

16/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Sushruta Jayanti:*

Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'Saushrutam 2026' at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi today (July 15, 2026), on Sushruta Jayanti.

About Sushruta Jayanti:

- ❖ Sushruta was an ancient Indian surgeon (traditionally dated around the 7th century BCE) and is regarded as the Father of Surgery and Father of Plastic Surgery.
- ❖ He authored the Sushruta Samhita, one of the Great Trilogy of Ayurveda along with Charaka Samhita and Ashtanga Hridaya.
- ❖ The Sushruta Samhita is the foundational text of Ayurvedic surgery (Shalya Tantra) and contains detailed principles of medicine and surgery.
- ❖ The text describes over 100 surgical instruments, 300+ surgical procedures, 650 medicinal drugs, and covers anatomy, embryology, toxicology, and therapeutics.
- ❖ The Samhita is divided into five major sections: Sutrasthana – Basic medical principles and pharmacology, Nidanasthana – Pathology and diagnosis, Sarirasthana – Human anatomy and embryology, Chikitsasthana – Medical and surgical treatment and Kalpasthana – Toxicology
- ❖ Sushruta emphasized human dissection as an essential part of surgical training, making him one of the earliest anatomists.
- ❖ He made significant contributions to plastic surgery (rhinoplasty), reconstructive surgery, and cataract surgery, techniques that influenced modern medicine.
- ❖ He advocated the use of wine and herbal intoxicants (e.g., henbane) as early forms of anaesthesia during surgery.
- ❖ Sushruta explained the treatment of 12 types of fractures and 6 types of dislocations.
- ❖ He described principles of traction, manipulation, reduction (apposition), immobilization (stabilization), and postoperative physiotherapy.
- ❖ His contributions extended beyond surgery to anatomy, embryology, obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics, internal medicine, and toxicology.
- ❖ He recommended methods for hair restoration and removal of unwanted hair, indicating knowledge of cosmetic procedures.
- ❖ Sushruta promoted ethical medical practice, cleanliness, proper surgical instruments, and systematic training of physicians.
- ❖ His work marked the Golden Age of Surgery in Ancient India and laid the foundation for later developments in Ayurveda and surgery.
- ❖ Significance: Sushruta's scientific approach, emphasis on anatomy, surgical precision, and reconstructive techniques make him one of the greatest physicians in the history of medicine and a pioneer of modern surgical science.

2. *Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS):*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budgetary outlay of Rs 62,500 crore (Rupees Sixty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Crore Only).

About Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS):

- ❖ To further scale up the production, deepen domestic value addition, strengthen supply chain resilience, enhance global competitiveness, the Government has launched the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS).
- ❖ MPMS scheme also aims at building Indian brands to achieve technological sovereignty, capture large economic value and create Indian patents in design and R&D. The scheme tenure shall be 5 Years i.e. from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- ❖ The scheme provides incentive support on eligible sales for manufacturing of mobile phones in India at differentiated rates ranging from 2.25% to 5%.
- ❖ Scheme also provides additional incentive of up to 1.5% linked to domestic sourcing of key components/ sub-assemblies.
- ❖ For building Indian brands, an additional incentive @3% on Eligible Sales for design and R&D of the product.
- ❖ During the scheme tenure, the cumulative mobile phone production in the country is expected to reach approximately Rs 39,00,000 crore with significant increase in exports of mobile phones.
- ❖ The Scheme is also expected to generate around 60,000 direct jobs thereby contributing to economic growth, employment generation and strengthening India's position in global electronics manufacturing hub.

3. *National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026):*

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers on National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026).

About National Investment Policy for Urea-2026:

- ❖ To attract New Investments in the Urea sector, a policy for investments in the Urea sector was finalised by the Department of Fertilizers for Revamp, Expansion, Revival/Brownfield and Greenfield projects in 2012.
- ❖ Under New Investment Policy (NIP) – 2012, total 6 new Urea units have been set up which includes 4 urea units set up through Joint Venture Companies (JVC) of nominated PSUs and 2 urea units set up by the private companies. The period for new investment under NIP-2012 expired by October-2019.
- ❖ At present, there are 33 operational Urea manufacturing units with total Reassessed/installed capacity of 269.42 LMT.
- ❖ There is a need to increase the indigenous production of Urea. There is a gap in the indigenous production and demand of urea in the country which is filled by the import of urea.
- ❖ The new policy will encourage new investments in the Urea sector for setting up the gas based Urea manufacturing units in the country. This will help in achieving the goal of self-sufficiency.
- ❖ Setting up of new Urea manufacturing units will be covered under the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026).

4. *Kevda plant:*

Context: Scientists, through regular investigations of the rich fossil flora of northeast India, chanced upon fossil leaves showing remarkable similarities to modern Kevda-- the fossil records of which are extremely rare worldwide. This led the scientists from Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, (BSIP) Lucknow, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to trace the evolutionary history of this culturally important plant.

About Kevda plant:

- ❖ Fossil leaves recovered from a coalfield in the North East state of Assam have revealed that Kevda plant well known for the fragrant kewra essence, used in sweets, traditional medicine and also in temples has survived in the Indian subcontinent for at least 24 million years and is a living survivor from India's ancient tropical forests.
- ❖ The study helps in understanding the role of India as a refuge for ancient plant lineages, the evolution of biodiversity during periods of climate change as well as comprehending future ecosystem responses.
- ❖ Kevda (Kewda/Keora) (*Pandanus odorifer*) is a fragrant tropical plant belonging to the Pandanaceae family.
- ❖ It is famous for its aromatic male flowers, which are used to produce kewda water and kewda attar (essential oil/perfume).
- ❖ The leaves are long (1–2 m), narrow, sword-shaped, bright green, with sharp spiny margins and a tough, fibrous texture.
- ❖ Leaves are spirally arranged around the stem, giving the plant a rosette-like appearance.
- ❖ Strong leaf fibres are used to make mats, baskets, hats, ropes, and other handicrafts.
- ❖ In some regions, the leaves are also used as natural food wrappers and for traditional decorations.
- ❖ The plant plays an important ecological role by stabilizing coastal sand dunes and acting as a windbreak.
- ❖ Kevda is commonly found in the coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

5. *Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS):*

Context: Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster to come up in Porbandar, Gujarat.

More details:

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has accorded in-principle approval to two strategic maritime infrastructure projects, a Greenfield shipbuilding cluster in Porbandar district of Gujarat and a state-of-the-art ship repair facility at Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch, under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).
- ❖ The two projects have been granted in-principle approval under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), a key component of the Government of India's strategy to strengthen indigenous shipbuilding and ship repair capabilities under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- ❖ The approvals cover the establishment of Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster on the western coast and financial assistance for the development of one of the country's largest ship repair facilities.

- ❖ The Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster will be developed through the National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park–Gujarat (NSHIP-Gujarat), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) jointly promoted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and the Gujarat Maritime Board.
- ❖ Spread across nearly 2,000 acres at Kuchhadi in Gujarat's Porbandar district, the integrated maritime manufacturing cluster will comprise modern shipyards, ancillary manufacturing units, common infrastructure and capability development centres.
- ❖ The project is designed to build large commercial vessels with an annual production capacity of 1.2 to 1.5 million gross tonnage (GT), significantly expanding India's domestic shipbuilding capacity while positioning Gujarat as a major hub for heavy-tonnage vessel construction.
- ❖ The second project approved under the scheme is a ₹1,570-crore ship repair facility at Vadinar, to be jointly developed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA). The project had earlier received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on May 5, 2026, and has now secured in-principle approval under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme for 25% financial assistance on eligible capital infrastructure.
- ❖ The brownfield expansion will include a 650-metre jetty, two large floating dry docks, workshops and supporting marine infrastructure.

6. **BIMSTEC:**

Context: India will host the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Advisers' Meeting in New Delhi on 16 July 2026. BIMSTEC is the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, a regional grouping of seven member states in South and South-East Asia.

About BIMSTEC:



- ❖ BIMSTEC is an economic bloc that came into being in June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- ❖ BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997.
- ❖ Its Permanent Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- ❖ Its aim is to counter the onslaught of globalisation by accelerating regional growth through mutual cooperation by utilising regional resources and geographical advantages.
- ❖ It is sector-driven cooperative organisation in which, initially, 6 sectors had been included: Trade, Technology, Energy, Transport, Tourism and Fisheries
- ❖ As of now, BIMSTEC has 14 priority areas of cooperation.
- ❖ Climate change was added as the 14th priority area of cooperation in 2008.
- ❖ BIMSTEC was not having charter since many years.
- ❖ BIMSTEC charter was signed and adopted during the 5th summit of the grouping in Sri Lanka, in 2022.
- ❖ With the endorsement of the charter by Nepal, all member states completed the ratification of the foundational document and the charter came into force on May 20, 2024.

7. ***‘Guidance on Regulatory Expectations for Data Governance’:***

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the ‘Guidance on Regulatory Expectations for Data Governance’ for banks and other Regulated Entities (REs) prescribing a comprehensive framework to strengthen governance of data across the banking system.

About ‘Guidance on Regulatory Expectations for Data Governance’:

- ❖ The RBI has released a draft Data Governance Framework (DGF) for Regulated Entities (REs).
- ❖ The framework aims to improve data quality, accountability, risk management, and data security.
- ❖ It seeks to ensure compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, and other applicable laws.
- ❖ The initiative reflects the growing importance of data amid increasing digitalisation of the financial sector.
- ❖ The RBI emphasized that weak data governance can lead to financial, operational, compliance, and reputational risks.
- ❖ The DGF covers the entire data lifecycle, including governance, policies, processes, technology, and audit mechanisms.
- ❖ All Regulated Entities must establish a comprehensive DGF aligned with their overall risk management framework.
- ❖ The framework should be proportionate to the size, complexity, business model, and technology infrastructure of each RE.
- ❖ Banks are required to review and update the Data Governance Framework annually or whenever necessary.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and Punjab National Bank (PNB), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on advancing multilingual AI solutions for inclusive banking and citizen-centric financial services through the BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan initiative.
- ☐ The Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), an institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, today successfully hosted its third annual industry business meet, SYNCHN 2026 (Synergistic Collaboration in Healthcare Innovation), at the NCR Biotech Science Cluster campus in Faridabad. The event brought together prominent global health leaders, biotechnology experts, venture capitalists, startups, and policymakers to address coordination gaps and build a concrete pipeline to transfer lab-bench science into commercial-scale patient solutions.
- ☐ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has accorded in-principle approval to two strategic maritime infrastructure projects, a Greenfield shipbuilding cluster in Porbandar district of Gujarat and a state-of-the-art ship repair facility at Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch, under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).
- ☐ Manohari Gold Tea is a rare speciality tea from the Manohari Tea Estate in Assam. It is made from tender tea buds of the P126 tea clone and is processed through hand-plucking, hand-rolling, and natural sun-drying during the second flush season in June.
- ☐ The Pichavaram mangrove forest in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu, has been assessed for ecosystem services at ₹2,485.38 crore, or about US\$289 million. The valuation placed the total economic value at ₹1.83 crore per hectare and included carbon storage, fisheries support, tourism, coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and local livelihoods.
- ☐ Indian scientists developed a portable, self-powered and wearable ammonia sensing device on 14 July 2026. The device was developed at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and it detects ammonia at concentrations as low as 319 parts per billion (ppb).
- ☐ Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI) is set to invite bids for a ₹28,000 crore Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) tender for the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project in Banswara district, Rajasthan. The package is named the Nuclear Island Mega EPC Package (NIMEP) and covers four 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor units with a combined capacity of 2,800 MWe. ASHVINI is a joint venture between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and NTPC Limited. The Mahi Banswara project is also known as the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP).

Practice questions:***Objective questions:***

The Mahi Banswara Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP) is located in:

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra

Kevda is renowned for its fragrant essence, widely used in perfumes, sweets, beverages, traditional medicine, and temple rituals. This aromatic extract is obtained from which part of the Kevda plant?

- (a) Roots
- (b) Leaves
- (c) Male flowers
- (d) Fruits

Consider the following statements regarding the Vadinar Ship Repair Facility:

1. It will be jointly developed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA).
2. It has been approved under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme for 25% financial assistance on eligible capital infrastructure.
3. It is a Greenfield project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Which one of the following correctly represents the founding members of BIMSTEC?

- (a) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Thailand
- (b) Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- (c) Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- (d) India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand

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