

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. NITIN JAMDAR
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE BASANT BALAJI

Monday, the 11th day of August 2025 / 20th Sravana, 1947
WP(PIL) NO. 52 OF 2025(S)

PETITIONER:

MANU NAIR G, AGED 27 YEARS, S/O GOPALAKRISHNAN N.,
RESIDING AT VRINDAVAN HOUSE, THIRUVARPPU P.O.,
KOTTAYAM, PIN - 686 020.

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
2. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
4. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
5. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, KERALA, OFFICE AT STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VELLAYAMBALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 010.
6. FICCI – MULTIPLEX ASSOCIATION OF INDIA, FEDERATION HOUSE, TANSEN MARG, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.
7. KERALA CINE EXHIBITORS ASSOCIATION, FILM CHAMBER BUILDING, M.G. ROAD, ERNAKULAM, COCHIN, KERALA, PIN - 682 035.
8. PVR INOX LIMITED, 7TH FLOOR, LOTUS GRANDEUR BUILDING, VEERA DESAI ROAD, OPPOSITE GUNDECHA SYMPHONY, ANDHERI (WEST), MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA, PIN - 400 047.
9. CINEPOLIS INDIA PVT. LTD, 14TH FLOOR, GRAND VIEW TOWER, IREO CITY SECTOR 58, GURGAON, HARYANA, INDIA, PIN - 122 003.

P.T.O.

Writ petition (public interest litigation) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(PIL) the High Court be pleased to pass an interim direction to Respondents 1 to 4, to provisionally notify a maximum ceiling on cinema ticket prices across the State, including multiplex theatres, and further restrain Respondents 8 and 9, and similarly placed multiplex operators, from implementing any dynamic or surge-based ticket pricing mechanism; and also direct the said licensing authorities, including the District Collectors, to ensure strict supervision and compliance with the existing licensing conditions relating to transparency, fairness, and reasonableness in ticket pricing by all cinema exhibitors within their jurisdiction, and file a status report before this Hon'ble Court within a time frame as may be stipulated.

This petition again coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL), this Court's order dated 15/07/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI. MANU NAIR G as Party-In-Person for the petitioner, SMT. THUSHARA JAMES, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R1 to R5 and of SRI. SANTHOSH MATHEW (SR.) along with M/S. ASWIN GOPAKUMAR, ANWIN GOPAKUMAR, ADITYA VENUGOPALAN, MAHESH CHANDRAN, SARANYA BABU, GOPIKA B.S., ABHISHEK S. & ROHIT P., Advocates for R6, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

NITIN JAMDAR, C.J.

&

BASANT BALAJI, J.

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Dated this the 11th day of August 2025

ORDER

Heard Mr. Manu Nair G., the Petitioner-in-Person, Mr. Santhosh Mathew, learned Senior Advocate instructed by Mr. Aditya Venugopalan, the learned counsel appearing for Respondent No.6 and Ms. Thushara James, learned Senior Government Pleader.

2. An affidavit has been filed by the State in respect of the subject matter, wherein, it is stated that a detailed study and discussion are necessary and the Government is looking into the matter and evolving a method by way of a policy decision to regulate the pricing. It is further stated that the said process would require multiple rounds of discussion. For that purpose, a committee is constituted vide Government Order dated 26 July 2025 for inquiring into the matter of regulating the ticket charges in the cinema theatres and multiplex theatres. The copy of the Government Order is not annexed to the counter affidavit.

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3. The learned Senior Advocate representing Respondent No.6 – Multiplex Association of India, states that the said committee should hold consultations with the stake holders. He submits that there exists a statutory provision in respect of the subject matter. We presume that the reference made by the Government to discussion means consultation with the stake holders.

4. The learned Senior Government Pleader states that a copy of the Government Order will be placed on record by way of a memo.

5. Post on 14 August 2025.



Sd/-
NITIN JAMDAR
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
BASANT BALAJI
JUDGE

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