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With Shot in Arm, Employees Sprint Back to Offices

Up to 50% of employees return to offices in places like Gurgaon and Bengaluru as more and more young professionals get vaccinated

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New Delhi: Facility management companies and office space operators say 30-50% of the employees have returned to offices in the country as most states have relaxed restrictions imposed during the second Covid wave.

Some of the prime office space hubs like Gurgaon and Bengaluru have seen up to 50% of the employees coming back in the second half of July, as more young professionals became eligible for the second vaccine dose.

In Mumbai, due to the restriction on local train operations, the num-

ber ranges between 20% and 30%. "We expect a faster comeback after the second wave in comparison with the first wave," said SK Sayal, whole-time director and

CEO at Bharti Realty Ltd, which operates grade A assets in Delhi and Gurgaon. "At Worldmark Aerocity, 20-25% of the employees are back while around 70% of the

employees are back at Worldmark Gurugram."

Facility management companies like ISS, SIS and Knight Frank that manage large office parks in the

country and shared space providers like Awfis, Vatika Business Centre and 9springboard have reported similar trends from across the country.

"As of July, based on SIS's contract volumes, we require security and facility management staff at such office spaces and commercial establishments," said Rituraj Sinha, group managing director at SIS Ltd. "Therefore, across all major metros particularly in south India, west India and also in Delhi (NCR) almost two-third of office normalisation has already been achieved."

Jab Done, Time to Get Job Done

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At some coworking centres, occupancy has reached **70%**

With young people getting eligible for second dose in July, occupancy will increase further

Some companies are only calling vaccinated staff

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'Most are Coming on Their Own'

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Most organisations are encouraging people who are fully vaccinated to get back to office or at least follow some hybrid model. "Though people are concerned and worried about the third wave, everyone is preparing for the future with vaccinations and various other safety measures and protocols. There is a general keenness in SIS's customer base to figure out how we can go back to pre-Covid times as soon as possible," said Sinha.

Office space operators say they expect occupancy levels to go up further in August and September as employees are now keen to go back to office.

"Nobody is pushing employees to return but most of them are coming on their own," said

co-working operators with pan-India presence are reporting occupancy in the range of 50%-70%

Aksh Rohatgi, CEO and country manager of ISS Facility Services India.

"We have seen the biggest impact of Covid-19 in Bengaluru and Hyderabad as they are dominated by the IT workforce. Places like Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad have recovered faster."

DLF and Embassy REIT that operate some of the biggest office complexes across the country refused comment for the story.

But according to leading property consultants, similar trends are being witnessed at all the grade A assets.

"Most of the corporations had employees vaccinated in May and by the end of July. Remaining employees will get their second jabs soon," said Mudassir Zaidi, executive director-north at Knight Frank India.

"Some companies were allowing only vaccinated staff, that is why occupancy was low in July. With more employees getting eligible for the second dose, we will see more employees at offices."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/job-done-now-get-the-job-done-with-shot-in-arm-employees-sprint-back-to-offices/articleshow/85143963.cms>

Jab done, now get the job done: With shot in arm, employees sprint back to offices

Synopsis

Some of the prime office space hubs like Gurgaon and Bengaluru have seen up to 50% of the employees coming back in the second half of July, as more young professionals became eligible for the second vaccine dose.



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“April-May was a complete washout due to the second wave of Covid-19 but in July occupancy had reached 35-40%,” said Amit Ramani, founder & CEO, Awfis. “Many companies have adopted the rotation policy and call 50% of the employees in a day.”

According to Vineet Taing, president at Vatika Business Centre, most of the Indian companies have started calling back employees while the foreign firms are waiting for the third wave before taking any decision.

“We are reporting 60-70% occupancy in NCR and Bengaluru while in Mumbai, because of the restrictions by the state government, the number is low. With employees coming back, leasing momentum has also picked up,” said Anand Vemuri, CEO at 91Springboard, which operates 18,500 seats across the country.