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## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

# Focus on Workstation Dimensions

►► From Page 1

"The requirement for workstation dimensions has gone up by 20-25% to ensure safe distancing," said Rajat Johar, country head, Skootr, managed office space provider, with centres in Delhi and Hyderabad.

Smartworks founder Neetish Sarda told ET that in Hyderabad and Bengaluru the occupancy is yet to reach 25% but in Kolkata and Delhi-NCR it has crossed 35%. "Cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune still lag behind in comparison to the national average due to the predominance of IT workforce," said Vineet Taing, president, Vatika Business Centre.

However, average office occupancy levels in Mumbai are hovering around 10-12% as companies

are encouraging employees to use more private vehicles and avoid public transport.

Given the resurgence in the number of Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra, particularly Mumbai, companies are relying more on work-from-home arrangement for now. The state government has also officially restricted the employee headcount in offices at 30%.

"The average occupant currently is around 13% and we expect this to go up to 40% by June depending on containment of Covid-19 and rollout of vaccine," said Thirumal Govindraj, MD-executive board, RMZ Corp.

Experts said that most companies including MNCs are expected to start ramping up employee headcount from March onwards. "Many homegrown startup technology companies as well as some large IT services companies are coming back to work and it's a matter of time the MNCs will also start asking their employees to come back," said Juggy Marwaha, CEO, Prestige Office Ventures.