



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 2-12

18 March, 2020

To,
The Principal Secretary,
State Excise
Govt of Maharashtra,
Old Custom House,
Mumbai

Subject: Request for relief in renewal of Excise License (FL-III) in view of COVID-19

Respected Ma'am,

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, valued at ~ INR 4 Lakh Crore is the third largest after retail and insurance in the service segment, providing direct employment to over 7 million Indians.

Ma'am, we truly appreciate the efforts being made by the State Government in controlling the spread of the Coronavirus by initiating several proactive measures, including shut down of Restaurants in Malls & Mills, and Bars, Pubs, Lounges and discotheques all over Maharashtra.

In support of the social distancing directive issued by the authorities, and in the overall interest of safeguarding public health, NRAI, as a responsible industry body, has issued a proactive advisory to our member restaurants to shut down operations, thereby preventing our patrons and staff from being infected. Our staff travel by public transport and are at risk of social infection, on the other hand our patrons too are at risk. We consciously believe that we need to step up to prevent the further spread of this virus in support of the Government's efforts.

Our decision to shut voluntarily has a massive economic impact, almost endangering our very existence. We employ more than a million people in Maharashtra, with Mumbai alone accounting for around half of this. We are responsible for their and their families' livelihoods and it is incumbent on us to safeguard their well-being. Our business more than any other, is dependent on cash flow management and any stoppage of revenue will wipe out the livelihoods of millions and cripple our industry permanently. Our industry is driven by discretionary spending, and in times of crisis we are the first to fall and last to recover.

In view of these extraordinary circumstances, we desperately request for the following relief from the Maharashtra Government through your good offices.

1. **Extension of time for license renewal:** Sir, the FL-III licenses for 2020-2021 need to be normally renewed by 31st of March, 2020. With the current closure of business and the expected slowdown immediately thereafter, we request you to kindly give us an extension till 30th of June-2020 to renew our existing FL-III Licenses.

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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- 2. Extension of tenure of the current license:** To tide over the business losses arising out of the current shut down, we request you to kindly extend the tenure of the current license by three months without any additional fee. The amount of license fee payable for renewal in 2020-2021 should be pro-rated for the residual period of the financial year, i.e., nine months.
- 3. Rollback of the proposed increase in the FL-III license fee:** We have already made a representation vide our letter dated 13th of March, 2020 to roll back the proposed 15% hike in the license for renewal under the prevailing circumstances.

Ma'am, we are confident that you will consider our above request favourably in these extraordinary troubled times and helping us survive this pandemic.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Anurag Katriar
President

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