



Waqf Board Claims Over a Village in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, The Bihar [Waqf Board](#) has sent notice to villagers in Govindpur village, demanding they vacate the land within 30 days.

Key Points

- After receiving these notices, all landowners filed a petition in the Patna [High Court](#).
- The High Court stated that the land has been in the names of the petitioners' descendants since 1910.
 - [The Waqf \(Amendment\) Bill, 2024](#) was also introduced in the Parliament in August 2024.

Waqf Board

- A Waqf board is a **legal entity** capable of **acquiring, holding and transferring property**. It can sue and be sued in court.
- It administers Waqf properties, recovers lost properties and sanctions the transfer of immovable Waqf properties through sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease, with at least two-thirds of the board members voting in favour of the transaction.
- [The Central Waqf Council \(CWC\)](#), established in 1964, oversees and advises state level Waqf Boards across India.
- It is said to be the **third-largest landholder in India** after the Railways and the Defence department.

Key Amendments in Waqf Act (Amendment Bill), 2024

- **Transparency:** The Bill outlines around 40 amendments to the current Waqf Act, including that Waqf Boards **will be required to undergo mandatory verification for all property claims**, ensuring transparency.
- **Gender Diversity:** Sections 9 and 14 of [the Waqf Act, 1995](#) will be amended to modify **the composition and functioning** of the Waqf Board, including the addition of **women representatives**.
- **Revised Verification Procedures:** New verification procedures will be introduced for Waqf properties to **address disputes and prevent misuse**, with district magistrates potentially overseeing these properties.
- **Limited Power:** The amendments respond to **concerns about the Waqf Boards' unchecked powers**, which have led to extensive land being claimed as Waqf, causing disputes and misuse claims.
 - For example, in **September 2022, the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board claimed the entire Thiruchendurai village**, which is predominantly Hindu.

