

## **Malls, eateries can stay open 24 x 7 in Mumbai from January 27**

Living up to its reputation as the city that never sleeps, Mumbai will now have malls, multiplexes, shops and restaurants that can stay open 24x7, without serving any alcohol. The authorities The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Mumbai Police have permitted such establishments across the city, which fall under “gated communities”, and non-residential areas, to stay open 24x7 from January 27, according to municipal commissioner Praveen Pardeshi.

Representatives of shopping malls, hotels and restaurants were also present at the meeting. At least 25 malls and several other shops and restaurants across the city can stay open throughout, however, it is up to the owner’s discretion to keep them open 24x7 or not, in view of the business benefits. The owners can also decide which days they can keep their establishments open round-the-clock several of them would prefer Friday to Sunday. Gated communities refer to places that have CCTV surveillance, parking facilities, ensure the safety of the people approaching the place and where noise is curtailed, explained a government official. Permission for Kamala Mills to stay open 24x7 is being reviewed as ward officers, police will find out the feasibility of malls in their areas. This will be followed by an assessment of the implementation.

Some of the malls that have agreed for the 24x7 implementation are Atria Mall in Worli, R-City Mall in Ghatkopar, Oberoi Mall in Goregaon, Growel’s 101 in Kandivli Phoenix Market City in Kurla and High Street Phoenix in Lower Parel. Meanwhile, those establishments that serve alcohol can serve till 1.30am at the latest, in accordance with the existing rule.

Gurbaxish Singh, President of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI), said, “We thank the tourism minister and his initiative to make Mumbai a successful tourist hub. We have also been suggested in the meeting to put stickers of ‘We are now 24x7’. Some kind of planning will have to be done to prepare the staff, security and other such elements, which will take time.”