



**TIMEPASS**

THE CAR PARK IS WHERE IT'S AT IN MANI SQUARE. PLUS, A QUIZ THAT GOT THEM ALL SWEATING

**More for mall rats**

served in pretty, hand-painted *kulhars*. Chances of any parking hassles are low. There's place to sit other than in cars. All this for five bucks more. "We have huge rentals now and want to break even. If we had increased the price by Rs 20 a cup, it would have been jarring, but Rs 5 isn't a big deal," says Karmakar. Agrees Soumya Dutta, a student of Institute of Genetic Engineering, Madhyamgram. "It fits our budget, we often share a plate of, say, crispy chicken and chilli potato and end up having a feast!"

35 for steamed, Rs 50 for paneer and Paneer Chowmein for Rs 60. From the Indian selection, go for Cheese Roll at Rs 25 or Macaroni Chaat at Rs 60. Finger food in form of sandwiches, Paneer burgers and French fries are also available. The owner's recommendation? "Crispy potato at Rs 35. IN THE PIPELINE: Karmakar wants to add two more parking spaces to increase the area. "It's very important as it is always attract a lot of people here come of curios!

**HOTHANGOUT**

**THE SPREAD:** Goutam's is best known for its cold and hot coffee (Rs 35 and Rs 15 at Mani Square, respectively). Orange, lemon and pineapple blossoms are also a speciality—a combination of milk and fruit crush punched with soda and ice cream. Hot chocolate and Masala Thums Up at Rs 20 is also worth a shot. Along with its Chinese and Indian cuisine, Goutam's has also introduced pasta with tomato or cheese sauce for Rs 55 for veg options and Rs 70 with meat. Other favourites include Crispy Baby Corn at Rs 70, Chicken Momo (Rs

and ended up as loyal customer he smiles. **DOWNSIDE:** What is considered the downside by some is an uproar for a majority of the customers. "After the smoking ban, we can't smoke in any public place. The being in the parking lot is a welcome change!" smiles Souvik as long as customers aren't disturbed, Karmakar is cool with

*Ranjabat*

What's your favourite hangout? Tell us @abpmal

**WHAT:** Goutam's at Mani Square. It's the first time that a favourite street hangout spot has found space in a mall. A modest counter and 30 little cane *moras* welcome all, seven days a week from noon to 11:30pm. Sounds good? What makes it even better is that customers are also served in their ears. **HERE:** Keeping to its character, owner Goutam Karmakar refused a spot at the food court and instead opened shop in the parking lot on the ground floor. "There are big brands there but we have loyal customers. Many don't like the canned coffee and want to sit in an open-air space. This atmosphere is perfect for us," feels Karmakar. One of those loyalists is 22-year-old Souvik Misra, a Bangalore University graduate, happy to find a private spot to hang with that special someone, and to have a smoke. "We often pop in before or after shopping or watching a movie at the multiplex," smiles Souvik. **WHY:** The famous hot coffee is still



Goutam's at the Mani Square car park. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta