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WAQF: Muslims wary as community land meant for charitable purposes gets excessive focus; anxious about Waqf amendment bill



REAL ISSUE

[Photo: Arif, Pexels.com]

Landsharks always eyed Waqf land and local strongmen were involved in illegal occupation of these properties. Due to lack of will on part of officials, encroachments on waqf lands couldn't be removed. Rents from shops on Waqf land are low. Hence, income from Waqf properties is less. Multiple factors exist & there are aspects like offices functioning on Waqf land, without rent. Right now, community is concerned about saving land donated by Muslims over centuries for uplift of society & charity.

By Akramul Jabbar Khan

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In a country where such a large section of population lives in poverty & people lack resources for education of their children and even family members' treatment, the wastage of resources is a cardinal sin.

Waqf properties that are spread over around 6 lakh acres land and possibly more [on account of non registration of many more 'auqaaf' (plural of waqf) with the Waqf board] represent a valuable asset that can generate revenue and help in uplift of the community.

This doesn't happen to a large extent, and in fact, assets are wasted, due to apathy, mismanagement, lack of intent on part of leaders and ignorance about the issue among public at large, more so, the real stake holder i.e. the poor and the downtrodden.

Waqf is to protect this donated land for community's uplift & prevent transfer or change of status of the asset so that it could benefit the community.

After earmarking & assigning, saving the property [properties], and maintaining, developing it in a way that its earning is used as per the waqif's wish.

Generally the *auqaaf* are 'fi sabilillah' [for God] and aimed at welfare of poor, orphan, widow, health infra and educational purposes or for religious and different other uses.

But if we look around, we find that the *mutawallis* (managers) and even Waqf boards [created as the authorized caretaker] treating valuable and vast properties as their personal properties to do as they will (not will). This sorry state of affairs is on account of the public ignorance of such properties as regards financial benefits to how the rentals, the income otherwise accruing from such properties is being utilized?

It is often pleaded that the tenants occupying properties on meagre rent do not pay even that much. Besides, the legal provision for eviction, there is a way to make such properties commercially viable and profitable.

The small houses, shops, left over land can be built upon, adding floors, using stilts to which the defaulting tenant can hardly raise an objection. Consider this possibility for areas like Nanapeth, Pune. Huge landed properties lie vacant in cities and rural areas though well connected by roads.

Govt had come up with Waqf properties development council but for want of knowledge, will and lack of human resources, virtually nothing happened. To see the neglect, the misuse, visit [wamsi\[nic.in\]](http://wamsi[nic.in]).

Locate your state, district, taluka, village & search the current status of the properties. No trust can be registered without the specifics like area, yet majority of the properties show area as 00.000 and even for a Waqf property as stupendous as a thousand acres, value is shown as nil. Besides the intended beneficiaries, properties are illegally sold too. Community youth must know about Waqf issues and act. [The author is a retired IRS officer. Photo is for representational purpose]

Powerful Countries in the World: Five Asian countries in the top ten list in 2025

The list has US at the top, obviously, & has four European nations other than five countries from Asia.

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The list of the top ten most powerful countries in the world, has been released. The Forbes' list for the year 2025 has five Asian countries, clearly, showing the region's clout. It makes Asia, a continent with the highest number of countries that, are in the top ten. America remains at the top of the list. The surprise for many is that India is not in the Top Ten. This is despite the country's population, resources, economy, military power and a world leader in technology too. It is the most populous country in the world with over 1.42 billion people. While US is at the top spot, China comes close and is second. Remember, Russia is at number three. At the fourth place is United Kingdom. Germany is at the fifth spot. The comparatively smaller South Korea has been kept at the sixth number. This too signals the rise of Asian power in contemporary world and on the global political arena.

After South Korea, comes France. Once a major colonial power, it now ranks behind several other countries. Another country from Asia is placed just after South Korea and France. It's Japan that is at the eighth spot. Once it was the leader in continent. Saudi Arabia has shown its clout, as it is kept at the ninth spot. The tenth spot goes to Israel. US is at the top with nearly 30 trillion dollar as its GDP. China is away but catching up fast, as it touches 20 trillion dollars. The GDP shows the difference in ranking. Russia is much behind with a huge margin and stands at 2.2 trillion dollars. When it comes to GDP, United Kingdom--UK. The last in this list is Israel. Interestingly, Saudi Arab's GDP is higher than the Israel.



has 3.73 trillion dollars, Germany has 4.92 trillion dollars, France 3.28 trillion, Japan at nearly 4.4 trillion and South Korea close to 2 trillion dollars. On the ninth place is oil rich Saudi Arab with 1.14 trillion dollar GDP.

Israel that figures at the tenth spot has 500 billion dollar GDP. Population-wise strength shows that China has nearly 1.42 billion people and the second country in top ten is US that has 345 million people. Russia and China come next at 14.4 crore or 144 million and Japan has 12.37 crore.

COURAGE: Strong-willed Zakia Jafri's fight for justice will be remembered

For two decades, after her husband Ehsan Jafri was murdered in Gujarat pogrom, she kept fighting.

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Zakia Jafri, the wife of late Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, passed away. Over the years, she had become the symbol of steely resolve and courage. All these years, she kept fighting for justice for her husband, who had been brutally murdered. Ehsan Jafri, a former Congress MP, had made numerous phone calls but he was not given any assistance and he result was his

death. He tried to save the victims who were in the house to save their lives. Armed mob finally broke in and killed Ehsan Jafri in cold blood. His limbs were hacked & body burnt. After his death, Zakia Jafri remained at the forefront for justice in the aftermath of the Ahmedabad pogrom—one of the worst in Indian history. In the Gulberg society massacre, The killer mob had butchered the victims. Since 2002, Zakia began her fight and didn't take rest. She went up to the Supreme Court.

Though she didn't get justice, her fight is now a part of history. It's unforgettable and a lesson for future generations that how such injustice must not happen again. It can be said that the courts failed her. She went through the judicial maze, running from court to court, and at her age she knocked all the doors. She died and her last rites were performed—Zakia got buried beside her husband's grave. She was 86. She has become a symbol of resilience & an inspiration for the world.



Zakia Jafri