



Hotels to stay open till 5am for Christmas, NY

Mumbai: In a decision that has come well in time for party-goers, the state home department on Thursday allowed hotels, permit rooms and clubs to hold Christmas and New Year parties till 5 am. According to a circular issued by the government, the relaxation in timings will be applicable for December 24, 25 and 31.

The owners of star hotels and premium restaurants under the banner of Hotel And Restaurant Association Western India (HRAWI) had recently submitted a representation to the principal secretary, home department, director general of police and Mumbai police commissioner in this regard.

On normal days, the es-

tablishments are allowed to remain open till 1.30 am.

The association, representing the hospitality industry, has assured the administration that its members will uphold stringent safety measures and adhere to protocols to ensure the well-being of guests. "Restaurants are an integral part of Christmas and New Year celebrations. The season attracts a large number of tourists to cities and towns that celebrate late into the night. The extension of business hours will help the restaurants and hotels to plan packages and programmes," HRAWI president Pradeep Shetty said. —Chittaranjan Tembhekar