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## Current Affairs - 16 September 2025

### WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF ESCHEAT?



- It is a significant **legal concept** that ensures no property is left without ownership, reverting it to the state if the original owner dies without legal heirs or fails to make a will.
- This legal process addresses the handling of unclaimed assets, protecting societal interests and maintaining order within the legal framework.
- The doctrine addresses two primary situations:
  - when a person dies intestate (without a will) and without heirs, and
  - when property remains unclaimed or abandoned for a specific period.
- The underlying principle of escheat is that property must always have an identifiable owner, and in the absence of heirs, the government assumes ownership.
- In modern legal systems, escheat serves as a way to maintain orderly succession and prevent assets from being wasted or misused.
- Historical Origins of Escheat:
  - Escheat originates from the Old French word “eschete,” meaning “to fall to”.
  - The concept of escheat is rooted in the feudal system of medieval Europe, where land was held by tenants under a lord.
  - If the tenant died without an heir or was convicted of certain crimes like treason, the land would escheat, or revert, to the lord.

#### Escheat in Modern Legal Systems:

- In India, escheat is regulated primarily through Section 29 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, and Article 296 of the Constitution.
  - Where a valid will is executed and duly probated, the property must devolve strictly in line with the testator’s intent, leaving no room for the State to assert rights over the estate.



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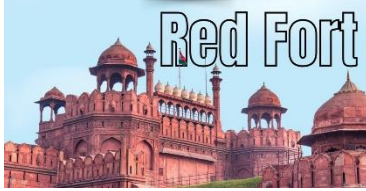
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### KEY FACTS ABOUT RED FORT



- The Red Fort, or **Lal Qila**, is a **Mughal fort** located in **Delhi, India**.
- Formerly known as **Quila-e-Mubarak**, or the **Blessed Fort**, the Red Fort lies along the banks of the river **Yamuna**, whose waters fed the moats surrounding the fort.
- It was built as the palace fort of **Shahjahanabad** – the new capital of the fifth Mughal Emperor of India, **Shah Jahan**.
- **Shah Jahan** constructed it in **1639**. It was designed by architects **Ustad Ahmad Lahauri** and **Ustad Hamid**.
- The fort was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in **2007**.

#### Architecture:

- The Red Fort's massive **red sandstone walls**, which stand **75 feet** (23 metres) high, **enclose a complex of palaces and entertainment halls**, projecting **balconies, baths** and indoor canals, and **geometrical gardens**, as well as an ornate mosque.
- The **planning** of the palace is based on **Islamic prototypes**, but each pavilion reveals architectural elements typical of Mughal buildings, reflecting a **fusion of Persian, Timurid, and Hindu traditions**.
- The fort is **octagonal**, with the north-south axis longer than the east-west axis.
- Among the **most famous structures** of the complex are the **Hall of Public Audience (Diwan-i-'Am)**, which has 60 red sandstone pillars supporting a flat roof, and the **Hall of Private Audience (Diwan-i-Khas)**, which is smaller and has a pavilion of white marble.
- It has **2 principal gates**—**Lahore Drawaza** and **Delhi Darwaza** along its western and southern sides, respectively.



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### EXERCISE PACIFIC REACH 2025



- It is a multinational **conducted in Singapore**.
- It is a **biennial** exercise which will witness participation of **more than 40 nations**.
- The exercise is mainly conducted in two phases, including the **harbour and sea phases**.
- **Focus of the Exercise:** The harbour phase will involve in-depth discussions on **submarine rescue systems, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE)**, a medical symposium and cross-deck visits between the participating nations.
- The Sea phase of the exercise would witness **INS Nistar and Submarine Rescue Unit (E)** engaging in multiple intervention and rescue operations with participating assets in the South China Sea.

### **Key Facts about INS Nistar**

- It was **commissioned on 18 Jul 2025**.
  - It was developed by HSL, Visakhapatnam, under the Ministry of **Defence's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative**.
  - The ship with its Side Scan Sonar, Work & observation class ROVs and expansive deep sea diving systems will be carrying out the role of mothership (MoSHIP) for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV).
  - **Diving and Rescue Capabilities**
    - **Integrated Saturation Diving System (ISDS):** Enables diver deployment at depths up to 300 meters, supporting underwater repairs, salvage, and rescue operations.
    - **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs):** These can be deployed for underwater surveillance and recovery missions in deep waters.
    - **Submarine Rescue System:** Especially crucial for submarine emergencies, allowing the timely and safe recovery of personnel from disabled submarines.
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### INDIA'S ECONOMIC AMBITIONS NEED BETTER GENDER DATA

- India's economic future depends on women's inclusion. Today, women **contribute only 18% to GDP**, and nearly 196 million employable women remain outside the workforce.
- Despite labour force participation rising to 41.7%, only 18% of women are in formal jobs.
- Without making women's opportunities visible, measurable, and actionable in every governance department, India risks losing trillions and falling short of its \$30 trillion goal by 2047.

### **Women's Economic Empowerment Index: A Gender Lens for Policy**

- Uttar Pradesh has introduced **India's first Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index**.
  - It is a district-level tool that tracks women's participation across five areas — jobs, education and skills, entrepreneurship, livelihood and mobility, and safety and infrastructure.

### **Making Gender Data and Budgeting Universal**

- To close India's gender gap, gender-disaggregated data must be integrated into every department — from MSMEs to housing — and local governments must be trained to use it for action plans.
- Beyond basic counts, data should track **women's retention, leadership, re-entry, and job quality**, especially after school and higher education where dropout rates are high.
- Equally vital is reimagining gender budgeting. Instead of limiting it to welfare schemes, every rupee spent across sectors like education, energy, and infrastructure should be viewed through a gender lens.
- Simply put, effective budgeting is impossible without measuring women's inclusion.

### **Scaling the WEE Index for Inclusive Growth**

- Uttar Pradesh's WEE Index offers a replicable model for other States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana, which aim for trillion-dollar economies.



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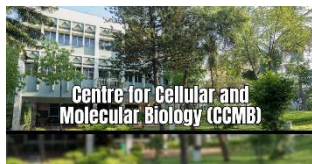


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- By turning gender data into district-level action plans, States can align budgets, infrastructure, and programmes to close gender gaps.
- The WEE Index is only the beginning, making the invisible visible and charting a path to bring women from the margins to the centre of India's growth story.

### WHAT IS THE CENTRE FOR CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (CCMB)?



Centre for Cellular and  
Molecular Biology (CCMB)

- It is India's **premier research organization** in frontier areas of **modern biology**.
- The **objectives** of the Centre are to conduct **high-quality basic research and training in frontier areas of modern biology**, and **promote centralized national facilities** for new and modern techniques in the interdisciplinary areas of biology.
- **Located in Hyderabad, Telangana**, CCMB is a **constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, a renowned national organization under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- **Established in 1977**, CCMB has emerged as a **global leader in cellular and molecular research** and is known for its contributions to understanding the molecular mechanisms that govern biological systems.
- CCMB's work **spans various disciplines of biology**, including **genetics, biotechnology, bioinformatics, immunology, and molecular medicine**.
- The institution is well-regarded for its **cutting-edge research in molecular biology, genomics, proteomics, and cellular mechanisms**.
- CCMB **has state-of-the-art facilities** for research, including a **high-throughput genomics facility and a bioinformatics centre**.
- The institute also **offers training programs and workshops** for students and researchers and collaborates with national and international institutions.
- CCMB is a **designated "Center of Excellence"** by the **Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO**.



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### SUPREME COURT PARTLY PAUSES WAQF (AMENDMENT) ACT 2025

- The Supreme Court of India passed an interim order **staying select provisions** of the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, while **refusing to impose a blanket stay on the entire law**. The Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 (passed in April 2025) had **introduced sweeping changes** in the management of Waqf properties, **leading to widespread constitutional challenges**.

#### Supreme Court's Interim Relief:

- **Powers of District Collectors (Section 3C):**
  - **Provision stayed:** District Collectors' powers to declare a Waqf property as government property during inquiry.
- **Inclusion of non-muslims in Waqf Boards:**
  - **The new law** allowed for a non-Muslim majority in Waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council.
  - **Direction issued by SC to avoid ambiguity:**
    - **Central Waqf Council**, which has 22 members, shall not consist of more than four non-Muslim members.
    - **State Waqf Boards**, with 11 members, shall not have more than three non-Muslim members.
- **Five-year rule for practising Islam:**
  - **Provision stayed:** Requirement that only a Muslim practising Islam for at least 5 years could create a Waqf.
  - **Condition:** Stay will continue until the government frames rules specifying mechanisms to determine religious practice.

#### Significance of the Interim Order:

- **Balances** community rights with government's regulatory powers.



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- **Prevents** arbitrary dispossession of Waqf properties while ensuring disputes are adjudicated by Waqf Tribunals.
- **Provides clarity** on non-Muslim participation limits in Waqf bodies.

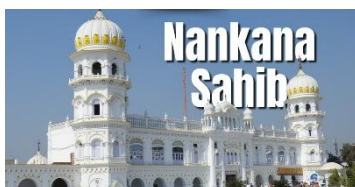
### Broader Concerns:

- **Property rights vs. religious law:**
  - The court **upheld the exclusion** of non-Muslims from creating Waqf, despite historical precedents.
- **Secular state dilemma:** Allowing officials to judge “good Muslims” vs “bad Muslims” challenges India’s secular and liberal democratic framework.
- **Comparative lens:** Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain endowment laws have their own limitations, raising parity questions.
- **Missed opportunity:** The Act could have been a step toward Uniform Civil Code (UCC) covering all religious endowments.

### Conclusion:

- The matter remains **sub judice**, with the stay operative until final adjudication of constitutional validity.
  - The case will **test the balance** between religious freedoms under Article 26, secular state oversight, and property rights.
  - **A final ruling will have significant implications** for the governance of Waqf properties, minority rights, and the principle of separation of powers in India’s constitutional framework.
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### NANKANA SAHIB



- It is a city located in the **Punjab** province of **Pakistan**, which is historically significant to the Sikh community.



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- It is the **birthplace of Guru Nanak**, the founder of the Sikh religion.
- Formerly known as **Rai-Bhoi-Di Talwandi**, **Rai Bhullar Bhatti** (grandson of Talwandi founder **Rai Bhoi**) renamed it **Nankana Sahib** in honor of **Guru Nanak Sahib's** birth.
- **Guru Nanak Dev Ji** spent his early years in **Nankana Sahib**, and from here began his divine calling and spiritual journey.
- It is where **Gurdwara Janam Asthan** (also called **Nankana Sahib Gurdwara**) is located.
  - The shrine is built over the site where **Guru Nanak** was **believed to be born in 1469**.
  - It was **constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh** after he visited Nankana Sahib in 1818-19 while returning from the Battle of Multan.
- Besides **Gurdwara Janam Asthan**, **Nankana Sahib** has **several important shrines**, including **Gurdwara Patti Sahib**, **Gurdwara Bal Leela**, **Gurdwara Mal Ji Sahib**, **Gurdwara Kiara Sahib**, and **Gurdwara Tambu Sahib**—all dedicated to stages in the life of the **first Guru**.
- There is also a **Gurdwara in memory of Guru Arjan (5th Guru) and Guru Hargobind (6th Guru)**. **Guru Hargobind** is believed to have **paid homage to the town in 1621-22**.

### POLYPROPYLENE



**POLYPROPYLENE**

- It is a thermoplastic polymer produced by the addition polymerization of propylene.
- It is a **synthetic resin** built up by the **polymerization of propylene**.
- It is one of the important **family of polyolefin resins**.



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- Polypropylene is molded or extruded into many plastic products in which **toughness, flexibility, light weight, and heat resistance** are required.

### Properties of Polypropylene

- It is highly resistant to chemical corrosion, making it an excellent choice for packaging of cleaning products and bleaches.
- It is a commodity plastic with low density and **high heat resistance**.
- **Flammability:** PP is a highly flammable material.
- **Density:** PP is one of the lightest polymers among all commodity plastics.

### Application of Polypropylene

- It is widely used in polymer materials in the **plastic manufacturing industry** to produce various end products, especially plastic packaging.
  - Polypropylene has high insulation properties too, making it **safe to use for plastic casing in electrical goods and cables**.
  - It offers impressive chemical and biological-resistant properties and makes polypropylene an obvious choice for the **medical industry**.
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