

Daily Current Affairs

21 August 2026

World Senior Citizens Day

- World Senior Citizens Day 2026 is observed on 21st August, which shall focus on the contributions, wisdom and life experiences of senior citizens. The observance also focuses on some significant issues like the dignity of the senior citizens, health care, social inclusion, emotional well being, accessibility and security.
- The seniors bring experience and valuable lessons of life to the society. However, at the same time many senior citizens face such challenges as loneliness, poor access to healthcare, mobility issues, insecurity and lack of interaction.
- This observance promotes,
 - Respect towards senior citizens
 - Independence and dignity of older persons
 - Good healthcare and support of emotions
 - Accessible housing, transport and public places
 - Connection between generations



Disease	Causative agent	Main mosquito vector	Key feature
Malaria	<i>Plasmodium</i> parasites	Female <i>Anopheles</i>	Fever with chills; <i>P. falciparum</i> and <i>P. vivax</i> are important in India
Dengue	Dengue virus	<i>Aedes aegypti</i> , <i>Aedes albopictus</i>	High fever, severe body ache; may progress to severe dengue
Chikungunya	Chikungunya virus	<i>Aedes aegypti</i> , <i>Aedes albopictus</i>	Fever with prominent joint pain
Japanese Encephalitis (JE)	Japanese encephalitis virus	Mainly <i>Culex</i> mosquitoes	Can cause inflammation of the brain

			and neurological complications
Lymphatic Filariasis	Filarial worms, mainly <i>Wuchereria bancrofti</i>	Mainly <i>Culex</i> mosquitoes in India	Can cause lymphoedema and elephantiasis
West Nile Fever	West Nile virus	Mainly <i>Culex</i> mosquitoes	Usually mild, but neurological disease can occur
Zika virus disease	Zika virus	Mainly <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Usually mild; particularly important because infection during pregnancy can affect the fetus

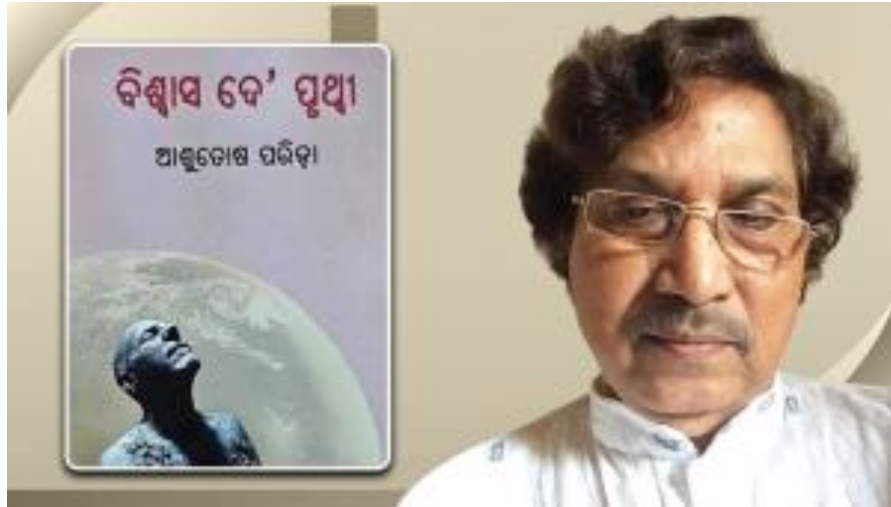
Mirza Fakhrul Alamgir Elected Bangladesh's 23rd President

- Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has been elected as the president of Bangladesh by getting a majority vote in the parliamentary elections as this is a huge career leap for one of the senior **Bangladesh Nationalist Party** leaders.
- The presidential election of Bangladesh grabbed attention due to more than one presidential candidate contesting the polls for the first time in 35 years.
- The election became a necessity when Mohammed Shahabuddin tendered his resignation on July 24 due to ill health. Shahabuddin was serving as the 22nd President of Bangladesh since April 2023, who had been elected unopposed as the Awami League candidate. His term of five years would have continued up till April 2028.



Ashutosh Parida to Receive 47th Sarala Puraskar

- Odia poet, essayist and former CSIR-IMMT scientist Dr. Ashutosh Parida has been selected for the 47th Sarala Puraskar for his poetry collection Bishwas De Pruthwi.
- The award ceremony is scheduled in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 25 October 2026, and the honour carries a citation, a copper plaque and a cash prize of Rs 7 lakh.
- The Sarala Puraskar is a literary award associated with Odisha and is presented by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the charitable arm of IMFA. The award recognises works in Odia literature and is among the prominent literary honours in the state.
- Dr. Parida's book was chosen from a final shortlist of seven books compiled in 2026. The shortlist included works by Aparna Mohanty, Padmaja Pal and Archana Nayak, along with other writers considered by the jury.
- IMPACT also announced the 2026 Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman for lifetime excellence in the arts. The recipients are Odissi maestro Guru Durga Charan Ranbir and sculptor Damodar Behera, and each award carries a citation, a copper plaque and a cash prize of **Rs 2.5 lakh**.



Sowcar Janaki Dies at 94 in Chennai

- Veteran South Indian actress Sankaramanchi Janaki, known as Sowcar Janaki, died at the age of 94 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 21 August 2026. She was associated with Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam cinema, and her debut film was the 1950 Telugu film Shavukaru.
- Sankaramanchi Janaki became widely known by the screen name Sowcar Janaki after her debut in Shavukaru, directed by L. V. Prasad. The film title was rendered as Sowcar in some references, and the name remained attached to her career in South Indian cinema.
- Her film career extended across several decades and included work in multiple South Indian languages. News references placed her film count at nearly 400 films in some accounts and over 450 films in others, which reflects a factual variation in published filmography totals.
- Janaki received the Padma Shri in 2022, which is India's fourth-highest civilian award. She also received the Kalaimamani award in 1969 and multiple Nandi Awards, which are state-level honours associated with Telugu cinema and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.



India and ADB Sign \$230 Million Chennai Water Loan

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed a \$230 million loan agreement on 21 August 2026 for the Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project. The project covers water supply and sanitation infrastructure in the Greater Chennai area and targets about 4.5 million residents.
- The project includes construction of more than 170 kilometres of water supply and sewer pipelines. It also covers the upgradation of 7 water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations in Chennai.
- The loan was signed by Saurabh Singh, Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, and Mio Oka, Country Director of the India Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank. The loan was approved by the Asian Development Bank on 3 July 2026.
- The project will make Chennai the first city in India to implement a closed-loop ring-main system for water supply. The system is designed to balance water pressure across the network and improve resilience to natural hazards. The project also includes digital monitoring of networks and mechanised equipment for sewer inspection.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Senior Citizens Day is observed every year on:

- A. 15 August
- B. 21 August
- C. 29 August
- D. 5 September

Answer: B. 21 August

2. Which of the following is an important objective of World Senior Citizens Day?

- A. Promoting industrial development
- B. Promoting respect and dignity of older persons
- C. Increasing agricultural production
- D. Promoting international trade

Answer: B. Promoting respect and dignity of older persons

3. Which mosquito is the principal vector of malaria?

- A. Aedes
- B. Culex
- C. Female Anopheles
- D. Mansonia

Answer: C. Female Anopheles

4. Which pair is correctly matched?

- A. Dengue — Anopheles
- B. Malaria — Aedes
- C. Chikungunya — Aedes
- D. Japanese Encephalitis — Anopheles

Answer: C. Chikungunya — Aedes

5. Dr. Ashutosh Parida was selected for which literary award?

- A. Jnanpith Award
- B. Sarala Puraskar
- C. Sahitya Akademi Award
- D. Vyas Samman

Answer: B. Sarala Puraskar

6. Dr. Ashutosh Parida received the 47th Sarala Puraskar for which work?

- A. Bishwas De Pruthwi
- B. Pruthwi O Manisha
- C. Heritage of Odisha
- D. Odia Sahitya

Answer: A. *Bishwas De Pruthwi*

7. Sowcar Janaki made her film debut in which 1950 Telugu film?

- A. Devadasu
- B. Shavukaru
- C. Missamma
- D. Malliswari

Answer: B. *Shavukaru*

8. Sowcar Janaki was honoured with the Padma Shri in:

- A. 2018
- B. 2019
- C. 2020
- D. 2022

Answer: D. 2022

9. The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed a loan agreement worth how much for the Chennai water and sewerage project?

- A. \$150 million
- B. \$180 million
- C. \$230 million
- D. \$300 million

Answer: C. \$230 million

10. The Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project is primarily focused on:

- A. Metro railway expansion
- B. Water supply and sanitation infrastructure
- C. Coastal tourism development
- D. Airport modernisation

Answer: B. Water supply and sanitation infrastructure