



# NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

05 May 2020

To  
The Honourable Commissioner of Excise  
Bengaluru

Respected Sir,

We write to you as the largest representative body of the Restaurant Industry of India, as well as of Bengaluru city. The NRAI represents the interests of several hundred organised food and beverage establishments in the city who are substantial employers of people, as well as bonfire contributors to the exchequer in the form of direct and indirect taxes and job providers.

In a letter dated March 14<sup>th</sup> to your good offices, we were the first to request a complete close down of establishments in face of the ongoing COVID pandemic the globe is currently facing. This was before the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced a lockdown of the country. The attempt was to keep the health and well-being of both employees and patrons at the forefront.

India, and Karnataka more specifically has been successful in keeping the virus in check, and has been lauded across the globe for its efforts. Unfortunately, the duration of the closure has also resulted in extreme economic hardships, the likes of which no one has ever faced before. For our industry alone it is an existential crisis – putting into question our very survival. **Meeting expenses for a high fixed spends business, paying wages etc are now impossible.**

Delivery food business is continuing across the globe as in Bengaluru too; but many of our member restaurants are unable to carry on this activity because they have an excise license of some kind. **These said establishments have BBMP Trade Licenses** to carry out food preparation operations. Sir, the pain to the industry is debilitating. With Liquor Stores now open, the worry of black marketing has been abated.

With absolutely zero revenues for the last fifty days or so, our hardships are beyond comprehension. We continued to feed the needy through our Feed the Needy initiative; providing food and groceries to nearly 4 lakh people in Bangalore, thanks to the help of generous patrons.



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**We would humbly request you to allow food delivery from licensed places** with all checks and measures for safety in place, as prescribed by the FSSAI and the State Govt, so we can keep a bare minimum of revenue streaming in. Many of us will have no way of meeting any expenses after the lifting of the lockdown at this current rate.

Your help in sorting this issue will be immensely valuable for hundreds of businesses on the brink of bankruptcy. We look forward to your positive reply to our request.

Thanks & Warm Regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manu', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Manu Chandra  
Chapter Head – Bengaluru  
NRAI  
Tel: +919611147777