

## **HRAWI requests for extension of timings for bars, discotheques**

HRAWI has urged the state government to allow bars and pubs to operate at least until 3 am. The request by HRAWI comes in the backdrop of Maharashtra government's decision to allow eateries to operate for 24 hours. This move will allow people to step out for a cup of coffee, a dessert or even a post-midnight snack without having to think twice. Other than this, the decision will also encourage tourism related activities in the state and especially in Mumbai. Maharashtra Government passed a bill in the state assembly last week, which will allow around one lakh registered restaurants to remain open for 24 hours. It would also allow malls, restaurants, multiplexes and other retail establishments to remain open 24X7.

However, it does not apply to bars, pubs or discotheques. While Maharashtra has taken the lead in passing the bill, the HRAWI hoped that the adjoining states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat and the union territories of Daman, Diu and Silvassa too would amend their law soon.

There are over one-lakh restaurants in the state and even if restaurants in the tourism hotspots decide to operate 24X7, then it could easily create additional employment opportunities for at least two lakh people.