



# NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

NRAI/26-1

20 May 2020

To,  
Shri K. T. Rama Rao Garu,  
Hon'ble Minister,  
MA&UD, Industries, IT & Commerce,  
Government of Telangana

## APPEAL FOR RELIEF TO RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN VIEW OF THE CORONA VIRUS

Hon'ble Minister,

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. At the outset, we would like to appreciate and thank the State Government's initiatives in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. While we all sincerely hope for a quick normalisation of the situation, we would like 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**. We are staring at unmeasurable losses, prospect of several businesses closing down and most importantly, a scary spectre of **job loss to millions in the sector** employing more than seven million people.

3. These are unprecedented times. While we totally understand that the healthcare of people and preventing spread of the deadly Corona Virus should be the top priority of the Government at this hour, there is also a need to protect businesses from total ruin. Some urgent measures as given below are needed so that we live to fight subsequent battles for revival of the restaurant industry.

**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  
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**Hony. Treasurer**

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**Secretary General**



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(a) Taking steps for re-opening of F&B sector. We suggest for formulation of policy, protocols & guidelines in line with international standards by a specially appointed group. This could be a model policy which would be to the credit of Govt. of Telangana, and can be a benchmark for the rest of the nation to follow.

(b) Extension of Licenses. Renewal of the excise/liquor license will be coming up for renewal on 15<sup>th</sup> September. This and other trade licenses may be extended till 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

(c) Support for Wages. We request for a stimulus package to support wages for employees. This could be done by direct transfers through ESIC, OD from banks.

(d) Working Capital. It is suggested to create a state borrowing fund for extending loans to the F&B sector at repo rates for paying salaries with a moratorium.

(e) Microbreweries. The Microbreweries be allowed to finish the existing stocks – as has been done in Bengaluru. In addition, the microbreweries should be allowed to brew and sell on kegs – like in the Maharashtra policy. The tax component will be paid in full.

(f) Deferment of Payments for Utilities. It is requested that payments for all utilities be deferred for six months. Thereafter, charges for electricity be done on actuals with no load charges.

(g) Operating Hours. Operating hours for the industry may be extended, and businesses allowed to operate as per their requirements. This will also help in ensuring more employment over these extended hours.

(h) Rent. To issue advisory for all landlords to be lenient and give a rent waiver in this lockdown period.



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4. The above measures will leave the restaurant businesses with some cash flows in order to take care of more pressing expenditures like wages, payment to contractual labour and small marginal suppliers such as farmers of vegetables etc.

5. In view of the above stated facts, we again humbly request you for your kind consideration and favourable action on the above suggestions. We reiterate that in this unprecedented situation, these are critical requirements for the immediate survival and subsequent revival of the restaurant industry.

Thanking You,  
Sincerely,

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For National Restaurant Association of India  
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