



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 26-1

06 January 2022

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of India
South Block
New Delhi - 110001
Email: connect@mygov.nic.in.

APPEAL FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

Hon'ble Prime Minister,

1. New Year Greetings from National Restaurant Association of India. NRAI is the Indian Restaurant Industry's leading Association. Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Delhi, we are the voice of the restaurant industry representing the interests of 5,00,000+ restaurants pan India. The restaurant industry, with an annual turnover of ~ INR 4 Lakh Crore is the third largest after retail and insurance in the service segment, providing direct employment to over 7 million Indians.
2. We write to you on the above captioned subject, and at the outset, would like to appreciate and thank you for your Government's initiatives in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. While we all sincerely hope for a quick normalisation of the situation, we would like to state that the food service industry, already battling through tough times for the past couple of years, is now facing a challenge of mere survival. More than 25% of the industry has shut down permanently, leading to loss of jobs for 25 Lakh workers.
3. We understand that the healthcare of people and preventing spread of the virus should be the top priority of the Government. In doing so however, the restaurant industry seems to have been singled out to be on the receiving end of the most stringent restrictions as compared to all other sectors/activities. In this regard, the following points are put up for consideration please:
 - a) Numerous studies, and even Government's announcements have indicated that the patients in the current omicron-dominated wave of the virus are far less likely to have severe disease and hospitalisation than patients during the delta-dominated wave. There is a need therefore to have a relook at

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the latest round of restrictions/curfews, and the same should not be based on the criteria/procedures set up to tackle the previous strains of the virus.

- b) Experience over the last two waves shows that the pandemic graph in fact continued to decline after restaurants were opened up for operations – albeit with attendant seating/timing restrictions. The industry has continued to operate at 50% capacity since then – despite other activities like public transportation/metros/airlines being permitted to operate at full capacity. It is evident that due to the above factors, the government has also decided to allow other activities like elections and related political rallies.
- c) In this regard, it is to inform that most State Governments are issuing orders by introducing curfews, local lockdowns and various restrictions on the industry. In addition, ad hoc/arbitrary actions taken by local authorities across all states in forcing closures and preventing food delivery is leading to severe business disruptions.
- d) It is also relevant to state that other countries like USA, UK, Australia, South Africa etc. have not considered such severe restrictions despite a rise in overall numbers due to the Omicron strain. Concentration instead has been to implement protocols like wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing and preventing overcrowding. Data related to new cases vs. fatalities for the past two years for these countries including India, are placed at Annexure to this letter.

4. Based on the above, the following recommendations are put up for your kind consideration please:

- a) Suitable directions be passed to States to consider hospitalisation data to determine imposition of further restrictions.
- b) Permit longer operating hours for the industry, since it will reduce over-crowding, and also prevent further job losses for millions of workers.
- c) Issue directions to all States to permit delivery of food from restaurants as part of essential services, as has already been clarified by MHA vide its SOP for maintaining supply of essential goods dated 26th March 2020.

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d) COVID protocols be enforced uniformly across all activities. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that the organised segment of the industry is committed to following all protocols/SOPs and will support the Government in enforcing the same.

5. We once again humbly request you to consider the above suggestions favourably and give necessary directions to all State Governments for their quick implementation, for which we will be ever grateful.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Kabir Suri

Kabir Suri
President

Email - kabir.suri@nrai.org

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Annexure

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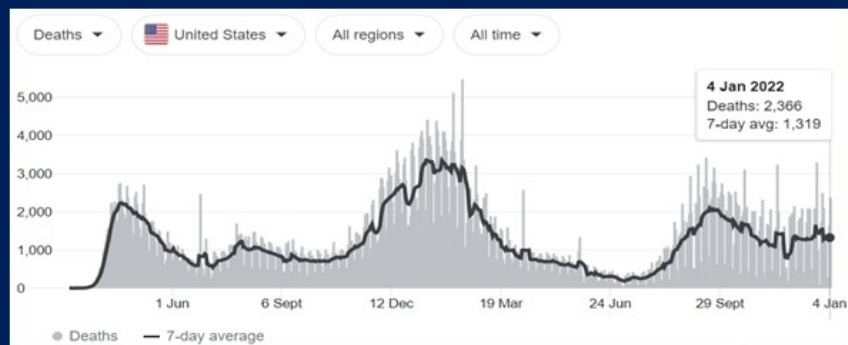
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

New Cases (March 2020 – January 2022)



Deaths (March 2020 – January 2022)



Source: John Hopkins University - Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)

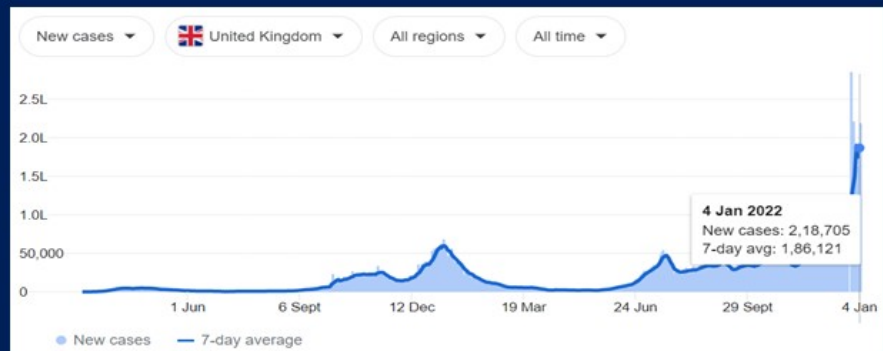




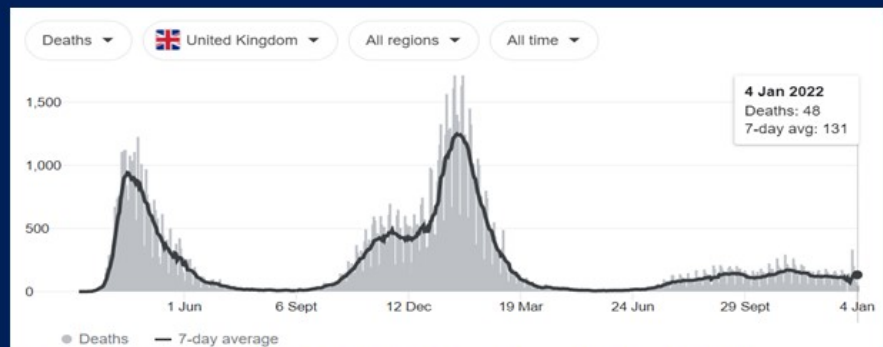
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UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

New Cases (March 2020 – January 2022)



Deaths (March 2020 – January 2022)



Source: John Hopkins University - Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)



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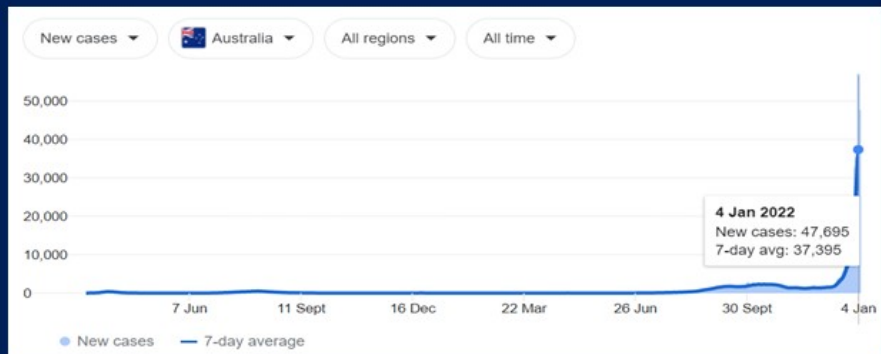
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AUSTRALIA

New Cases (March 2020 – January 2022)



Deaths (March 2020 – January 2022)



Source: John Hopkins University - Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)



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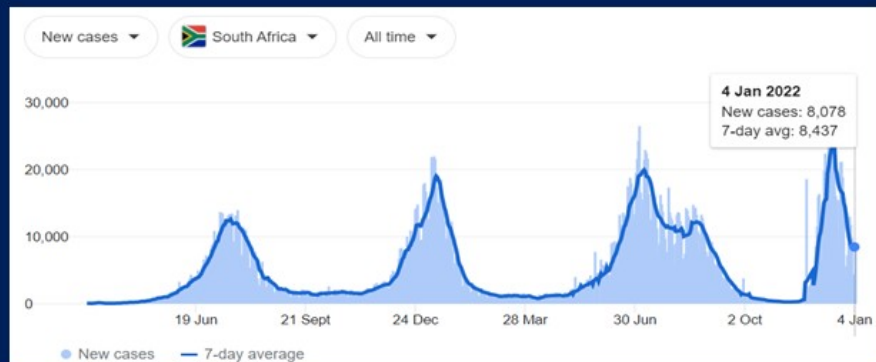
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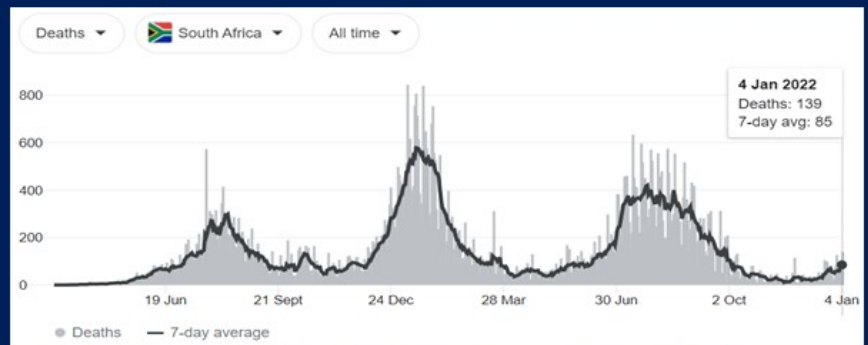
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SOUTH AFRICA

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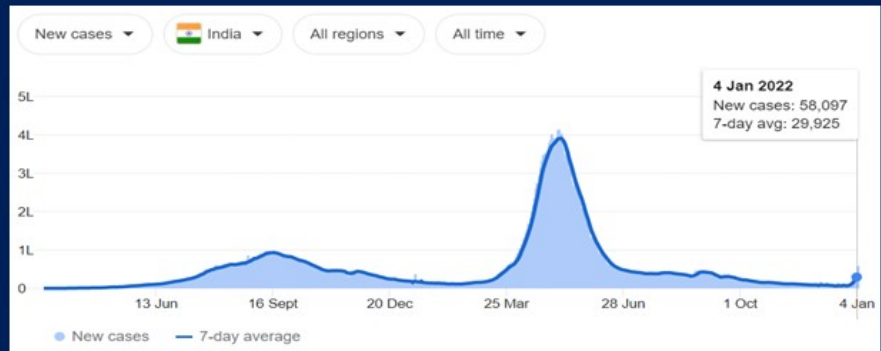
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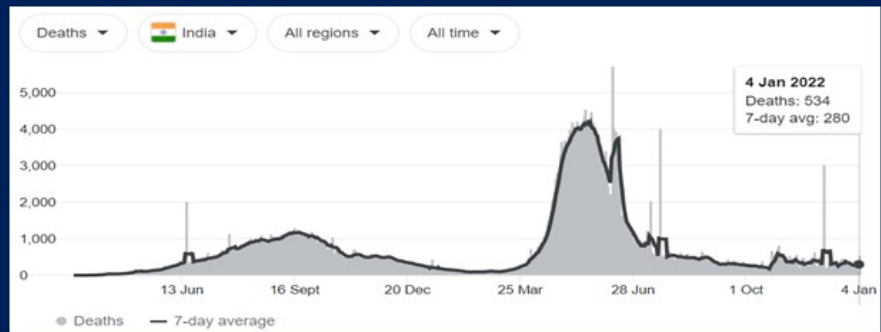
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INDIA

New Cases (March 2020 – January 2022)



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