

Restaurateurs are thankful for the 10 pm deadline, but question why not extend it to 1.30am?

The new unlock guidelines issued by Maharashtra government has come as a temporary relief for restaurant owners in Mumbai as it allows them to remain open till 10 pm. This new rule has been kicked in from August 15. The days leading to this move was preceded by a 60-km protest, from Tungar Phata, Vasai to Collector Office Palghar, by 200 hoteliers and restaurateurs. On August 6, a delegation from the restaurant sector, met the Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Uddhav Thackeray to voice their concerns. He assured the F&B industry that he would personally discuss the subject with the State COVID and arrive at a decision soon.

Mr. Sherry Bhatia, President, HRAWI, says, “The hospitality industry thanks the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the government authorities and the COVID-19 task force for easing the restrictions. Restaurants will now be able to make some business, which was just impossible while operating until 4pm. The industry, including owners and people employed in it, has suffered for over 16 months of income deprivation. We were hoping that since restaurants continue to operate at only 50 per cent capacity, the government could have allowed us to remain open till midnight.” However, the CM has kept his promise, and we welcome this move and expect more easing of restrictions shortly.”

Restaurant owners are now hopeful of getting back to the 1.30am deadline like the good old days.