

MID DAY

ON SATURDAY



THE GUIDE

>> EVERY BUSY WEEK DESERVES A BREAK

13 NOVEMBER, 2010
44 PAGES, ₹.4



FILM > SCRIPT IS THE KING ON SOCIAL NETWORK & 10



AROUND TOWN > 10 WAYS TO KICK IN CHILDREN'S DAY & 3



FOOD > ORDER YUMMY FOOD ONLINE & 5



LITERARY > AT 62, STRAND STANDS STRONG & 9

FOR A BERTH IN THE STATE CABINET

NETAS POLISH THEIR SMILES

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IF you thought vanity was only for glamour-struck actors and models, you will soon have another thought coming. With a state cabinet reshuffle on the cards, aspiring politicians are gearing up to preen and doll up as D-day nears.

Ministers are getting their aides to make enquiries and visits to cosmetic surgeons across the city to spruce up their look for the countless photo-ops over the next few days.

"In the last week, we've had at least five queries from aides and secretaries of ministers from the ruling coalition," said **Dr LD Dhami**, consultant cosmetic surgeon at Hinduja Hospital, Mahim. "They enquired about procedures available and about the time it would take for the same."

Dhami has in the past, helped a few politicians with their receding hairlines with transplants.

"A transplant takes time. So, derma fillers that require little time to take away wrinkles near the eyes ((crow's feet) neck and forehead are most popular," said **Dhami**, who said that a politician from Aurangabad and his Mumbai

counterparts had been making enquiries over the last week.

Opposition too

The situation is similar at cosmetic surgeon Meenakshi Agarwal's Mahim clinic where she has already administered filler injections to two politicians — one of them during the last fortnight.

And they're not all from the ruling parties.

"I can't say who, but one of them was from the Opposition party," said Agarwal. "These fillers give an almost instant glow within two or three days of administering them. And it takes only three sittings."

Not just skin deep

Obesity surgeon Dr Mufazzal Lakdawala, who had earlier performed bariatric or weight loss surgery on MLA Nawab Malik of the Nationalist Congress Party, says that even requests for procedures that take time for completion have increased.

Lakdawala, who performed bariatric surgery on at least two other current cabinet ministers, says that the reasons are also not purely cosmetic anymore.

He cited instances of news-



ILLUSTRATION: JISHU DEV MALAKAR

paper photographs that capture a minister snoozing during political rallies, for instance.

"The truth is that many of them are overweight and suffer from sleep disorders that cause exhaustion during the day. Such ministers are concerned about tackling related conditions like diabetes and hypertension and so they go in for surgery," said Dr Lakdawala.

"Of course, it's another thing that they also want to look their best in their safari suits," said Lakdawala who recently operated on a state minister from Bihar who is with the Bharatiya Janata Party. "The minister came back after eight months for a follow-up and has finally begun to look like the minister for the portfolio she handles."

PRICE OF BEAUTY

Average costs of beauty treatments across the city:
Liposuction: Up to ₹ 50,000
Derma fillers: ₹ 10,000-15,000 for one sitting (one filler requires at least three sittings)
Bariatric surgery: ₹ 1-2 lakh

COMING SOON, A CLEAN BEACH

RESIDENTS HEAVE A SIGH OF RELIEF AS BMC FINALISES PLAN TO CLEAN BEACHES DAILY

PARTH SATAM

COME Monday and the BMC, for the first time, will clean up the seashore along A and D wards, that is between Haji Ali and Cuffe Parade. The seashore will be free from garbage thanks to the efforts of the residents and BJP member Shaina NC. Shaina actively supported residents in their campaign for a clean beach.

The cleaning will take place everyday. Shaina, co-founder of the NGO 'I Love Mumbai', has been invited to witness the inauguration. "She too has been very helpful and cooperative all throughout", said BJP corporator Arvind Bane.

The struggle of a year and half by the residents to get BMC clean the filthy shore finally ended after BMC's standing committee approved the project 15 days ago. Corporator Arvind Bane said, "First a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in 2008 by the Haji Ali Residents Association demanding that various spots on the beach be cleaned."