

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

24

ಲಾಭ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Covid-19

ತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 31/3/2021

With Covid spike, IT firms extend WFH by 3 months

Govt employees too want work from home or 50% staff at office

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AS Covid cases are shooting up across the State, especially in Bengaluru, many IT and ITES companies are extending the work from home (WFH) option for their employees by three more months. The firms had earlier said WFH would be till March 31 and asked employees to return to work from Wednesday. But now they are sending out emails, asking staff not to visit offices, unless absolutely necessary.

State Government employees too are asking for work from home option as they pointed out that they are at a higher risk, since there is no restriction on the number of people visiting government offices.

A leading IT service management firm in east Bengaluru had earlier given the WFH option till March 31, but on Monday, employees received an email saying it has been extended by three more months. A multinational investment bank and financial services company in Bengaluru which had asked its employees to return to office from Wednesday, has told them to continue to work from home. An IT major too has extended WFH till May 31 and sent the mail to its employees a couple of weeks ago.

K S Viswanathan, Vice-President (Industry Initiatives), Nasscom, told *TNIE* that most of the companies had extended work from home till June and a few till September.

P7

KARNATAKA SECOND WAVE BATTLE

21

HIGHEST SPIKE
IN DAILY
DEATHS SO FAR

11 deaths logged in Bengaluru Urban, followed by 3 in Mysuru, 2 in Bengaluru Rural and 1 each in Bidar, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kalaburagi and Mandya



1,06,917
TOTAL TESTS ON
TUESDAY

35,90,581
TOTAL VACCINATIONS
SO FAR

Situation is getting worse, says Centre

The coronavirus situation is "turning from bad to worse", the Centre said on Tuesday, while stressing that the whole country is at risk and nobody should be complacent. It said that eight of the top 10 Covid-19 high-burden districts are from Maharashtra.

◆ FULL STORY P 10

248%

STATE'S
POSITIVITY RATE

No ban on bypoll-related rallies, says Chief Secretary

RAMKRISHNA BAOSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

THE Covid-triggered ban on protests and rallies in the state will not apply to poll-related political activities in Basavakalyan and Maski Assembly constituencies and Belagavi Lok Sabha segment, where the by-elections will be held on April 17, said Chief Secretary of Karnataka, P Ravikumar, here on Tuesday.

Ravikumar, who is touring Kalaburagi district, told *The*

New Indian Express in an exclusive interaction that political parties are allowed to hold indoor and outdoor political functions and rallies, but they should adhere to Covid protocols when there is a congregation of people.

Taking the example of Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, where Covid norms are being followed during rallies, he said political parties here too can hold public meetings by asking people to adhere to Covid protocols.

P3

WFH improved efficiency, says Nasscom vice-prez

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1E 2/13/2024

"THOUGH it has been one year and one month since IT/ITES companies started work from home, the quality of work has not suffered. IT companies continue to get new projects, recruitments are happening, and the efficiency too has gone up," K S Viswanathan, Vice-President (Industry Initiatives), Nasscom, said.

The State Government employees, too, are appealing to Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar to allow them to work from home or allow 50 per cent of the staff to work from office as there is a spike in Covid numbers.

Over 3,000 employees work at Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and MS Building, and every day, thousands of people visit these offices. "We have kept a basic hand sanitiser and temperature checking machine. These are not enough to find out if a person is infected with Covid. A couple of staffers have already tested positive, and one of them is from the Irrigation Department," said Guruswamy, president, Karnataka State Secretariat Employees' Association. "Unlike

the private sector, we cannot restrict the movement of people here," he added.

The private sector urged the government not to announce a lockdown again. "Industries are still suffering from the first lockdown and another one will be a disaster. They are sanitising the premises, asking their employees to wear masks all the time, and kept sanitisers. The government should open Covid vaccination for all, without any age limit. Industrial workers should be given priority, as they don't have the option of working from home," said Perikal M Sundar, president, FKCCI.

Chandrashekar Hebbar, president, Karnataka Pradesh Hotels and Restaurants Association, said that over 20 lakh people across the state, and 10 lak in Bengaluru, work in hotels, darshinis, bars, lodges and other places and free vaccination should be given to them on priority.

Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar said he will discuss it with the Chief Minister. "Work from home is not possible for the labour class and lockdown is not on the cards at present. We will discuss the best way forward next week," he added.