S VIEW

- ❖ The BJP's **electoral campaign** as the party under its national president **Amit Shah** has been wooing Dalits into its fold.
- ❖ A caste split now threatens the huge electoral **wooing of Dalits** as future vote banks.
- ❖ **Conclusion:-**
- ❖ It is not a **historical controversy alone**, it cannot be restricted to a caste war, it is not a battle for identity, it is also a search for equality.
- ❖ Politics in the 18th century was about control of the body, in the 19th about the control of populations, and in the 20th about the control of memory.

What we got for English Section

- ❖ **It all began with** a pillar, a little war memorial commemorating what history books antiseptically called the third Anglo-Maratha war.
- ❖ the British East India Company soldiers who fell in the battle of **January 1, 1818.**
- ❖ The Battle of Bhima-Koregaon Is **thus** Read differently.
- ❖ Hindutva forces, **Dalit leader Prakash Ambedkar felt**, were trying to poison society along caste lines.
- ❖ The BJP has **over the years** forged an anti-Muslim meta-narrative around these struggles.
- ❖ **Vocabulary words:**

Archive = Historical documents and records

Commemorate = Recall and show respect for

Imperialism = Rule by an emperor

Inscribe = Write or carve on something

Spurn = Reject, refuse

Villainy = Wickedness

❖ **Vocabulary words:**

Valour = Great courage

Testimony = A formal or written statement

Homage = Special respect or honor shown publically

Immortalize = Memorialize

Dominant = Having power or influence over others

Surreal = The quality of being unbelievable and
fantastic

Standstill = Stop, halt



Woo

= Seek the favour or support

Mutilate

= Inflict a violent and disfiguring injury on

