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Saushrutam 2026 Validating Ayurvedic Surgery on Sushruta Jayanti

18 July 2026

HISTORY & CULTURE**GS1**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

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Saushrutam 2026 Validating Ayurvedic Surgery on Sushruta Jayanti

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*President inaugurated **Saushrutam 2026**, a three-day international seminar on **Ayurvedic surgery**, at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, New Delhi, on **July 15, 2026**, marking **Sushruta Jayanti**.*

HONOURING THE FATHER OF SURGERY

Sushruta Jayanti commemorates **Acharya Sushruta**, the ancient Indian physician-surgeon widely regarded as the “**father of surgery**”. His work is preserved in the **Sushruta Samhita**, one of the foundational texts of Ayurveda and, crucially, of **shalya-tantra**, the branch dealing with **surgery**.

The Sushruta Samhita describes surgical instruments, procedures and training methods with a precision remarkable for its era. Among its best-known contributions is early **rhinoplasty**, the surgical reconstruction of the nose, along with cataract procedures and detailed classifications of surgical practice. These accounts place India’s medical heritage at the very origins of the surgical tradition.

The Purpose of Saushrutam 2026

The seminar’s theme is the **evidence-based validation of Ayurvedic surgery**. Rather than treating tradition as folklore, the aim is to subject classical surgical concepts to **modern scientific scrutiny** and integrate them with contemporary clinical practice. This reflects a broader policy of **integrative medicine**, where Ayurveda and modern biomedicine are brought into structured dialogue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT AIIA

Alongside inaugurating the seminar, the President unveiled two further initiatives:

ANNOUNCEMENT	SIGNIFICANCE
AI-enabled 3-Tesla High-Field MRI	Advanced imaging at AIIA, blending modern diagnostics with Ayurvedic care
NCISM study on Ayurveda female graduates	Data on women's participation and outcomes in the Ayurveda profession

The **3-Tesla MRI** with artificial-intelligence assistance signals that a premier Ayurveda institution is embracing **cutting-edge diagnostic technology**, reinforcing the integrative model. The **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** study spotlights the growing role of women in the Indian systems of medicine.

The Institutional Backbone

AIIA is an apex institution under the **Ministry of Ayush**, envisioned as an Ayurveda counterpart to premier medical institutes and tasked with education, research and integrative clinical care.

The **NCISM** is the **statutory regulator** for Indian systems of medicine, established under the **NCISM Act, 2020**, which replaced the earlier Central Council of Indian Medicine. It governs standards, curricula and registration across Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa.

TRADITION, EVIDENCE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A recurring theme is the protection of India's **traditional knowledge**. The **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**, a database documenting Indian medical heritage in machine-readable form, has been used to **prevent wrongful patents** abroad on knowledge such as neem and turmeric formulations. Saushrutam 2026 fits this larger project of **validating, documenting and defending** India's knowledge traditions rather than allowing them to be appropriated or dismissed.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 1: Indian culture covering the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times; India's contribution to science.

Prelims pointers:

- **Sushruta** authored the **Sushruta Samhita**; branch of surgery is **shalya-tantra**; known for early **rhinoplasty**.
- **AIIA** functions under the **Ministry of Ayush**.
- **NCISM** is the statutory regulator under the **NCISM Act, 2020** (replacing the Central Council of Indian Medicine).
- The **TKDL** documents traditional knowledge to block wrongful foreign patents.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

Sushruta is called the father of surgery; the Sushruta Samhita is foundational to Ayurvedic surgery.

Shalya-tantra is the surgical branch of the eight limbs (Ashtanga) of Ayurveda.

AIIA, New Delhi, is the apex Ayurveda institute under the Ministry of Ayush.

The NCISM Act, 2020 created the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine as the statutory regulator.

The TKDL is a joint effort of CSIR and the Ministry of Ayush to protect traditional knowledge from biopiracy.

Sources: PIB - President's Secretariat, All India Institute of Ayurveda, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine

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