



NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI / 2-12

25 March 2020

To,
The Excise Commissioner
Union Territory
Chandigarh

Subject: Request for Relief in Renewal of Excise License (L4/L5) in view of COVID-19

Dear Sir,

1. 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. Sir, we truly appreciate the efforts being made by the Government in controlling the spread of the Coronavirus by initiating several proactive measures, including the current lock down in all areas. We consciously believe that we need to step up to prevent the further spread of this virus in support of the Government's efforts.

3. However, the current situation has had a massive negative economic impact on the restaurant industry, almost endangering our very existence. We employ lakhs of people in Chandigarh, and 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.

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

(a) **Extension of time for license renewal:** The L4/L5 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 L4/L5 Licenses.

(b) **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.

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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The amount of license fee payable for renewal in 2020-2021 should be prorated for the residual period of the financial year, i.e., nine months.

(c) **Total and immediate deferment of VAT for a period of six months:**

This will leave the businesses with some cash flows to take care of more pressing expenditures like wages, payment to contractual labour and small marginal suppliers such as farmers of vegetables etc.

5. Sir, 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,

Amit Arora
Member
NRAI Managing Committee
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