



# Pune CP promises revised orders for bars, restaurants

**'Establishments Can't Ensure Guests Don't Drink & Drive'**

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**Pune:** Commissioner of Police (CP), Pune, Amitesh Kumar told TOI on Thursday that bars, pubs, and restaurants that are licensed to serve alcohol are not expected to restrict guests from driving after the latter leave the premises intoxicated.

The clarification follows Kumar's recent meeting with stakeholders from the restaurant industry, who expressed their concerns regarding his previous order. Now, the top cop has also said he will be issuing a revised order in this regard soon.

The previous order had directed bars under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to ensure that guests who were served alcohol did not drink and drive, and also prohibited dancing in seating areas.

Additionally, establishments were required to notify the CP's office about performances by artists or DJs well in advance.

Kumar said on Thursday, "Bar managements are not expected to stop guests from driving after they leave the premises intoxicated. Instead, such establishments should

## EVOLVING RULES FOR A NIGHT OUT

Previous orders	New version
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under CrPC Section 144, bars to ensure that guests served alcohol do not drink and drive</li> <li>Dancing prohibited in seating areas</li> <li>Establishments to notify CP's office about performances by artists or DJs in advance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bar managements not expected to stop guests from driving when they leave after drinking, but must raise awareness of risks</li> <li>Dance ban in some areas to be amended, but management to ensure safety of all guests</li> <li>Bars/restaurants need not inform police about non-ticketed in-house performances by DJs or artists, except ticketed events or performances of foreign artists</li> <li>Prior police permission required for one-day liquor license for any event</li> </ul>

**Amendments to earlier order by CP likely to be issued before March 4**

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focus on raising awareness about the risks of drinking and driving. Amendments to the earlier order are likely to be issued before March 4."

Regarding the directive banning dancing in certain areas of a restaurant or pub, the police chief said, "We will amend this order as well, with the condition that the management of an establishment ensures the safety and security of all guests, especially women, to prevent any instances

of inappropriate behaviour."

Bars and restaurants need not inform the police about non-ticketed in-house performances by DJs or artists, Kumar said, except for ticketed events or performances involving foreign artists. "If there are foreign artists performing, establishments must notify us in advance. Similarly, prior permission from the police will also be required in cases where an establishment, not otherwise operating as a bar or pub, has obtained

a one-day liquor license to organize a programme. The advertisements for such events should also include the end-time or outer time limit—10pm if loudspeakers are being used—even though liquor can be served until 1am. This ensures that guests have a clear understanding of when the programme will conclude," Kumar added.

However, the top cop has said that certain directives, without exceptions, will remain in place. For instance, no pubs, bars, or restaurants can operate beyond the 1.30am deadline, with a half-hour grace period provided for winding up. He said that before 2am, police personnel will not enter the eatery to request shutdown, unless there is a brawl requiring intervention.

Meanwhile, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) has submitted an appeal to the Maharashtra Chief Minister, deputy CM, chief secretary, tourism minister, and principal secretary of tourism, highlighting concerns about the previous police order.

Referring to the diktat issued earlier, HRAWI president Pradeep Shetty said, "The order does not justify the need for such drastic measures under CrPC Section 144. Targeting establishments with FL-III (foreign liquor) licenses without distinguishing between different types of establishments undermines the government's efforts to promote 'Ease of Doing Business'."