

## **Mumbai restaurants, malls don't remain open 24x7**

A month ago, the Maharashtra government fulfilled Mumbai's dream -- allowed shops, malls, restaurants that don't serve alcohol and other establishments to remain open 24x7. A drive through Mumbai's streets over the weekend, the time where the city lets its hair down, showed that food joints, malls and shops down their shutters at midnight. Reason: owners say the cost incurred on keeping the establishments open till early morning is more than the revenues they would earn. Some have extended their working hours, but only for the weekends, when the footfall is higher.

Dilip Datwani, president of Hotels and Restaurant Association of Western India, said, "We have been pushing for bars to remain open till 3am. This will give a boost to our food business. Overstepping the curfew is illegal for bars, but it can easily be legalised and regulated."

According to restaurateurs, places that serve alcohol get business through the night. Santosh Shetty, president of Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR), said, "The late night option is okay for eateries around railway stations or the airport, but it is not profitable otherwise. Late nights mean more employment, security and lighting."