Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of State Waqf Boards in the administration of religious endowments. How can governments balance effective management, community representation and accountability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Waqf Act, 1995, religious endowments, State Waqf Boards, representation, transparency, property protection, community consultation, judicial review, administrative accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Waqf properties support religious, educational and charitable activities. Their effective administration requires transparent institutions, legal compliance and meaningful engagement with affected communities.

Role of State Waqf Boards

- **Property management:** Supervise waqf properties and help prevent encroachment and unauthorised transfers.
- **Regulatory oversight:** Ensure compliance with applicable statutory provisions and proper use of property income.
- **Community welfare:** Support the religious, educational and charitable purposes for which properties are dedicated.

Key Challenges

Disputes over board composition and representation can undermine stakeholder confidence. Other concerns include inadequate records, encroachments, litigation, administrative inefficiency and allegations of mismanagement.

Way Forward

1. **Inclusive representation:** Consult relevant stakeholders while constituting boards in accordance with the law.
2. **Transparency:** Maintain updated property records, publish audited accounts and disclose relevant administrative decisions.
3. **Accountability:** Establish effective grievance-redressal mechanisms and strengthen independent oversight.
4. **Legal certainty:** Resolve disputes through lawful procedures and ensure access to judicial remedies.

Conclusion

The withdrawal of protests following discussions with the Kerala government illustrates the potential value of dialogue in resolving administrative disagreements. Sustainable waqf governance requires lawful administration, community confidence and transparent protection of religious endowments.

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