

Why 25% cap on open-air venues, ask hoteliers

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Mumbai: While welcoming Saturday's government notification lifting restrictions on their operational hours, hotels and restaurant owners have termed the cap of 25% on public participation in functions at open-air venues as 'anomalous'.

"The cap on open-air functions of 25% capacity is anomalous, as for closed halls the cap is 50%. With the peak wedding season here, this is unreasonable," said HRAWI senior vice-president Pradeep Shetty.

Hoteliers said the cap for open-air spaces ought to be 75% instead.

Shetty also pointed out that putting the onus on ensuring covid-appropriate behaviour (CAB) on the proprietors is "very difficult and impractical".

Meanwhile, senior officials from BMC's disaster management wing said the 25% limit was given because there might be a risk of people crowding such events and then there may not be any control unless brought to the notice of the concerned authorities. "25% limit is actually correct. There is no anomaly," officials added.