

## **Fire brigade can now inspect eateries 24x7**

In a first, the fire brigade has been instructed to inspect city eateries also during the night for fire-safety violations. Till now, the fire brigade's checks were conducted only during regular office hours-10.30am-5.30pm. The change was prompted by the December 29 Kamala Mills blaze, in which 14 persons died when fire broke out in the early hours in two rooftop resto-bars, which had flouted almost every fire-safety rule. Because of a spate of blazes in recent months, a fire-safety inspection cell was started at the fire brigade. It is the duty of the cell, along with ward-level municipal staff, to inspect the city's eateries.

A civic official said fire-safety inspections are required even more during the night as that is when many establishments draw crowds to restaurants and bars. "In fact, several such businesses operate only after sundown," he said.