

HRAWI welcome's Maharashtra Government's decision to waive off excise fee for 2020

The Maharashtra Government recently announced their decision to waive off the excise license fee on a pro-rata basis and withdraw the 15 per cent annual fee increase for the year 2020. Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) had collectively submitted multiple representations requesting the waiver. Hrawi worked relentlessly following up and pursuing with the Maharashtra govt the issues of the hospitality industry and resultantly, the excise fees and 15% increase is rolled back. HRAWI had been contesting the fee's applicability since the Government asked the restaurants to remain closed during the lockdown. Also, the 15 per cent increase in the annual fee when hotels and restaurants remained shut was unfair.

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.

The night curfew announced by the Maharashtra Government has dampened the spirits of hotels and restaurants in the state, but the waiver of the excise fee is expected to bring a reason to cheer for the hospitality industry.

This announcement brings the industry a major relief. We appreciate the Maharashtra Government for hearing us out and for understanding our demand for the waiver on the excise licence fee. Also, recently Hospitality industry in Maharashtra was declared an industry by this Government which shows its commitment towards tourism. The efforts made by the members of HRAWI to convince the Government, has made this possible and we congratulate every restaurateur and hotelier on this small but significant win.