

## **No shutdown, but will enforce pay cuts, say restaurants & bars**

To avoid retrenchment, restaurants, hotels and bar owners in the city have decided to stay open and serve Mumbaikars in their toughest times. This, of course, till the government sees no harm in keeping the establishments open. Pubs and discotheques have already been ordered to down shutters temporarily. However, there will be pay cuts this month and may be in April too if the situation persists, said Hotel and Restaurant Association Western India (HRAWI) office-bearers. Pradeep Shetty of HRAWI said hoteliers have already started sensitising their staff over pay cuts.

HRAWI has over 2,000 star hotels. HRAWI president Gurbaxish Singh Kohli said: “Hotel occupancy is down by 80% and restaurants are facing 70% dip in revenue. While we are not taking extreme measures like retrenchment, we are in consultation with our workforce to tide over the crisis...Finally, we look up to the government to rescue this industry. Also, HRAWI has not advised its members to shut down; it is a voluntary decision depending on the status of sales and operations.”

The hospitality industry has already asked the government for waiver in taxes to cope with loss of business.