



Suruchi director Pooja Maheshwari felicitated BJP spokesperson Neha Bagga by giving her a trophy. In the right picture, Navbharat Managing Editor Sumit Maheshwari and Suruchi director Pooja Maheshwari felicitated Bhopal mayor Malti Rai by giving her a trophy.

Navabharat successfully hosts ‘Suruchi Cooking Queen’ contest in Bhopal

Administrative Correspondent, Bhopal Navabharat Group, in collaboration with its weekly magazine Suruchi, successfully organized the ‘Suruchi Cooking Queen Contest’ on Wednesday. The event was spearheaded by Suruchi Director Pooja Maheshwari and the Navabharat team. The main sponsors, Western Coalfields and Sanchi Dugdh Sangh, awarded prizes and certificates to encourage the participants. Women from across the city turned up in large numbers to participate, making it a lively and vibrant event. Nearly 122 women contestants competed, many accompanied by supportive family members. The contest provided a grand platform for women to showcase their culinary talents, earning praise from celebrity chefs and special

- Indian Cuisine
- ✦ Savita Gupta
 - ✦ Nancy Shukla
 - ✦ Neelam Jain
- Western Cuisine:
- ✦ Mamta
 - ✦ Nikita Vanshkar
 - ✦ Jayshree

guests present at the venue. **Empowering women through food & flavor** Participants were thrilled to be part of the competition, many expressing gratitude to NavaBharat and Suruchi for giving them a platform to present their unique dishes. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and camaraderie, as participants clicked photos at the NavaBharat selfie point and engaged in friendly competition. The event was graced by Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai, BJP Spokesperson Neha Bagga, and DJ Star Nafisa Hasan as chief guests. Other esteemed guests included GS Wadhwa (Additional Director, Public Relations), Pankaj Mittal (Joint Director), Nidhi Singh (Marketing Manager, Sanchi), Chef Preeti Mishra

(Chitra Culinary Academy), Chef Amol Patil (Courtyard Marriott), Chef Anoop Gupta (Taj Bhopal), Surabhi Maheshwari (Founder, Baked 186), and Chef Sunil Singh (The Fern Residency)—all of whom served as judges. **A celebration of culinary diversity** The event ran from 12 PM to 5 PM, featuring two main categories: The winners were awarded Samsung washing machines, microwaves, and Sujata mixer grinders, while over 100 participants received consolation prizes and certificates for their efforts. **Judges impressed by creativity and presentation** The judging criteria included presentation, taste, and innovation. Chef Amol Patil remarked, “Every woman here is a chef in her own right. The dishes were a beautiful blend of traditional spices and creative presen-

ation.” Chef Anoop Gupta added, “Indian women are masters in the kitchen. Navabharat’s initiative is a commendable step toward empowering them outside the home.” **Over 100 unique dishes displayed** Participants laid out a spectacular spread of nearly 88 Indian and 26 Western dishes, including: Makka Papdi, Ghevar, Rasgulla, Chandraayan Roti, Dal Pakwan, Lauki Halwa, Chhole Bhature, Bhutte ke Cutlet, White Sauce Pasta, Italian Spaghetti, Dahi Papdi, Idli-Sambar, Rasmalai, and more. Dishes were elegantly plated with flowers, fruits, and decorative elements, impressing both guests and judges alike. **Innovation in every bite: Standout creations** Chandrayaan Chandrakala Roti by Savita Jain Inspired by Vedic traditions, this dish was designed to promote physical health and mental balance, paying tribute to ancient Indian dietary practices. Aparajita Sweet by Akanksha Kaurav Created using the petals of the Aparajita flower, usually used in tea, this unique dessert earned special appreciation from the judges. Rasgulla by Neelam Jain A traditional recipe from Uttar Pradesh, her delicious rasgullas helped her secure a top spot in the Indian category. **Rain didn’t dampen spirits** Despite the rainy weather, the en-



Savita Gupta receiving the first prize in the Indian category.



Nainshi Shukla receiving the second prize in the Indian category.



Neelam Jain receiving the third prize in the Indian category.

thusiasm of the participants never wavered. Contestants arrived on time, fully prepared, and presented their dishes with passion and flair. **Mayor Rai applauds Navabharat’s efforts** Mayor Malti Rai personally congratulated all the participants and lauded NavaBharat’s initiative, calling it “a wonderful step towards women’s empowerment.” She praised Sumit Maheshwari, Pooja Maheshwari, and the entire team for organizing such a meaningful event and encouraged more such platforms for women to showcase their talents. **A promise for the future** Suruchi Director Pooja Maheshwari congratulated all the participants and stated that NavaBharat aims to continue organizing such empowering events. She emphasized that Suruchi magazine is dedicated to providing knowledge, inspiration, and a platform for women to shine—something they are committed to expanding in the future.



Mamta receiving the first prize in the Western category.



Jayshree receiving the third prize in the Western category.

Dr. Kothari removed from environment department amid controversy

(Continued from page 1)

K.C. Gupta returns to Ministry, gets new role

With Dr. Kothari’s exit, K.C. Gupta, who had been serving as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to the Governor, has returned to the ministry. He has now been appointed as ACS, Cottage and Village Industries Department.

Ashok Barnwal gets additional charge of environment

Ashok Barnwal, currently serving as Additional Chief Secretary with other responsibilities, has been entrusted with additional charge of the Environment Department, along with the roles of Environment Commissioner and DG, EPCO.

Chandramouli Shukla joins CM Secretariat

In another key reshuffle, Chandra-

mouli Shukla has joined the Chief Minister’s Secretariat. Along with his current duties, Shukla will now serve as Additional Secretary to the Chief Minister. He recently accompanied CM Dr. Mohan Yadav on his official visit to Dubai and Spain in his capacity as MD of MP Industrial Development Corporation (MPSIDC).

Uma Maheshwari removed from EPCO; Deepak Arya takes over

Deepak Arya has been given additional charge as Executive Director of EPCO, alongside his existing duties. With his appointment, Uma Maheshwari has been relieved from her additional responsibility as EPCO’s Executive Director. Her name had also surfaced in the controversy involving the SIYA chairman, who had recommended an FIR against her as well. In light of the ongoing dispute, her removal is seen as part of a broader departmental clean-up.

CM advocates low-cost, high-benefit tree plantation

Administrative Correspondent, Bhopal Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has emphasized the importance of planting fruit-bearing and shade-giving trees that offer maximum benefits at minimal cost. He stated that while farmers and the public should be encouraged to plant trees and develop gardens, the Horticulture Department must ensure the availability of saplings to reduce individual costs. **‘One Tree in Mother’s Name’ Campaign reviewed at Samatva Bhavan:** Dr. Yadav was addressing a review meeting of the ongoing “One Tree in Mother’s Name” campaign at Samatva Bhavan, his official residence. He called for rapid progress in plantation drives across all departments and suggested involving farmers and the private sector to scale up the initiative. He urged officials to prioritize tree species that are in high de-



mand and economically beneficial so they can contribute to income generation in the future. The Horticulture Department, in particular, was tasked with motivating farmers to plant fruit trees, thereby boosting their income through fruit sales. **Support for women and farmers through community Gardens:** Dr. Yadav reiterated the government’s commitment to empowering self-help group (SHG) women through the “Ek Bagiya Maa Ke Naam” (A Garden in Mother’s Name) program. Under this initiative, women will receive financial support for three years to develop fruit orchards, enhancing both sustainability and income opportunities. **Massive participation across state departments:** Launched on June 5 (World Environment Day) at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the campaign will continue until September 30. A dedicated “Meri Life” portal is monitoring the initiative. Since its launch, over 5.54 crore saplings have been planted across various departments and districts and registered on the portal. **Forest department leads the way:** The Forest Department alone set a target of planting 3.40 crore saplings for 2025–26.

As of July 22, over 5.38 crore trees have already been planted—surpassing the target and accounting for 95% of the total plantation achievement. **Higher education and urban departments join the green push:** The Higher Education Department aimed to plant 1.6 lakh saplings; so far, over 1 lakh indigenous fruit trees have been planted in campuses of government universities and colleges. The Urban Development and Housing Department targeted 1 crore saplings; to date, 4.15 lakh medicinal and shade trees have been planted across urban bodies. **Schools and horticulture also contribute significantly:** The School Education Department set a target of 86.27 lakh plantations and has already planted over 5.37 lakh trees like mango, guava, neem, peepal, banyan, teak, and shisham in schools and open grounds.

Speeding dumper kills teen, critically injures sister in Guna

Deadly dash to school

Guna: A horrific road accident has cast a pall of grief over Guna, after a speeding dumper truck brutally ran over two sisters on their way to school, killing one instantly and leaving the other critically injured. The devastating incident has sparked outrage among local residents, who are demanding swift action against the absconding driver. The victims, identified as Krishna Meena (16) and Poorvi Meena, both students of CM Rise School, Fatehgarh, were riding their scooter to school when tragedy struck. As they approached, a gravel-laden dumper truck, traveling from the direction of Rajasthan, collided violently with their scooter. The impact was catastrophic. Sixteen-year-old Krishna Meena succumbed to her injuries on the spot, dying instantly in the gruesome accident. Her sister, Poorvi Meena, sustained severe injuries and was immediately rushed to the hospital, where she is currently undergoing



treatment. Following the fatal collision, the dumper driver fled the scene, leaving behind the mangled scooter and the heartbroken victims. Police have since seized the offending vehicle and launched an intensive manhunt for the driver. Krishna’s body has been sent for post-mortem examination as part of the ongoing police investigation. The community, especially the residents of the village and the school, are reeling from the shock and immense sorrow. Family members are inconsolable, their grief amplified by the sudden and senseless loss. Locals are vehemently calling on the administration to ensure stringent action is taken against the responsible party to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

Tripartite agreement for PESA Act implementation in MP Today

Bhopal: A significant tripartite agreement will be signed today in Bhopal to ensure better implementation of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, or PESA Act, in Madhya Pradesh. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be formalized between the Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, the Principal Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development (Government of Madhya Pradesh), and the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak. The signing ceremony will take place at the Madhya Pradesh Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI) in Bhopal, starting at 4 PM. During the event, a new booklet on the PESA Act will be unveiled. The program will also feature discussions among PESA Act panelists and experts from across the country. Key topics for deliberation include enhancing the act’s implementation in the state, enforcing its sub-rules, providing training to tribal communities, protecting tribal traditions, promoting new research, safeguarding tribal arts, and publicizing successful initiatives within tribal communities.

Joint Commissioner caught red-handed by EOW in Sagar

Accepting Rs 50,000 bribe for salesman post

Sagar: In a significant crackdown on corruption, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Sagar unit on Wednesday arrested Shivendra Dev Pandey, Joint Commissioner of Cooperatives, Sagar Division, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000. Pandey was caught red-handed while accepting the illicit payment from an applicant seeking a salesman position. The arrest follows a complaint filed by Digvijay Singh alias Ghanshyam Rajput (Lodhi) of Panwari, Chhatarpur, who alleged that Pandey had demanded Rs 1 lakh for his appointment to the vacant salesman post at Seva Sahakari Samiti, Panwari. During the verification of the complaint, the EOW found the allegations to be accurate. When Rajput expressed his inability to arrange the full Rs 1 lakh, Pandey agreed to accept Rs 50,000. The EOW Sagar team laid a trap on July 23, 2025. Pandey was apprehended as he received the Rs 50,000 bribe from the applicant. His hands turned pink when washed with a chemical solution in front of witnesses, confirming the exchange. The appointment proposal for the salesman position, already passed by the cooperative committee, was pending Pandey’s approval at his office. A case has been registered against the accused under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The successful trap operation involved a dedicated team from EOW Sagar, including Deputy Superintendent of Police Uma Naval Arya, Inspector Prashant Mishra, Inspector Aadesh Jain, and several other officers.

