

## **Pune Commissioner to bars, pubs: Wrap up by 1.30 am or face stringent action**

Commissioner of Police for Pune, Amitesh Kumar, issued specific directives under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) targeting bars, restaurants, pubs, and rooftop establishments within the city. The order emphasizes strict adherence to guidelines regarding operating hours, service protocols, security measures, and safety norms.

According to the order, establishments must conclude their operations by 1:30 am, and any failure to comply will result in stringent action against them. The directive is prompted by various incidents disrupting public peace and order in and around such establishments, with owners neglecting due diligence to prevent such occurrences, some blatantly violating rules, and certain customers engaging in disorderly behavior.

The order, effective until March 4, will undergo review, considering objections and suggestions from citizens, after which a fresh order will be issued. Commissioner Kumar, in a press conference on Monday, highlighted that while some directions align with existing rules, this order aims to bring uniformity. The 1:30 am time limit is emphasized, and violations will face severe consequences.

Key points from the order include prohibiting rooftop establishments from serving alcohol without a specific license, strict enforcement of excise license permit norms, a mandatory 15-day prior intimation for foreign nationals performing live, and permission requirements for ticketed performances. CCTV cameras at entry, exit, and serving areas with two sets of Digital Video Recorders are also mandated.

The order specifies that indoor music performances must end by 1:30 am, outdoor events by 10 pm, and the employment of bouncers with no criminal record in the past 10 years, or those with records requiring permission from the

zonal DCP. Smoking and vaping are limited to demarcated areas, while the sale and consumption of hookah and shisha are completely banned.

The directive addresses traffic management, prevention of drunken driving, assessment, and eviction of unruly individuals, and bans the entry of disruptive customers. It underscores compliance with existing excise permit conditions, the obligation to report incidents to the police, and warns of criminal culpability for violations under IPC Section 188 and other relevant laws. Section 144 of the CrPC grants the power to issue prohibitory orders to district magistrates and officials with magisterial powers in cases of potential nuisance or danger to law and order.