

## Press Release

22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2022

### **96% Delhi traders want open markets all days of the weekdays. 72% of the traders feel Kejriwal make traders scapegoat in politicising the issue**

The continuing Covid restrictions in the nation's capital Delhi at a time when the positivity rate is declining each day, has antagonised Delhi traders to a great extent. Majority of traders opined that Delhi CM Mr. Arvind Kejriwal has left Delhi in hands of the God during onslaught of covid for electioneering in other States. The traders of Delhi are also very upset by the Delhi government for politicising the issue in the name of traders when he wrote a letter to Delhi LG yesterday to roll back covid restrictions doing politics on the Covid restrictions as he has asked the LG to roll back covid restrictions. The traders strongly believe that his politics has made the traders of Delhi unnecessary scapegoats in the fight between the Lt Governor and the Chief Minister resulting into huge loss of business to traders. This fact has come to the fore from an impromptu online survey conducted by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) yesterday & today among traders on the decision whether to continue with the COVID restrictions in Delhi or not. Most of the traders in the survey have demanded to free the markets from Covid restrictions.

CAIT Secretary General Shri Praveen Khandelwal said that at a time when the positive rate in Delhi has come down to 18 percent yesterday, and there is a decrease in the serious cases in the hospitals as well, and fortunately in hospitals the beds taken in this phase is way far less than that was required in the second phase of Covid, the Covid restrictions can be roll back considering all the above mentioned points to keep the business and economic cycle running in Delhi. Mr Khandelwal said that in this regard, CAIT has also sent a letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Mr. Anil Baijal, demanding relaxation in the COVID restrictions in Delhi.

CAIT has suggested in a letter to Mr. Baijal that the odd-even system has not only proved to be a failure in Delhi, but it has caused more trouble to the consumers as also causing huge disruption in Delhi trade . In this context the odd-even and weekly lockdown should be removed and more emphasis should be put into the strict implementation of Covid protocols! CAIT has suggested that the working hours of markets should be changed from 10 am to 5 pm, while hotels and restaurants should be allowed to open with 50 percent capacity as given to private offices. Considering the requirements and obligations of weddings happening in Delhi, at least 100 persons should be allowed to attend instead of 20! As in marriages, if we count only the close family relatives of both the parties it will reach the head count of minimum 100 persons !

The Delhi Administration, along with the trade association of all parts of Delhi, should ensure the mandatory compliance of Covid safety rules in all the markets. All the trades association of Delhi are ready to co-operate with the government in this.

**\*CAIT also told that in the survey, about 96% of traders have opined to open the market on weekdays while 97% of traders have insisted on strict adherence to COVID safety rules. 72% of traders are annoyed by Mr. Kejriwal for politicizing the issue, while 86% of traders believe that their business has come down by more than 60 per cent in the last 20 days due to Covid. 88% of people have agreed on the subject of 100 people attending weddings atleast!\***

Mr. Khandelwal said that the manner in which Mr. Kejriwal made his letter to the Lt. Governor regarding Covid restrictions public yesterday, is very unfortunate. It is clear from this that he knew what the decision of DDMA would be and he made his letter public, which has never happened before! He said that Mr. Kejriwal wanted to give this message that he is a great sympathizer of the traders and the Lt. Governor is against the traders. Such an act by a Chief Minister is not admirable! Also before this, once an attempt was made by Kejriwal to make public the contents of a meeting with the Prime Minister. Inexplicably, Mr. Kejriwal has tried to do politics on this serious issue and traders were made scapegoats, which has caused huge loss to the traders. After making this statement, Mr. Kejriwal left Delhi for election campaign in other States leaving the traders & people of Delhi to face the Covid consequences.