

Industry welcomes Maharashtra government's decision to waive excise licence fee for 2020

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) and the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) have welcomed the Maharashtra Government's decision to waive off the excise licence fee on pro-rata basis along with the roll-back of the 15 per cent annual fee increase for the year 2020. The two associations had jointly submitted multiple representations requesting for the waiver. FHRAI and HRAWI have thanked CM Uddhav Thackeray for this decision.

“This is a major relief for the restaurants in the state and we thank the Government for giving us the waiver on the excise licence fee. The eight odd months of lockdown has wrecked almost every other player in the Hospitality industry. An annual fee should be payable if a service is rendered for the entire year. The HRAWI had been contesting the applicability of the fee ever since restaurants were asked to remain closed during the lockdown. Also the 15 per cent increase in the annual fee at a time when hotels and restaurants remained shut was unfair,” says Sherry Bhatia, President, HRAWI.

“In our recent meeting with Valsa Nair Singh, Principal Secy. Tourism & Excise, we expressed our restaurant members' concerns with regards to the hike in the excise licence fee. We made a strong case for the waiver of the fee, as was done by the Madhya Pradesh Government and Delhi Government last month. Restaurants had not voluntarily closed business but were asked to do so, as per Government orders during the lockdown. The Government, especially our Hon'ble CM and Tourism Minister have been very receptive to our pleas throughout the crisis and we are relieved to hear the announcement,” says Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, Vice President, FHRAI & Former President and Spokesperson, HRAWI.