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**Malls, hotels to open on June 8; state for clarity on liquor sale**

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By SMVashankar  
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**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government on Sunday notified the ministry of home affairs (MHA) guidelines for Unlock 1.0 by deciding to open religious places, hotels and shopping malls on June 8. Namma Metro services, theatres and opening of schools will be decided at a later date, as prescribed by the MHA.

Since there's no clarity whether hotels attached with bars can serve liquor in the first phase, the government has sought the Centre's view on the subject. While the MHA has allowed resumption of hotel service, it has categorically said a decision on reopening bars will be taken in Phase III.

The guidelines also say: "Hotels, restaurants and other hospitality services will be allowed to reopen in Phase I effective June 8." The lack of clarity on the definition of 'other hospitality services' has put the state in a quandary.

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**Muzrai department preparing norms for religious centres**

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We believe the category - other hospitality services - includes serving liquor at hotels. But MHA guidelines differentiate bars from hotels. We need to check with the ministry before drawing up the state's standard operating procedure for the hospitality sector," said an official.

Chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Sunday held a review meeting with senior officials, following which chief secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar issued an order with broad outlines for Unlock 1.0. "SOPs are being prepared for individual sectors and they will be released before June 8," said the chief secretary.

This has left a lot of traders and hoteliers, preparing to resume business and laying down protocols in compliance with Covid norms, in uncertainty. "It would be odd if liquor consumption is not allowed in star hotels while food is being served. We hope the government will provide clarity on this," said K Syamaraju, president of South India Hotels and Restaurants Association.

The government said it reserves the right to allow people from high-risk states, and an order to this effect will be issued later.

With religious places set to open on June 8, the muzrai department has prepared its guidelines and will finetune them before June 8, said muzrai commissioner Rohini Sinthua.