

## **All shops, except bars and liquor outlets can stay open 24/7**

The Maharashtra Government has issued a notification allowing shops and retail establishments in the state to remain open 24\*7. However, liquor shops, bars and restaurants serving alcohol are still exempt from doing so.

Speaking on the State Government's notification, Dilip Datwani, President, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI), says, "This is a welcome move and a sign of progress. The biggest benefit of this decision will be to employment and it holds the potential to increase employment opportunities by 25% in the State. This is a definite boost to tourism and economy and will help the hospitality sector to emerge even stronger. Although, we would have wished for the act to be extended to bars too. HRAWI appeals to the Government to consider allowing bars operational at least up to 3 a.m., if not 24\*7."

The act will apply to shops, residential hotels, restaurants, theatres and amusement places, places to which the Factories Act does not apply.