

Offices advise staffers to work from home, arrange cars, stay-back option

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Office premises of corporates and financial services in the city were half empty on Friday following heavy rain. Even as attendance was thin, organizations made arrangements for employees to reach home.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which has a staff strength of over 20,000 in Mumbai, sent out mails asking employees to avoid coming to office. Most TCSers worked from home; it has a business continuity plan in place to ensure people are connected with clients.

The Mahindra Group's 'Mahindra Mitra', an emergency response team, was quick to send out advisories to employees on their mobile phones. With attendance of 50-70%, the Group, which is headquartered in Worli, advised employees to leave early for home. Stay-back arrangements, too, were ensured.



The Aditya Birla Group, which recorded 70% attendance, arranged for cars and buses to drop people home. The Group, which is also based in Worli, decided to close early at 5pm.

Standard operating procedures were followed at Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and Godrej Group, whose offices are based in Andheri and Vikhroli, respectively. The attendance was 50-60% at HUL, said a spokesper-

son, who added that employees utilized the flexi-work option to operate from home.

Attendance at financial services firms was not more than 25%. HR departments issued advisories for safe travel.

Anil Ambani group's Reliance Capital made arrangements for employees to stay back in offices if they could not travel back. "Necessary arrangements have been initiated for employees wanting to

stay back in office—the safest place in these times. People wanting to go back home by own transport have been advised to carry snacks and water from the pantry, just in case of a traffic jam or exigency," said Pushkar Kataria, chief people officer, Reliance Capital.

A spokesperson for housing finance major HDFC said attendance was 20-25% while in BSE it was around 15%. Headquarters of both—HDFC and BSE—are in south Mumbai. HDFC advised staff to leave for home post 3pm—only after high tide.

At NCDEX, too, the national commodity bourse that operates from Prabhadevi and Kanjur Marg, attendance was relatively low. At NSE, attendance was about 60% since a foreign delegation was visiting at BKC.

At all the three exchanges, trading and settlement operations went on without any hindrance as staff handling critical operations like trading, IT and settlement were in office.