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SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
FEBRUARY 1, 2026

DATED—

From ruins to reading: Structure in Mehrauli gets a new lease of life with books and games

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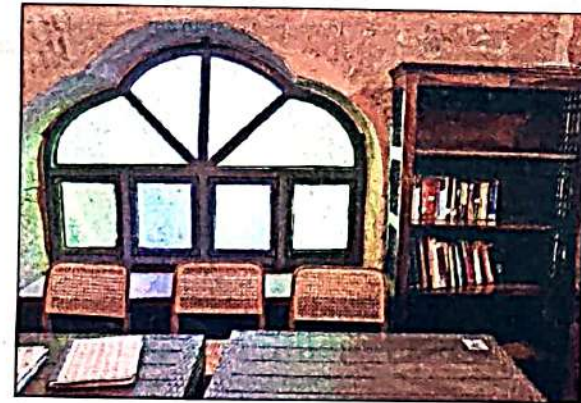
New Delhi: An unnamed monument, next to Chaumukha Darwaza in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park (MAP), which has forever stood without any historical identification, is now drawing visitors because DDA has made a reading room there.

The once dilapidated and now restored structure is open to all for free and houses a modest, yet engaging, collection of books and board games like chess and carrom. The effort is aimed at encouraging families to spend more time at heritage sites.

"The idea of restoring the ruins was to give them a fresh lease of life and ensure their public use," an official said. "Restoration began over a year ago and included providing the site a red sandstone floor, a repair of the walls and staircases using the original material."

Restoration and conservation of the remaining portion of the structure—including the roof that had completely collapsed—is under way by following heritage norms.

A temporary roof of red sandstone slabs and beams is being constructed that does



Photos: Anushka Kogta

The once dilapidated and now restored structure is open to all for free and houses a modest, yet engaging, collection of books and board games

not impose any structural load on the existing monument.

"While Chaumukha Darwaza falls under the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the adjoining, lesser-known structure is being restored by DDA," an official said. "The project involves multi-agency coordination, the use of traditional restoration techniques, and improvements to visitor infrastructure."

Beyond monument-specific restoration, DDA has done largescale development work in the surrounding area, including desilting of waterbodies, the creation of pedestrian pathways, constructing si-

dewalls with small fountains, landscaping and the removal of encroachments.

These efforts are being undertaken in coordination with other agencies to enhance the visitor experience while preserving the historical character of the park.

To begin with, DDA developed a large lawn in front of the reading corner building, where visitors were seen basking in the sun when TOI visited the site on Tuesday.

Adjacent to this is a large lake with multiple operational fountains, adding to the aesthetic appeal. Staff were engaged in cleaning the lake to improve aeration and main-

tain biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels, while horticulture teams were planting seasonal flowering plants ahead of the spring season.

"Since the site is close to a restaurant facility and the recently restored Metcalf Boat House, weekend footfall is particularly high during winters," an official said.

"Earlier, this low-lying area was in ruins, and water from neighbouring localities used to collect here before draining into a dysfunctional waterbody. Now, pipelines laid beneath the lawns channel water directly into the lake, ensuring easy access even during the monso-

on. During summers, footfall increases at night as the park remains open to the public till 8.30 pm."

DDA has also installed decorative lights around the restored structures, making the area visually striking at night and popular among photography enthusiasts.

The authority is currently focusing on reviving several key monuments within MAP, including the Metcalf Boat House, Quli Khan's Tomb, Balban's Tomb Complex, Rajon ki Baoli, and Chaumukha Darwaza, as part of a broader restoration and conservation drive across the archaeological park.

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हिन्दुस्तान

नई दिल्ली, रविवार, 1 फरवरी 2026

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**डीडीए फ्लैटों की नीलामी
23 फरवरी से शुरू होगी**

दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण की प्रीमियम आवास योजना 2026 के तहत 582 फ्लैटों और गैरेज के लिए ऑनलाइन माध्यम से ई-नीलामी होगी। इस आवास योजना के लिए ई-नीलामी प्रक्रिया 23 फरवरी से शुरू होगी।

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Pioneer
NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | JANUARY 31, 2026

NDMC, DDA top Green Action Plan with 53.7 lakh plantations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have emerged as the top two agencies under Delhi's Green Action Plan in 2025-26, with citywide plantations crossing around 53.7 lakh trees, shrubs, and bamboo hedges during the year.

During the Green Action Plan 2025-26, NDMC emerged as the largest contributor among all greening agencies in the city. It planted more than 22.7 lakh trees, shrubs, and bamboo hedges, which was 11.7 lakh more than its target of 11 lakh, according to a report. The Green Action Plan 2025-26 cycle will conclude with the end of the financial year on March 31, 2026.

The DDA followed as the

second-largest contributor in the same period, planting around 7.63 lakh against a target of 12 lakh, achieving around 64 per cent of its target, the data showed.

The Public Works Department (PWD) planted around 4.08 lakh against a target of about 4.55 lakh, achieving around 90 per cent of the target, while the Education Department exceeded its target of 3.7 lakh by planting 4.04 lakh plants.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) planted around 3.66 lakh against a target of around 7.03 lakh, achieving around 52 per cent of its goal, while the Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB) recorded one of the highest surpluses, planting around 2.17 lakh, which was around 1.77 lakh more than its target of 41,000.

Among other agencies in

the top ten, the National Highways Authority of India planted 92,262, which was 5,262 more than its target of 87,000, while BSES Rajdhani Power Limited planted 47,051, 51 more than its target of 47,000, the data showed.

The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation planted 47,276 against a target of 85,000, achieving around 56 per cent, while the Forest Department planted around 1.09 lakh against a target of 15.3 lakh, achieving about seven per cent.

Overall, the Green Action Plan 2025-26 aimed to plant around 70.82 lakh plantations, of which around 53.71 lakh were implemented "76 per cent of the target."

Agency-led plantations accounted for about 48.67 lakh against a target of around 61.38 lakh, achieving



close to 79 per cent of the target. Free sapling distribution stood at around 5.04 lakh against a target of around 9.44 lakh, achieving about 53 per cent.

As part of the plan, the Forest Department's plantation was divided across four ranges: Central, West, South and North, with a combined target of 15.3 lakh, the data showed.

The South range, which had the largest allocation of

8.9 lakh, planted 91,570, achieving about ten per cent of its target. The Central range planted 12,690 against a target of 70,000, achieving around 18 per cent, the only range to record a double-digit percentage.

The North range planted 4,150 against a target of 2.3 lakh, while the West range planted 316 against a target of 3.4 lakh, the figures showed. The department's target for the year comprised seven lakh trees, 6.5 lakh shrubs, and 1.8 lakh bamboo hedges.

Other agencies which contributed to the city plantation were the Central Public Works Department, Delhi Jal Board, Higher Education Department, North-Delhi Power Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation, and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board.

The Delhi Metro Rail

Corporation, Technical Education Department, Northern Railways, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Department of Environment (Horticulture) and the Delhi Transport Corporation also did their part. Together, these agencies planted around 1.39 lakh trees and shrubs against a combined target of around 5.19 lakh.

The Green Action Plan 2024-25 also saw NDMC and DDA leading in terms of total plantation volumes. During 2024-25, NDMC planted around 8.65 lakh against a target of around 11.12 lakh, achieving around 78 per cent of its target, while DDA planted around 8.41,492 against a target of around 10.2 lakh, achieving about 82 per cent, according to official data.

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पंजाब केसरी

DELHI

31 जनवरी, 2026 ▶ यनिवार

हरित कार्य योजना में एनडीएमसी अखिल, डीडीए दूसरे स्थान पर

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में हरियाली बढ़ाने की दिशा में एनडीएमसी और डीडीए ने बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल की है। दिल्ली की हरित कार्य योजना (ग्रीन एक्शन प्लान-जीएपी) 2025-26 के तहत एनडीएमसी और डीडीए पौधारोपण के मामले में राजधानी की शीर्ष दो एजेंसियों के रूप में उभरी हैं। आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, हरित कार्य योजना 2025-26 के दौरान एनडीएमसी ने सबसे अधिक पौधारोपण किया। परिषद ने अपने निर्धारित 11 लाख पौधों के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले 22.7 लाख से अधिक पेड़-पौधे और बांस का रोपण किया, यानी लक्ष्य से करीब 11.7 लाख अधिक पौधे लगाए। इस प्रदर्शन के साथ एनडीएमसी दिल्ली की सभी हरियाली एजेंसियों में पहले स्थान पर रही। डीडीए इस सूची में दूसरे स्थान पर रहा। डीडीए ने 12 लाख पौधारोपण के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले करीब 7.63 लाख पौधे लगाए और अपने लक्ष्य का लगभग 64 प्रतिशत हासिल किया।

अन्य विभागों की बात करें तो लोक निर्माण विभाग (पीडब्ल्यू डी) ने 4.55 लाख के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले लगभग 4.08 लाख पौधे लगाए। शिक्षा विभाग ने भी बेहतर प्रदर्शन काते हुए 3.7 लाख के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले 4.04 लाख पौधों का रोपण किया। एमसीडी ने 7.03 लाख पौधों के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले करीब 3.66 लाख पौधे लगाए, जो निर्धारित लक्ष्य का लगभग 52 प्रतिशत है। डीसीबी ने 41 हजार के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले करीब 2.17 लाख पौधे लगाए, यानी लक्ष्य से लगभग 1.77 लाख अधिक। शीर्ष 10 एजेंसियों में एनएचएआई ने 87 हजार के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले 92,262 पेड़ लगाए, जबकि बीएसईएस राजधानी पावर लिमिटेड ने 47 हजार के लक्ष्य के अनुरूप 47,051 पौधे रोपे। कुल मिलाकर हरित कार्य योजना 2025-26 के तहत दिल्ली में 70.82 लाख पौधारोपण का लक्ष्य तय किया गया था, जिसके मुकाबले अब तक करीब 53.71 लाख पौधे लगाए जा चुके हैं।

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millenniumpost

NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, 2026

Wetland conservation rooted in traditional knowledge: Experts

World Wetlands Day at Yamuna Biodiversity Park

ANAMTA FATIMA

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) marked World Wetlands Day 2026 at the Yamuna Biodiversity Park (YBP) on Sunday, underscoring the ecological and cultural significance of wetlands in sustaining urban life and mitigating climate risks.

The event, held at the park's amphitheatre near a restored wetland, was organised around the global theme "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage". Speakers emphasised that wetland conservation has long been embedded in traditional practices and is not merely a contemporary environmental concern.

Over 350 participants, including students from several Delhi University colleges, researchers, academicians, UPSC aspirants, journalists,



nature enthusiasts, representatives of local communities and DDA officials, attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, DDA Vice-Chairman Dr. N. Saravana Kumar highlighted the importance of land management and urban governance in protecting cities from natural disasters such as floods. He noted that nearly 15 per cent of Delhi's geographical area comprises DDA-managed parks open to the public, and said the seven biodiversity parks developed by DDA in collaboration with the Centre

for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems (CEMDE), University of Delhi, were significantly improving the city's environmental health. He also referred to efforts to remove encroachments from the Yamuna floodplains and develop ecological spaces such as Baansera and Asita parks.

Professor C.R. Babu, ecologist and founder of the biodiversity parks initiative, warned that more than 87% of the world's wetlands have been lost, stressing that rivers originate from wetlands and that their degradation threatens planetary survival.

Officials emphasised public awareness to curb littering and promote responsible waste disposal, while reviewing sanitation equipment and manpower. MCD said regular zone-wise inspections help identify issues, ensure corrective action, and maintain clean, safe public spaces across the city.

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अमर उजाला

नई दिल्ली। मंगलवार। 3 फरवरी 2026

NAME OF NEWSPAPERS

पंजाब केसरी

DELHI

3 फरवरी, 2026 ▶ मंगलवार

नमभूमि प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से सुरक्षा में निभाती हैं अहम भूमिका : डॉ. एन. सरवन

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) ने सोमवार को यमुना जैव विविधता पार्क में विश्व नमभूमि दिवस मनाया।

इस वर्ष की थीम नमभूमि और पारंपरिक ज्ञान: सांस्कृतिक विरासत का उत्सव रही। कार्यक्रम में डीडीए के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. एन. सरवन कुमार ने भूमि प्रबंधन और प्रशासन की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि नमभूमि प्राकृतिक आपदाओं, विशेषकर बाढ़ जैसे खतरों से शहरों की रक्षा करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका

डीडीए यमुना जैव विविधता पार्क में मनाया विश्व नमभूमि दिवस

निभाती हैं।

दिल्ली के कुल भौगोलिक क्षेत्र का लगभग 15 प्रतिशत हिस्सा डीडीए के पार्कों के अंतर्गत आता है, जो आम जनता के लिए खुले हैं। साथ ही, डीडीए द्वारा दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के सीईएमडीई के सहयोग से विकसित किए गए सात जैव विविधता पार्क दिल्लीवासियों के जीवन की गुणवत्ता

को बेहतर बनाने में अहम योगदान दे रहे हैं। डॉ. कुमार ने यमुना के बाढ़ मैदानों से अतिक्रमण हटाने, बांसेरा और असिता पार्कों के विकास के बारे में भी बताया। छात्रों को इन स्थलों को देखना और समझना चाहिए। पर्यावरणविद प्रोफेसर सीआर बाबू ने कहा कि दुनिया की सभी नदियों का उदगम नमभूमि से ही होता है। ग्रह का अस्तित्व नमभूमि के संरक्षण और पुनर्स्थापन पर निर्भर करता है। विश्व की 87 प्रतिशत से अधिक नमभूमि या तो समाप्त हो चुकी है। ब्यूरो

दिल्ली के 15% हिस्से पर डीडीए के पार्कों व उद्यानों से फैली हरियाली: डीडीए वीसी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) के यमुना जैव विविधता पार्क ने सोमवार को पुनर्स्थापित आर्द्रभूमि के निकट स्थित अपने एम्प्रीथिएटर में विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस मनाया। कार्यक्रम में 350 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया जिनमें डीडीए के विभिन्न कॉलेजों के छात्र, शोधकर्ता, शिक्षाविद, प्रकृति प्रेमी व डीडीए अधिकारी शामिल रहे। इस अवसर पर डीडीए उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. एन. सरवन कुमार ने बताया कि दिल्ली के

भौगोलिक क्षेत्र का लगभग 15% हिस्सा डीडीए पार्कों से ढका हुआ है जो जलनता के लिए सुलभ है और सीईएमडीई (डीडीए) के सहयोग से डीडीए द्वारा विकसित सात जैव

डीडीए के छात्र, शोधकर्ता शिक्षाविद, प्रकृति प्रेमी व डीडीए अधिकारी शामिल

विविधता पार्क दिल्ली के नागरिकों के जीवन स्तर में उल्लेखनीय सुधार ला रहे हैं। उन्होंने यमुना के बाढ़क्षेत्रों से अतिक्रमण हटाने और बांसेरा और असिता पार्कों के विकास में डीडीए की भूमिका पर भी जोर दिया और छात्रों को इन पारिस्थितिक स्थलों का दौरा करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।