

# Restos reach 50% of pre-nCoV revenue, eye more relaxations

**Neha.Madaan@timesgroup.com**

**Pune:** The restaurant industry in Maharashtra has reached an average of 50% of its pre-pandemic revenues after the lifting of Covid restrictions in parts of Maharashtra, particularly the 10pm dine-in deadline that was extended to 1.30am in some cities, Pradeep Shetty, senior vice-president, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) told TOI on Tuesday.

Barring Mumbai, Pune and some other districts, areas like Thane, Nagpur and Aurangabad still continue to operate at restricted dine-in deadline of 10pm, which is slowing recovery, Shetty said.

“Full recovery is likely to

happen once the seating capacity restrictions, currently at 50% in restos in Maharashtra, are lifted,” he said.

Shetty said the resto business crashed after December 23 last year, with the Omicron wave and the restrictions that followed. “Business started looking up only after January 25. Full recovery can happen only if restrictions on other industries are lifted pan-Maharashtra so that corporates, tourists and working class start stepping out more,” Shetty said.

Sources from HRAWI said three successive waves have left a trail of destruction with 30% of establishments permanently closed amid mounting debts and losses for the owners. “In 2019, around 50 lakh employees were directly engaged in the industry, out of which around 50% have lost their jobs during the pandemic,” Shetty said.

---