

Highlights of 16 July 2026 Current Affairs

- The **annual Jagannath Rath Yatra** has **begun in Puri**, Odisha.
- The **Union Cabinet** has **approved the second iteration of India's Semiconductor Mission**, a fresh six-year initiative worth **₹1.27 lakh crore**, which focuses solely on subsidizing the chip manufacturing supply chain.
- The Government of **Maharashtra** has become the first state in the country to enact a law for the **empowerment of women farmers** under the **Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026**.
- **India** hosted the **5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) National Security Advisers (NSA)** meeting in New Delhi on 16 July 2026 to discuss issues such as security challenges, cyber security, terrorism, transnational crime, trafficking, and satellite cooperation.
- **Indian Railways** has launched the **"Reform Express,"** introducing eight major freight reforms to modernize logistics. The initiative plans **52 reforms in 52 weeks**, focusing on improving freight operations through greater containerization, simplified licensing, and innovative wagon designs.
- July 16 is observed every year as **World Snake Day** to raise awareness about snakes and their role in maintaining ecological balance, including controlling the population of rodents.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)** to integrate AI-powered multilingual technologies into banking services through the **BHASHINI Seva/Sanchalan initiative**, which leverages India's indigenous language AI ecosystem to reduce language barriers and improve customer experience.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated **Saushrutam 2026**, a three-day international seminar on **Ayurvedic surgery** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in New Delhi. **Acharya Sushruta** is regarded as the **Father of Surgery**.
- The Commissioner of Railway Safety is now gearing up to introduce **driverless metro trains on Kolkata Metro's Green Line and Purple Line**, placing Kolkata Metro among the top public transport systems in the country.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has approved a new format for the **Men's ODI World Cup**, which will take effect from 2027. The tournament will be co-hosted by **South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia**, featuring 14 teams.
- In another achievement for India, the **49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** adopted seven Codex standards and guidelines under India's leadership. The session was held in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Indian delegation was led by **Ranjit Punhani**, Chief Executive Officer of the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is the world's leading international body responsible for developing food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice.

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Category/Institution	Details
Odisha	Chief Minister – Mohan Charan Majhi Governor – Hari Babu Kambhampati Capital – Bhubaneswar
Jagannath Puri Yatra	Annual journey of Lord Jagannath (form of Lord Krishna) with Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra from their main home to Gundicha Temple
Maharashtra	Chief Minister – Devendra Fadnavis Governor – Jishnu Dev Verma Capital – Mumbai
BIMSTEC	Established – 6 June 1997 Members – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand Headquarters – Dhaka, Bangladesh
Indian Railways	Minister – Ashwini Vaishnaw
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	CEO & MD – Shri Ashok Chandra Headquarters – New Delhi Brand Ambassador – Harmanpreet Kaur (Indian women's cricket team captain; first female brand ambassador for PNB)
Kolkata Metro	India's oldest rapid transit system (opened 1984) India's first underwater metro tunnel beneath the Hooghly River
International Cricket Council (ICC)	Chairman – Jay Shah Chief Operating Officer – Sanjog Gupta Headquarters – Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Switzerland	Capital – Bern Currency – Franc President – Guy Parmelin

