

Citizens question legality of parking fee charged in city's movie theatres



ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, FEB 12/-/ In a city with limited recreational avenues, exorbitant parking charges levied on movie lovers in the two Cineplexes here has come in for criticism from different corners. Albeit norms that charging for vehicles parked inside commercial complexes is illegal, cinegoers here are forced to pay through their nose for parking their two and four-wheelers even as the authorities concerned remain a mute spectator.

As per reports, people are forced to accept whatever fee is collected by the owners of Anand Paradise and Divyum Talkies. At Anand Paradise, Rs 30/- is charged for parking a four-wheeler for four hours, while Rs 20 is charged for two-wheelers. At Divyum Talkies, visitors are asked to pay Rs 35/- for four-wheelers and Rs 20/- for two. A deeper analysis into the issue whether parking charges inside commercial complexes, Malls, Cinema Hall is legal or not, however, reveals an interesting

scenario. Though charges are levied on parking of vehicles in private commercial complexes in different parts of the country, different Courts in the country had on occasions ruled otherwise.

The question came up for hearing before the Andhra Pradesh High Court on 2nd May 2003. Disposing of the petition filed by Ch. Madan Mohan and others, the High Court held that builders/owners of commercial complexes or owners of apartments in a commercial complex have

no absolute right to lease out or licence out parking areas. "Insofar as multi-storied commercial complexes are concerned, the builder/owner under law has impliedly accepted by reason of building permission and other provisions to keep parking places for the use by visitors to the complex and hence builders/owners or their licenses cannot charge any fees," ruled the High Court.

In October last year, the issue of malls, hospitals and commercial establishments in South Delhi charging

ing parking fees from the public came under the scanner of the Delhi High Court. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar issued a notice to the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and sought its response to a PIL which alleged that charging of parking fees by these establishments was in violation of the civic body's notification.

An FIR was lodged last year against a Shopping Mall in Hyderabad after a man registered a complaint that he was asked to pay Rs 30/- for using the parking lot for just 10 minutes. "Commercial Complexes, be it malls, theatres or shopping complexes, have no right to lease out or license parking areas. Commercial complexes are public spaces they function by inviting public, so that public spaces must be free of cost," reported Deccan Chronicle while carrying the story.

Speaking to EOI, the managers of Divyum Talkies and Anand Paradise maintained that similar practice is followed in cities like Chennai, Bangalore etc. "The practice of charging parking fee in Cinema hall is very much prevalent in different parts of the country and as such we too follow the practice here. It's absolutely valid," they claimed. (File Pix)

Dr TC Khatri memorial lecture series at JNRM



PORT BLAIR, FEB 12/-/ The 1st Dr. T. C. Khatri Memorial lecture was held at JNRM on 12th February 2018 commemorating the birth anniversary of Late Dr. T. C. Khatri, Associate Professor and former Head of Department of Zoology, JNRM and popularly known as 'The Butterfly Man' of A & N Islands. 12th February also happens to be the birth anniversary of great naturalist Robert Charles Darwin. The theme of this year's lectures was 'Endemism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands'. The key speakers included Dr. Lalji Singh, Deputy Director, Botanical Survey of India spoke on 'Plant diversity of A & N Islands'. Dr. P. S. Umish, scientist D. RMR, deliver lecture on 'Vector Borne diseases of A & N Islands'. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Officer-in-charge, Zoological Survey India talked on endemic animals of A & N Islands.

critical review on ethno-medicines of Shompen tribes of great Nicobar Port Blair. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Vivek Kumar Sahu convener of the memorial lecture and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology. The program was chaired by Principal JNRM, Dr. N. Francis Xavier who while remembering his long association with Dr. Khatri threw light on different aspects of his personality, as a dedicated teacher, a passionate researcher and above all good human being. Ms. Pearl Devas, HoD, Geography also remembered late Dr. Khatri. The event was compeered by students of Nature Club of the department of Zoology. It was attended by scientists from different biological institutes of A & N Islands, faculty of JNRM and students of the departments of Botany and Zoology. Honourable speakers were presented with mementos. Vote of thanks was given by Mr. J. Gautam, HoD, Zoology.

Gold medalist athlete Mammu felicitated

PORT BLAIR, FEB 12/-/ Mr. K. P. Mammu, resident of Mannarghat won gold medal in 200 meter sprint race at the Athletics Meet organised by National Fire Service from February 4 at Nagpur (Maharashtra). The Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Mannarghat Mr. O. Bashir honoured him by presenting a shawl on February 11 at 9:30 pm at GSSS Mannarghat school ground to appreciate and encourage him for the future in front of a large gathering of local youths and villagers.



Huge turnout at maiden Raman Bagicha Beach festival



Y SENTHIL KUMAR

RANGAT, FEB 12/-/ A massive gathering from different villages in the North and Middle Andaman region witnessed the maiden Raman Bagicha Beach festival at Nimbutala, Rangat Bay on Sunday. The Deputy Commissioner of North and Middle Andaman, Smt Kirti Garg inaugurated the mela in the presence of Mr Piyus Rohankar, Assistant Commis-

sioner of Rangat and Divisional Forest Officer, Mr Sebastian. The Deputy Education Officer, Mr Susen Mallick, Tehsildar, Rangat, Mr Gopa Kumar and Block Development Officer, Rangat, Mr Kishori Lal were also present on the occasion.

Inaugurating the mela, Smt Garg visited the stalls put up by government departments to showcase benefits of different schemes launched by the Union Gov-

ernment. She also witnessed cultural programme presented on the occasion and later distributed prizes to the participants. The orchestra presented by the Tourism Department kept visitors enthralled during the mela. It may be recalled that the Lt. Governor, A & N Islands, during a recent visit, had directed the district administration to take up initiatives for promotion of tourism in the region. He visited Raman Bagicha to review the arrangements for the beach mela and directed the DC (N&M) & AC (MA) to make the beach eco-friendly for tourism development.

Jolly demands hike in milk procurement price

PORT BLAIR, FEB 12/-/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, State President A & N BJP urged The Chairman, ANIDCO to hike the Milk procuring price from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per Liter for small farmers in a letter. Due to the impact of rush for good income from white collar jobs and western culture, Indian agriculture and its allied sectors have slid down and Dairy Farms and Milk production has also decreased in A & N Islands.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi promoted White Revolution Mission with various Schemes to create opportunity to rural population and to bring socio-economic reform on Agriculture and its Allied Sectors encouraging farmers and rural youth to refocus on Agri-based sector like

Valediction of production oriented theatre workshop today

PORT BLAIR, FEB 12/-/ Kala Kendra - A & N Islands Society for Promotion of Art & Culture under Department of Art & Culture, A & N Administration had organized a month long production oriented theatre workshop in collaboration with National School of Drama, New Delhi. The month long workshop dealt with the entire gamut of aspects connected with theatre, such as acting, movement, light, make-up, costume, speech, theatre history etc. Mr Surinder Sharma, eminent actor, director and recipient of Nat Samrat award, 2018 is the Camp Director. National School of Drama has deputed other faculty members, namely Mr Avinash Deshpande, Mr Hari Singh Kholia, Mr Partho Banerjee and Mr Rajesh Kumar Pathak at the workshop.

The valedictory function of the workshop will be held on 18th February 2018 at 6:30 pm at ASI Auditorium, Middle Point, Port Blair when the play titled 'Charan Das Chor' will be staged. The play deals with the life of a notorious thief 'Charan Das', a pro in the world of stealing. All are invited to come and enjoy the play performed by students of the islands under the guidance of experts from National School of Drama. Smt. Chitra Joshi, First Lady, A & N Islands will be the chief guest at the valedictory function.

EVENTS TODAY

MAHA SHIVRATRI: Mahashivratri to be celebrated at Shri Sarveshwar Mahadev Mandir Chinmaya Mission premises from 6.15 am.

SAILING: MV Bharat Sankar will be for Car Nicobar via Hut Bay at 7 am from Haddo wharf.

SAKSHAM 2018: Oil and Gas Conservation Mass Awareness campaign being organized by Petroleum Conservation Research Association and Oil and Gas Public School Undertakings. Till Feb 15.

CAMP: Leprosy case detection campaign underway in South Andaman District. Till Feb 14.

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Picture shows Ms Roopa Lall, Sr. Correspondent of The Echo of India presenting a gift hamper to N. Nema Shree, Class-VII, and N. Prabha Wathi, Class VIII, Govt. Sen.Sec.School Telugu Medium, Haddo for winning the weekly "Publish Your Painting" contest, an EOI initiative to encourage artistic temperament among children of the isles. (EOIPIX).