

Highlights of 21 September 2026 Current Affairs

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) granted formal marketing authorization to **QDENG (TAK-003)**, marking a monumental milestone as **India's first approved dengue vaccine**. Developed by the Japanese pharmaceutical major **Takeda**, the vaccine is cleared for individuals aged **4 to 60 years**.
 - **Private Market Launch (2027):** Takeda partnered with **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories** under an exclusive commercial agreement where Dr. Reddy's will handle the promotion, marketing, and distribution across India's private pediatric and adult market. Subject to final local import and regulatory procedures, the vaccine is anticipated to hit the private market in the **first half of 2027**.
 - **Public Market Strategy:** Takeda retains all legal ownership and rights for the public market, keeping the door open for discussions regarding potential future integration into India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- Fifteen-year-old Indian shooter **Yugan Sakthivel Muthukumaar** clinched the gold medal in the **men's trap event** at the **ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun 2026** held in Porpetto, Italy.
 - **The Winning Performance:** In a high-stakes eight-shooter final, Yugan fired accurately to hit **27 out of 30 targets**, edging out hosts Italy's Francesco Tanfoglio by a solitary target to secure the top podium finish.
 - **Hard-Fought Path to Finals:** Yugan qualified for the final round in sixth position with a score of **114 out of 125**, successfully earning his spot in the medal round after a tense shoot-off.
 - **First Medal for India:** This victory marked **India's first medal** at the Porpetto meet.
- India has secured the **No. 1 ranking for business climate** among 41 global markets in the **Global Business Climate Survey 2026**, released by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India (SCCI) and Business Sweden. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted the milestone, describing India as a "gold standard for stability, growth, and ease of doing business" amid global turbulence.
 - **High Approval Ratings:** **73%** of surveyed Swedish enterprises rated India's operating climate as either "good" or "very good".
 - **Strong Investment Intent:** Approximately **61%** of Swedish companies operating in India indicated plans to scale up their investments over the next 12 months, placing India at the forefront of capital expenditure targets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
 - **Growth and Revenue Projections:** Alongside countries like the Philippines and Poland, India recorded the highest market-level revenue and future growth expectations among all 41 surveyed jurisdictions.
 - **Consistent Performer:** This top-tier placement marks a continuation of India's strong standing, having maintained a position in the global top three of the index for four consecutive years.
- The Tamil Nadu government's flagship newborn welfare initiative, the **Thaaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam** (Maternal Uncle Gold Ring Scheme), is designed to celebrate childbirth and encourage institutional deliveries across state-run medical facilities.

- **Official Statewide Launch:** Scheduled for **September 28, 2026**, led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay.
 - **Retrospective Eligibility Window:** While the formal distribution begins in late September, the scheme covers all eligible babies born in government hospitals starting from **June 22, 2026**.
- The Karnataka Cabinet officially approved **Tulu** as the state's **second additional administrative language** for the coastal districts of **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**. The decision was announced during a historic special state cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru, fulfilling a decades-long cultural and linguistic aspiration of the region.
 - **Geographical Scope:** The official recognition applies specifically to the twin coastal districts of **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**, where Tulu is predominantly spoken and deeply rooted in local heritage.
 - **Financial and Institutional Support:** To facilitate the smooth transition of Tulu into local governance, the state government earmarked an initial **annual allocation of ₹82 lakh** dedicated specifically to official translation services and administrative training.
 - **Broader Regional Package:** The announcement coincided with a massive **₹32,611 crore development package** cleared for the coastal and Malnad regions, which includes the approval of the Coastal-Malnad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026 and plans for a dedicated Fisheries and Blue Economy University.
 - **Proposed District Renaming:** Alongside the linguistic status, the government initiated formal steps to launch a public consultation process to **rename Dakshina Kannada district as Mangaluru district**, aligning with the region's prominent international identity.
- Veteran war hero and 1965 Indo-Pak War recipient **Alfred Tyrone Cooke** has passed away. He was a distinguished decorated officer renowned for his exceptional bravery on the battlefield.
 - **Gallantry Award:** For his conspicuous acts of gallantry, leadership, and unwavering courage during operations in the **1965 war**, he was decorated with the **Vir Chakra**, India's third-highest wartime gallantry medal.
 - **Military Legacy:** Throughout his decades of service, Cooke represented the highest traditions of the Indian Armed Forces, earning immense respect among fellow veterans and the defense community.
 - **Tributes:** Condolences poured in from military associations, veterans' forums, and regional authorities, remembering his foundational contributions to the nation during one of its most critical conflicts.
- The **International Day of Peace** (often informally known as World Peace Day) is observed on September 21 globally every year to strengthen the ideals of peace, human rights, non-violence, and global cooperation. **Theme: "Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day"** **Core Focus:** The 2026 campaign shifts spotlight onto the **"everyday architects of peace"**—grassroots individuals, local community leaders, educators, and youth driving localized actions to bridge divides. The UN emphasizes that peace is not merely forged in high-level diplomatic conference rooms, but requires continuous investment, dialogue, inclusion, and micro-level choices made by ordinary people in their daily lives.