

Delhi High Court: Baba Ramdev's "Sharbat-Jihad" remark against Rooh Afza shocks the conscience

"It disturbs the court's conscience. "Indefensible," said the Court.



Baba Ramdev, the creator of Patanjali, was chastised by the Delhi High Court on Tuesday for using derogatory language against the food and pharmaceutical company Hamdard and its well-known beverage, Rooh Afza [**Hamdard National Foundation India v. Patanjali Foods Limited & Anr**].

Justice Amit Bansal threatened a strict order following a preliminary hearing in a lawsuit brought by Hamdard against Patanjali and Ramdev.

"It disturbs the court's conscience. The Court said, "Indefensible," and after requesting directions, it asked Ramdev's attorney to stay.

Ramdev made the contentious comments on April 3 while endorsing Gulaab Sharbat, a product of his company.

He said in a video that Hamdard was using its funds to construct *madrasas and masjids*, specifically targeting Hamdard's Rooh Afza.

'*Sharbat jihad*' is another term that Ramdev used in his video.

According to a news report, Congress lawmaker Digvijaya Singh accused Ramdev of inciting

religious hate and lodged a police complaint against him in Bhopal last week. Ramdev later defended his statement, claiming that he had not mentioned any particular brand in his video, according to the Times of India.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, speaking on behalf of Hamdard, said the High Court today that Ramdev was continuing to undermine the company's owners' faith and target Hamdard without remorse.

"This is a startling situation that goes beyond defamation. This is an instance of hate speech-like communal division. "The law of defamation will not protect it,"

Rohatgi stated.

He went on to say that such videos ought to be prohibited, even for a brief period of time. According to Rohatgi, the nation already faces enough issues. Ramdev also attacked another company, Himalaya, because it is also owned by a Muslim, the court was informed.

Additionally, Rohatgi informed the Court that Ramdev had already been subject to strictures from the Supreme Court for focusing on allopathy. On a more humorous note, Rohatgi acknowledged that he had come across as "the wrong side" there.

"*A hard hand is required to nip this in bud*," Rohatgi contended in reference to the current controversy surrounding Ramdev.