



# NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 2-12

21 July 2020

To,  
The Commissioner  
Department of Excise, Entertainment & Luxury Tax  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
Vikas Bhawan  
New Delhi – 110002

**APPEAL FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF  
TO RESTAURANT INDUSTRY**

Dear Sir,

1. Greetings from the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). Due to the ongoing pandemic and subsequent lock downs, the restaurant industry has been one of the worst affected – having been the first to shut and the last to open. Customer sentiment to return anywhere near normal will take another at least 8 months to a year after lockdown. Recovery from such an unprecedented situation like this will also demand unprecedented actions from all stakeholders.

2. We write to you on the above captioned subject, and would like to put up the following demands related to the restaurant industry for your favorable consideration please:

- a) The license fees for the lockdown period should be waived completely. Thereafter, it should be at the rate of 50% for the rest of the year up to 31st March 2021, as the industry will not be utilizing full capacity due to social distancing norms, time restrictions, and subdued business expected after reopening. Necessary credit of the amount already paid as excise fees for the year 2020-21 should be given to the respective restaurant.
- b) Restaurants should be given credit for the excise duty paid on those stocks of beer/breezers etc which have expired due to lockdown, or will be expiring within 30 days from opening up of the bars.
- c) There is a 10% automatic increase in license fees every year. This should be reviewed. It is suggested that the increase may be done every five years.
- d) Those restaurants which close down permanently due to the COVID pandemic, should be given a full refund of the fees deposited by them in advance before the lockdown.
- e) Permit additional dispensing counters in the licensed premises. This will help in implementing social distancing norms.

**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**



## NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

- f) Permit service in open areas, balconies, verandahs etc. This is being done globally as well as in neighbouring states for social distancing norms and for safety of customers and staff.
- g) Permit easy transfer of licenses to different premise of same company and also to another company at same premise. This will assist the many restaurants which are closing due to COVID.
- h) Extend operating timings on weekends (Friday, Sat and Sun) up to 3AM. It is relevant to state that the excise policies of neighbouring states for FY 2020-21 permits NOIDA up to 4AM and Gurgaon up to 3AM. With the existing limitations in Delhi, the state will lose out on revenue.
- i) Allow liquor service through full bottles on table. Will help to reduce contact, increase revenue, better service for customer, and for safety of customer and staff.

3. In view of this unprecedented crisis situation caused by the pandemic, we humbly request you for your kind consideration and favourable action on our demands as given above. These are critical steps which are essential for the immediate survival and subsequent revival of the restaurant industry.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Prakul Kumar  
Secretary General  
For National Restaurant Association of India  
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