

Global meet adopts declaration to preserve Indian manuscripts

NEW DELHI

ASSERTING that manuscripts are “not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future”, a global conference on Saturday adopted the New Delhi Declaration to bolster efforts to preserve, digitise and disseminate knowledge embedded in them. The Declaration was adopted on the closing day of the three-day ‘Gyan Bharatam’ conference on India’s manuscript heritage, hosted at the Vigyan Bhawan here.

The New Delhi Declaration resolved that manuscripts are “living memory of a nation, and foundation of its civilisational identity”.



India has one of the richest collections of ancient manuscripts in the world, with nearly 10

million texts that hold the country’s traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. The declaration

adopted at the conference also resolved to “acquire and repatriate original manuscripts or secure their

digital copies”.

“We resolve to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast treasure. We firmly believe manuscripts are not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future,” it said.

The government has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission as a major initiative under the Ministry of Culture. It aims to survey, document, conserve, digitise and make accessible more than one crore manuscripts located at academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collections across India. The declaration also resolved to “awaken people and make the Gyan Bharatam mission a ‘jan aandolan.’”

6,000 kg copper worth Rs 55 lakh seized

Truck driver among four held for faking robbery

NEW DELHI

THE Crime Branch of Delhi Police has cracked a sensational highway theft-cum-robbery case within 48 hours, recovering 6,000 kg of stolen copper scrap worth Rs 55 lakh and arresting four men, including the truck driver who posed as the victim, an official said on Saturday.

According to police, the case (FIR No. 607/25) was registered on September 10 at New Usmanpur police station after driver Manish Kumar claimed he was robbed while transporting copper scrap from Libaspur to Madoli.

He alleged that a car intercepted his truck near Signature Bridge, its occupants posed as bank officials, forced entry into the vehicle, and injected him with a sedative.

Kumar later regained consciousness at Jag Pravesh Hospital to find the cargo missing.

A team, led by Inspector Pukhraj Singh under ACP Ashok Sharma



and supervised by DCP (Crime Branch) Harsh Indora, analysed over 200 CCTV footages and phone records.

During questioning, Kumar gave conflicting statements and eventually confessed to staging the robbery with accomplices.

Police identified the arrested men as: Manish Kumar – the driver, revealed as the key conspirator, Aditya-Kumar’s friend from Bihar and co-conspirator, Arun Soni – a junk dealer from Kotla Vihar and mastermind who arranged the logistics and

disposal plan and Ramzan – a Gonda resident who injected Kumar to lend credibility to the fake robbery.

Recoveries include the entire copper consignment packed in 80 bags, the TATA-709 truck used in the crime, and the injection with a syringe.

Police said Kumar, a habitual drinker from Azamgarh, UP, had lost several jobs and planned the heist with Soni. Aditya, an unemployed graduate, and Ramzan, a drug addict, joined the plot for quick money.

“The swift and efficient investigation by the Crime Branch, NR-I, not only led to the arrest of all accused persons involved in this meticulously planned criminal conspiracy but also ensured recovery of the entire stolen property. The operation stands as a testament to the commitment of Delhi Police towards public safety and prompt resolution of heinous crimes,” said DCP Harsh Indora. (IANS)

Price row: 2 arrested for assaulting ice-cream seller

NEW DELHI

DELHI Police has arrested two men for allegedly assaulting an ice-cream seller with a paper cutter in Shaheen Bagh following a quarrel over price, officials said on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Rehan alias Imran (23), a resident of Welcome in northeast Delhi, and Farid (23), a resident of Ahmedabad. “The incident took place in the intervening night of September 11-12 when the complainant, Roshan Kumar, was heading towards Jasola with his ice-cream cart. As he reached near an ATM on Nala Road, three young men stopped him and picked up a fight over the price of ice-cream,” a senior police officer said.

During the scuffle, one of them attacked Kumar with a paper cutter, injuring his abdomen. The accused fled soon after the assault, while Kumar was taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.



Police registered an FIR based on Kumar’s statement, the officer said.

A police team on patrol on Friday evening noticed two men moving suspiciously near the Shram Vihar cut under the Metro line in Shaheen Bagh. On seeing the police, they tried to flee but were caught after a brief chase.

“A country-made pistol and a live cartridge were found in their possession. On questioning, they admitted to being involved in the assault case,” the officer said.

A case under the Arms

Act has been added against the duo, and efforts are underway to trace their third associate.

On interrogation, the accused disclosed that they used to extort money from people by threatening them with firearms.

Police said Rehan is a repeat offender who has been involved in multiple cases, including those under the Arms Act, and for robbery and culpable homicide.

Farid has a past criminal record in Ahmedabad, details of which are being verified, they said. (PTI)

AAP protests against India-Pak cricket match

Delhi clubs warned against screening

NEW DELHI

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday protested against the upcoming India-Pakistan cricket match, with its Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj accusing the Centre of “humiliating” the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. There was no immediate reaction available from the government or the BJP.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal questioned the decision to go ahead with the clash scheduled for Sunday. “What is the need for the Prime Minister to organise a match with Pakistan? The whole country is saying that this match should not happen. Then why is this match being organised?” Kejriwal said in a post in Hindi on X. “Is this also being done under Trump’s pressure? How much will you bow down to Trump?” he added. Bharadwaj pointed to a social media post, allegedly shared by Pakistani cricketers, that depicted Pakistan Army Chief Asif Munir filling the hair parting of a woman painted in the Indian tricolour with



vermillion -- an image seen as a mocking reference to Operation Sindoor, which was India’s counterstrike against terror bases in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. “This is a gross humiliation of our women who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam attack, but still our central leadership is going ahead with the India-Pakistan cricket match,” Bharadwaj said during a press conference here. He warned that his party workers would “expose” clubs, pubs and restaurants screening the match, “so that people stop going to these outlets.” The AAP leader, along with party workers, also burnt an effigy symbolising Pakistani players. Later, in a post on X in Hindi, Bharadwaj said, “Pakistan’s cricket players mock our widows in such a dirty, disgusting way, and we will play cricket with them. Shame on the BJP government.” (PTI)

Delhi Police busts illegal weapons factory in Mathura

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police has busted an illegal arms manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh’s Mathura and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition, an official said on Saturday.

The operation was carried out by a team from Sarai Rohilla police station, following inputs about the supply of firearms being routed into the national capital, they said.

Earlier on September 1, police had busted a makeshift factory on Jattari Pishawa Road in Aligarh.

Inside two locked rooms, they found six finished pistols, 12 incomplete pistols, six live cartridges, raw material for over 250 more weapons, and equipment, including drills, blow machines, and barrel pipes. Further investigation is underway to identify the network involved in the supply and distribution of these weapons, police said. (PTI)

Bootlegger held with 5,736 bottles of illicit liquor

NEW DELHI

THE Outer North District Police have arrested a 25-year-old bootlegger who was transporting thousands of bottles of illicit liquor concealed inside sacks of cattle feed in Shahbad Dairy, officials said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Saurabh Singh, son of Kehar Singh and a resident of Vijay Vihar, was apprehended late on September 10 following a tip-off, police said. Singh, already a repeat offender with two previous cases under the Excise Act, was found ferrying liquor from Haryana to Delhi



for illegal sale. According to Delhi Police, a secret informer alerted Head Constable Jaideep during patrol duty about the consignm A raiding team led by Inspector Pramod Tomar, along with SI Rohit Kharsa, ASI Narender, HC Jaideep, and HC Naveen Hooda, was quickly formed under the supervision of ACP (Operations) Dinesh Kumar and

overall command of DCP (Outer North) Hareshwar Swami. Police laid a trap in the Shahbad Dairy area and intercepted a Tata Intra pickup truck (DL-1LAL-0137).

On checking, officers discovered 15-20 sacks of cattle feed stacked inside the vehicle. Hidden within them were 5,400 quarters and 336 bottles of illicit liquor, all of which were seized on the spot.

“A case was registered under the Delhi Excise Act. The accused was planning to sell illegal liquor in Delhi. Suppliers have been using this technique to hide illegal liquor. After

the arrest of the accused, this technique used by the illegal liquor suppliers has been busted,” said Delhi Police in its press statement. During interrogation, Singh confessed that he had procured the liquor from Haryana to sell in Delhi. Police are verifying his claims and probing possible links with a larger supply network.

The seized vehicle, along with the illicit liquor, has been taken into custody, and a case has been registered under the Delhi Excise Act. Officials said efforts are underway to trace other members of the syndicate.

Over 1 lakh Delhiites take pledge to become ‘Vayu Mitras’

NEW DELHI

OVER one lakh Delhi residents have taken the Vayu Mitra Pledge to act as champions of clean air as part of a programme supported by the Environment Ministry and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). The campaign successfully reached nine key hotspots, including Narela, Bawana, Mundka, Jahangir Puri, Vivek Vihar, Rohini, R.K. Puram, Okhla and Anand Vihar, along with several high-footfall public hubs, ensuring wide public participation, according to an official statement on Saturday. WWF-India EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building) Programme Centre - Resource Partner (PC-RP) was supported by the Min-

istry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF and CC) and held in collaboration with the CAQM. Between June and August 2025, the campaign team organised over 25 workshops under the flagship campaign ‘Breath of Change - Clean Air, Blue Skies’ during which students pledged to become eco-leaders and RWAs committed to reducing local pollution, and citizens.

The campaign encouraged people to become responsible citizens, not to burn crackers, and to stop others from doing the same.

These activities brought together students, RWAs, commuters, and local communities, with an outreach of over 1,32,481 across Delhi’s most critical air pollution hotspots, said the statement. From school classrooms to



bustling metro stations, industrial areas to green parks, the campaign sparked collective energy for sustainable living. Children, teachers, parents, commuters, RWA leaders, and citizens from all walks of life came forward to take the Vayu Mitra Pledge and act as champions of clean air, it said.

The sessions included informative discussions on air pollution - its causes, sources, and far-reaching impacts on human health and the environment. The Mission LIFE documentary was screened,

further reinforcing the message of sustainable living, and participants took the Vayu Mitra Pledge for Clean Air, committing to make conscious efforts to reduce pollution in their daily lives, the statement said.

A tree plantation drive was conducted, during which nearly 1,750 plants were distributed and planted under ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0’, involving students. An interactive quiz was also conducted.

Between June and September 8, the initiative made a significant impact by directly engaging over 2,00,000 participants through awareness and outreach activities, including various social media platforms. A total of over 65 schools were sensitised across major pollution hotspots. (IANS)

75 major schemes to be launched during Seva Pakhwada

NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday that 75 major schemes will be launched in the 15-day Seva Pakhwada beginning with the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17.

“On that day, the government will commence the Seva Pakhwada, under which significant schemes will be announced daily for 15 days,” the Chief Minister stated, adding that the initiative will play an important role in guiding the capital towards the vision of a ‘Viksit Delhi’.

A special meeting was convened on Saturday at the Delhi Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Gupta to discuss preparations for the Seva Pakhwada, which will be held from September 17 to October 2.

The meeting was attended by Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Members of Parliament, Ministers of the Delhi Government, MLAs,



Councillors, and party officials. In the meeting, the Chief Minister said that ever since the BJP government was formed in Delhi, special arrangements have been made to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since the formation of this government.

This occasion reflects the shared commitment of the Triple Engine Government (Central Government, Delhi Government, and Municipal Corporation). For this, the government has decided to launch 75 new schemes and programmes during the Seva Pakhwada. This decision, she said, will provide new momentum

and greater heights to Delhi’s development, playing a key role in the city’s progress towards becoming a ‘Viksit Delhi’.

Chief Minister Gupta further informed that during the Seva Pakhwada, Delhiites will receive a new ‘gift’ every day. Whether it is a cleanliness drive, a blood donation camp, the foundation laying or inauguration of new schemes, or the dedication of development projects, each activity will be devoted to the public and carried out with the active participation of public representatives.

She said that the forthcoming 15 days will prove to be historic for Delhi. During the Seva Pakhwada, new milestones in development will be achieved, new dimensions of good governance will be set, and continuous initiatives will be dedicated to the people.

She expressed pride in the excellent preparations made in a very short period by the Ministers, officials, and departments of the government. (IANS)