

Highlights of 20 September 2026 Current Affairs

- Ace kabaddi player **Pawan Sehrawat** stepped in at the last minute to replace star shot-putter **Tajinderpal Singh Toor** as India's male flag-bearer for the opening ceremony of the **20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**. He shares the honor alongside shooting sensation **Manu Bhaker**, who serves as the female flag-bearer.
 - **Logistical Delay:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor—a two-time Asian Games champion—was originally named flag-bearer, but was forced to pull out of the ceremony due to a delay involving his official ceremonial kit.
- **HONOHON** is the official mascot for the **20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026**, embodying the energy, cultural heritage, and competitive spirit of the region.
 - **Origin:** The name **HONOHON** is derived from "**Honoho**," an archaic Japanese term associated with **flame**.
 - **Symbolism:** It reflects flames burning high and bright—resembling the shape of a rice ear—to personify the fiery passion, enthusiasm, and competitive drive of participating athletes.
- President Donald Trump announced a sweeping trilateral security agreement between the **United States, Denmark, and Greenland**, declaring that Washington has secured what he termed an "**Infinite Life**" **agreement** granting permanent control over security matters on the Arctic island.
 - **Permanent Security Access:** Trump stated that the accord ensures the U.S. will "FOREVER have the complete ability to do what is necessary" to defend both Greenland and the United States.
 - **Exclusion of Adversaries:** A primary strategic objective of the pact is to block rival powers—specifically naming Russia and China—from establishing any military bases, maintaining a security presence, or carrying out sensitive investments on the island without explicit U.S. written approval.
- Legendary investor **Warren Buffett** has officially stepped down as Chairman of **Berkshire Hathaway**, bringing to a close a historic leadership era spanning more than five decades. Buffett, who recently turned 96, announced the transition in a letter to shareholders, noting: "*Father Time always wins. He has, however, been generous with me.*"
- The 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) tasked with scrutinizing the contentious **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** held its maiden meeting in New Delhi.
 - **Leadership & Composition:** The panel is chaired by senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lok Sabha MP **Sanjay Jaiswal**. The 31-member committee comprises 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha, reflecting cross-party representation.
 - **Home Ministry Briefing:** During the opening session, Union Home Secretary **Govind Mohan** delivered a comprehensive briefing to the panel, outlining the core policy framework, legislative gaps, and objectives behind the proposed changes.
- Renowned German-American artist **Peter Max**, whose vibrant, dreamlike, and boldly colorful works defined the visual culture and optimism of the **1960s counterculture movement**, passed away at a hospital in Manhattan at the age of 88.

- **Defining the "Flower Power" Era:** Max's art became synonymous with the 1960s hippie movement. Characterized by cosmic landscapes, starbursts, floating peace symbols, and kaleidoscopic butterflies, his style captured the psychedelic aesthetic of the decade.
- The United Nations officially announced the appointment of senior U.S. agriculture and trade official **Luke Lindberg** as the next **Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)**. The appointment was confirmed following a joint announcement by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General Qu Dongyu after agreement from the WFP Executive Board.
 - **Succession:** Lindberg succeeds **Cindy McCain**, who stepped down from the role. (Carl Skau had been serving as the Acting Executive Director during the interim transition period).
- US President Donald Trump signed the **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026** into law. The sweeping legislation grants the White House broad discretionary authority to penalize major international buyers of Russian energy, placing countries like **India and China** directly in the spotlight.
 - **Tariff Authority:** The law grants the US president the statutory power to impose **tariffs of up to 100%** on goods imported from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or natural gas, as well as nations facilitating sanctions evasion.
 - **Targeting the Russian War Machine:** Alongside trade and tariff measures, the legislation expands statutory sanctions on Russian financial institutions, defense networks, and Moscow's "shadow fleet" of energy-transporting tankers.
 - **Extension on Iran:** The bill also formally extends existing U.S. sanctions on Iran for an additional five years.
 - **Discretionary Enforcement & Waivers:** The law does not automatically trigger a 100% tariff on Indian exports. Instead, it sets a 30-day window before implementation and provides the executive branch with discretionary enforcement options, including the ability to issue national-interest waivers to Congress.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) two-day international conference titled **"The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics"** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
 - **Global Participation:** The high-level event brings together jurists, judges, environmental experts, and government officials from **17 countries**, alongside key international organizations like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - **Core Objectives:** The conference focuses on strengthening environmental governance, enhancing judicial cooperation across borders, addressing policy and implementation gaps, and advancing climate justice and inter-generational equity.
 - **Technology Launch:** During the inaugural session, PM Modi also officially launched the **National Green Tribunal (NGT) Mobile Application** to streamline processes and improve accessibility.
 - **Key Dignitaries Present:** The opening session was graced by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, Attorney General for India R. Venkataramani, and NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava.

- **Valedictory Session:** President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to address the concluding session of the conference.