

Image Building: Mayawati On Anti-Corruption Drive

Lucknow: (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati will soon launch an anti-corruption drive against "top corrupt" officials across the state in a move to burnish her image as a tough and no-nonsense leader, say sources close to her.

Recently, a vigilance raid was conducted against a senior official of the rank of joint trade tax commissioner in Ghaziabad. The move is expected to be carried out against other senior bureaucrats reported to be living beyond their means.

This follows a review held by Mayawati last month of the state's different investigation agencies during which she told the top brass of these organisations to pull up their socks and reactivate their machinery to become meaningful and effective once again.

The state's vigilance department, alleged to



have become a dumping ground for "unwanted" officers, has been put under the charge of a highly reputed police official - Additional Director General Atul (he goes by only one name). Atul, who was appointed a week ago, has been allowed to handpick his team of subordinates.

The vigilance department is in the process of preparing a list of the "top corrupt" officials in different government organisations and departments, the source said.

"The chief minister is set to bring about qualitative improvement in the state's governance, which was suffering largely on account of corrupt officials in the hierarchy," the source said, adding, "More raids will follow in due course."

The Mayawati government's decision to

Cosmetic Surgery Cases Surge In India

New Delhi: (IANS) Those ads promising a perfect nose or chin, a slimmer or fuller figure, sure have had their effect. According to doctors, the number of cosmetic surgery cases in India have increased manifold with a hospital in Delhi recording an increase of 150 percent in cosmetic surgery cases in the last five years.



Rakesh Khazanchi, senior consultant, department of plastic and cosmetic surgery at Sir Gangaram hospital said: "Cosmetic procedures like rhinoplasty (surgery of the nose), liposuction, male breast reduction, abdominoplasty have seen a whopping increase of nearly 150 percent in the last five years".

Among the non surgical procedures, botox treatment is one of the most widely practiced. Botox is a cosmetic treatment that blocks nerve transmission to temporarily reduce the facial muscle contractions that cause frown lines.

Microdermabrasion - a non-invasive procedure that uses a spray of microcrystals to remove the outermost layer of dry, dead skin cells and reveals younger skin, collagen injection, laser hair removal and chemical peel are the other popular cosmetic procedures.

Rajeev B. Ahuja, chairman of the International Confederation for Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery (IPRAS) said: "Peer pressure and advertisements promising 'picture perfect' looks after cosmetic surgery, drive most men and women to go under the knife". Experts say that an unqualified or unaccredited pair of hands conducting a surgery can be risky with possible complications like excessive bleeding, scarring, nerve damage, skin necrosis and even paralysis of the face.

"There are a large number of aspirants who just require counselling. Very often a plastic surgeon may also need to play the role of a psychiatrist," Ahuja added.

Delhi will host the 15th World Congress of IPRAS Dec 3, bringing together thousands of plastic surgeons, hand surgeons, micro surgeons and burn specialists from as many as 97 countries.

Indians Borrow Luxury Bags, Buy Branded Jeans - On Installment

New Delhi: (IANS) Can't afford a luxury bag or a pair of branded skinny jeans? Just rent it or buy it in installments!

Thanks to new options in the market, some highly priced items that seemed like a distant dream to many Indians are now within reach.

"There are so many women who always wanted to carry a luxury bag or clutch at a party or a meeting but couldn't afford it. Our service gives them the opportunity to own one and match it with their attire," said Cooki Singh, co-founder of online bag rental service www.bag4aday.com.

"The whole idea of this concept is to make luxury bags affordable to bag lovers," she said.

The online portal has as many as 24 bags of international brands Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Fendi, Jimmy Choo, Dolce and Gabbana and Just Cavalli and are planning to add more numbers and new brands also.

To borrow a bag you have to take membership and then you can avail yourself of its services.

"We have to be very careful about our members and so make it a point to screen their backgrounds very well. We are very selective about our clients and so we don't make anyone our member till we have small details about them like residential copy, verification id proof," Singh told IANS.

"Also, we make it a point that we deliver the bag to our member because it's important for us to maintain their confidentiality," she added.

If you have the required documents, then you can opt for a one-year membership for just Rs.7,000 and hire a designer bag for Rs.800 for a night. If you want it for three nights, then you just have to pay Rs.1,400.

In the market, these bags or clutches are priced anywhere between Rs.50,000 and Rs.1 million. The service currently operates mainly in the national capital region and is cashing on Delhi's women who love to party.

"Delhi was the perfect city to launch our

brand because people here are very brand conscious, are flashy and love to show off," Singh explained.

"It's not that the women of Delhi can't afford these luxury bags, but they too get bored of carrying the same bag again and again. So this gives them a good and easy option to choose from," she added.

For 22-year-old Nandita Arora (name changed), this service is a boon.

"I always wanted to flaunt a Burberry clutch but couldn't afford it. Now if I have to attend a meeting with a client, this service comes in very handy because matching the right bag with the outfit does make a difference," said Arora, a PR executive with a multinational firm.

"It's a boon for all those girls who want to flaunt the branded bag. The concept is fantastic," she added.

It's not just luxury bags, you can even get a pair of Levi's jeans or any of their other items on EMI (Equated Monthly Instalments).

"Not everyone can afford a jeans of Rs.2,000; so this scheme allows them to own one branded pair of jeans. There are no hidden charges in the EMI as once you pay from your credit card, the bill will be automatically divided into EMIs," Ashu Mehta, store manager of Levi's store in plush Khan market, told IANS.

"The only catch is that the minimum price of the item should be Rs.1,500," he added.

While the Levi's range goes way up to Rs.5,000, one needs an HDFC Bank credit card.

"Right now we have tied up only with HDFC Bank and we are planning to tie up with other banks very soon as many customers are not able to avail themselves of this service because they don't have this card," Mehta explained.

The concept has sure caught on among the young generation that loves to flaunt the label of their branded jeans.

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Bollywood Actor Shiney Freed On Bail

Mumbai: (IANS) Bollywood actor Shiney Ahuja, who was granted bail by the Bombay High Court in a rape case, was released recently from the Arthur Road Jail. He arrived in New Delhi from Mumbai Sunday morning after spending 110 days in jail for allegedly raping his domestic help. His wife Anupam Ahuja feels that the process of her husband's re-acclimatisation to normal civil life will begin now.



"He needs to heal physically and emotionally. Now begins the second phase of my struggle. But you know what? I can't seem to feel any bitterness. God is great. The judiciary system in our country is great," Anupam told IANS.

Shiney, who was behind the bars for more than three months after his maid accused him of rape, got bail. He reiterated his claim that he had consensual sex with the domestic help.

Shiney would've been able to meet his daughter Arshiya in Delhi on the day he was freed, but the bail papers were not ready and then Gandhi Jayanti occurred the next day — as a result his trip home was delayed.

"So we had to wait till Saturday. But it doesn't matter. I've waited three months for Shiney to be released. I don't mind waiting one more day," said Anupam.

She says she didn't know how to react to the bail plea being accepted.

"It just goes to prove that the law of the country is always trustworthy. I've a feeling Shiney will never have to go back (to jail). God has tested us enough. If he has been suffering inside, I've been suffering outside."

Shiney can't wait to be united with his daughter Arshiya.

"Do you know when I last met Shiney in court on September 25, he was in acute pain. I think he was doing something in jail when something in his back got severely strained. He told me he had dreamt of our daughter. And the same day my parents in Delhi told me Arshiya had woken up calling out, 'Papa'. I saw that as a premonition for Shiney's freedom."