

A Hand Book For Effective Administration & Governance of Temples

It is a common observation that new temples are springing up at a higher pace, in India, and also abroad. But the knowledge of temple committee members about Hinduism in general, and temples in particular, is quite low. Consequently the quality of services, maintenance, and security of properties in those temples is much less than desired, while the apathy of Hindu devotees is continuing without much change.

Our ancestors have gifted us great temples, constructed at several sacred locations of plains, hills, rivers and sea shores, and endowed with huge properties of land and jewelry. Subsequently they stood the tests of time and proved to be the sources of Hindu consciousness.

Such holy places of historical, cultural and spiritual importance and high riches are paradoxically now facing acute financial crisis, and are in a state of utter negligence and dilapidated condition. In fact, less said is the better about the ineffective administration of Endowment Departments in various states of India, under the prevailing legal system. The fundamental reasons for this state of affairs is the general apathy of the Hindu society at large, added to the State control of temples and too much of politicisation.

Beneficiaries of this Hand Book

Under these conditions, the Handbook is prepared to :

1. **Help the devotees** who would like to have some basic understanding of the internal aspects of a temple system.
2. **Encourage the philanthropists** who would like to contribute their services for welfare of the society through the temples.
3. **Assist the Administrators** in running the individual temples effectively on sound Hindu principles
4. **Create awareness among public** about the legal position with regard to Hindu Dharma, Temples, and religious freedom as guaranteed by Indian Constitution
5. **Highlight the shortfalls of Endowment Departments** in several states of India in temple management practices.
6. **Further motivate the Reformers** of Hindu Society and Law makers of Governments for taking up all necessary alternative steps for **“Governance of temples by Hindus only”** under the guidance of great Acharyas and Dharmadhikaris.