



# NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

16 April 2020

Shri. Dilip Walse-Patil  
Hon'ble Excise Minister  
Government of Maharashtra  
Mumbai

## APPEAL FOR RELIEF TO RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN VIEW OF THE CORONA VIRUS

Hon'ble Minister,

1. Greetings from **National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI)**. Sir, at the outset, we congratulate the Government for the valiant efforts being made to control the spread of Novel Corona Virus in India.
2. As responsible citizens, we stand firmly by the government in this fight. We are doing our bit by leveraging our food production infrastructure to **produce and serve free meals to the underprivileged**. We have already served **more than 1.5 million meals** for the needy in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.
3. Sir, we totally understand that most efforts and resources of the Govt is currently being deployed towards fighting this virus. We also understand that unless we know the duration of this disruption and the level of damage caused by it, we are not in a position to either assess our losses or come up with any comprehensive stimulus request for our sector. We are however sure in our assessment that **our sector is staring at a complete decimation** and we therefore seek a few urgent interventions from you to keep ourselves afloat.
4. We write to you to inform that our members have received communication from the Maharashtra Excise Department to renew the FL-III license by 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 to avail of last year rates. There is a proposed hike of 15% with option to pay in three instalments if someone does not pay by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
5. We feel that this is a very harsh decision by the Excise Department of Maharashtra under the current circumstances. We have already been shut down for almost a month and there is absolutely no clarity on when will our restaurants and bars open again. It is pertinent to mention that opening of bars will be low priority area post the lockdown and it may happen only in the last phase.

**ANURAG KATRIAR**  
Executive Director & CEO  
deGustibus Hospitality  
Pvt. Ltd.  
**President**

**KABIR SURI**  
Co-Founder & Director  
Azure Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.  
**Vice President**

**PRATIK POTA**  
CEO  
Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.  
**Hony. Secretary**

**NITIN SALUJA**  
Founder Chaayos  
Sunshine Teahouse  
Pvt. Ltd.  
**Hony. Jt. Secretary**

**MANPREET SINGH**  
Director  
K S Hotels Pvt. Ltd.  
**Hony. Treasurer**

**PRAKUL KUMAR**  
**Secretary General**



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6. Conservatively, the industry is looking at no business in the first quarter of this financial year. Therefore, it is unfair to ask for renewal fee in advance for one full year when businesses are shut; and the industry will at best get to operate for nine months of business this year.
7. In addition, our Industry is fighting very hard for its mere survival right now and we are seeking every possible concession from Union & State Governments to ensure that we survive. Under these circumstances, to extend a fee hike of 15% will be a massive blow to the industry, leading to closure of many businesses and attendant massive job losses.
8. We therefore request you for fee concessions for periods of non-operation and a further discount as a minor support measure for our survival in the post-COVID era. You would agree that at this point, it is imperative for all of us to give a higher priority to humane issues and prioritise utilisation of minimal resources at hand towards payments of employees and marginal/small suppliers, including farmers.

In view of the above facts, we request you to kindly review the decision of Excise Department and provide us the relief as mentioned above.

Sir, I am certain that you will accord this communication the seriousness that it deserves. It is a matter of our survival; and we surely cannot survive without your active and immediate support.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

**Anurag Katriar**  
**President**

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