

Highlights of 08 September 2026 Current Affairs

- The Central Government officially **deferred the house-listing operations for Census 2027 in Manipur** until further notice. Issued by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the **Census Act, 1948** and Census Rules, 1990, via an amendment to the initial January 2026 notification. While house-listing procedures proceed across the rest of the country, Manipur has been temporarily carved out as an exception due to prevailing ground conditions, with no fixed resumption date. House-listing is the foundational first phase of the decennial census exercise, designed to map and collect structural data on all buildings and housing stock to establish a precise framework for subsequent population enumeration.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** stands unequivocally as the richest cricket board in the world, maintaining an overwhelming financial lead over all global counterparts. The astronomical valuation of the Indian board is anchored by massive domestic and international media rights, extensive corporate sponsorships, and premier properties like the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** and the **Women's Premier League (WPL)**. Beyond international bilateral fixtures and ICC revenue shares, the financial health of modern boards increasingly relies on domestic T20 leagues—such as the Big Bash League (Australia), The Hundred (England), the Pakistan Super League (Pakistan), and the SA20 (South Africa)—which drive substantial broadcast and commercial partnerships.
- September 8, 2026, marks the **60th anniversary** of International Literacy Day (first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966 and observed since 1967). **The Theme: "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity."** The official international celebrations are hosted by UNESCO on September 8–9, 2026, in **Chiapas, Mexico**, in partnership with the Mexican government. UNESCO data highlights that approximately **739 million youths and adults** still lack basic literacy skills, while about **four out of ten children** fail to attain minimum reading proficiency levels. Aligns directly with **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)**, emphasizing quality education, lifelong learning, and the role of literacy as an essential human right for social inclusion, environmental awareness, and economic empowerment.
- The **Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026** ranks Indian cities based on administrative measures and policy interventions implemented to curb air pollution rather than purely reflecting ambient air quality.
 - **Top-Ranked Cities by Category:**
 - **Category-I (Population > 10 Lakh):** Lucknow secured 1st place (Score: 198), followed closely by Indore (197) and Jabalpur (195).
 - **Category-II (Population 3–10 Lakh):** Rourkela topped the list (Score: 198.5).
 - **Category-III (Population < 3 Lakh):** Kalinga Nagar secured the top rank (Score: 198.5).
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah conferred the **President's Colour** (the highest ceremonial honor bestowed upon a military or police unit, also known as *Rashtrapati ka Nishan*) on the **Goa Police** at a ceremony in Panaji. Recognizes **eight decades of dedicated service**, bravery, discipline, and professional excellence since the force's

origins (*Policia do Estado da India*). Goa thus became the **15th state police force** in India to receive this distinction.

- **Technological Milestones:**
 - Unveiled an **AI-powered call agent for the 1930 cyber fraud helpline**, capable of supporting multiple languages (including Konkani, Marathi, Hindi, and others listed in the Eighth Schedule).
 - Noted a significant drop in the **112 emergency response time** down to 8 minutes.
- The **72nd National Film Awards** ceremony is moving out of New Delhi for the first time in decades, scheduled to be held on **September 22, 2026**, at **Ekta Nagar (Statue of Unity) in Narmada district, Gujarat**. President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the awards to the winners at a specially constructed German aluminum dome structure near the monument. While traditionally hosted in New Delhi (typically at Vigyan Bhawan), the ceremony has only rarely been held outside the capital—most notably the 17th National Film Awards in Chennai (then Madras) in 1970.
- A proposed **1,170-km high-speed rail (bullet train) corridor** connecting the national capital to Bihar, passing through Uttar Pradesh. Designed for a maximum speed of **350 km/h** with an **operational speed of 320 km/h**, cutting down travel time between New Delhi and Patna from 12–15 hours to just **4.5 hours**.
- The Indian and Chinese armies held their **first-ever Corps Commander-level talks in the Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh)**, shifting a military dialogue mechanism that was previously restricted primarily to Chushul-Moldo in eastern Ladakh. The high-level meeting took place at the **Wacha-Damai border meeting point in the Kibithoo sector** of Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian delegation was headed by **Lieutenant General Girish Kalia**, Commander of the Dimapur-based 3 Corps (Spear Corps). The dialogue followed recent friction and reported military posturing by Chinese troops in areas like Taksing (Upper Subansiri district) and came on the heels of the Special Representative (SR) talks in Beijing between NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.
- The **inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK)** marks the region's first major government-backed global film festival. Held from **September 7 to 10, 2026**, primarily hosted at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, with events spanning across the Valley, including Gulmarg.
 - **The Theme: "Rang-e-Cinema"** (Colours of Cinema).
 - Received an overwhelming response with **over 1,100 entries from 80 countries**, out of which **135 films** (including over 60 international entries from countries like France and Iran) were shortlisted for screening. Features a unique **"floating cinema" on Dal Lake** showcasing classic Bollywood films historically shot in the Valley (such as *Kashmir Ki Kali*, *Kabhi Kabhie*, and *Junglee*) alongside international and regional language features.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a comprehensive, mission-mode **three-year anti-narcotics roadmap (July 2026 to July 2029)** aimed at systematically dismantling India's drug syndicates and achieving a drug-free nation. Treated as a national security priority, the initiative integrates over **200 time-bound action points** across **25 key components**, backed by strict quarterly reviews and cross-ministerial accountability.
 - **The Four Pillars of the Strategy**
 - **1. Intelligence- and Operations-Based Enforcement**

- **2. Precursor and Synthetic Drugs Control**
 - **3. Demand and Harm Reduction**
 - **4. Capacity Building and Coordination**
- **Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage** with a winning throw of **89.04 meters** on his third attempt at the King Baudouin Stadium, he became the **first-ever Sri Lankan athlete to win a Diamond League title**. He out-threw Poland's Dawid Wegner (87.47 m, who finished second) and former Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott (83.99 m, who took third). This victory capped off a stellar breakthrough year for Pathirage, which also included a world-leading throw of 92.62m earlier in the season and a gold medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games.