

Will Work From Home Continue After Coronavirus Lockdown In India?

Like

The number of deaths due to Coronavirus as on date is 6 whereas air pollution causes around 12.4 lakh deaths every year according to the statistics of 2017. The question is if we can regulate WFH for Coronavirus, why not so for the long-term evil of air pollution?

Photo Credit :



Category Jumptlist

22 March, 2020
by Bharti Jain

Print this article
Font size - 16 +

According to data compiled in World Air Quality Report of 2019, India constitutes twenty-one of the world's thirty cities with the worst air pollution. [Ghaziabad](#), a satellite city of the capital New [Delhi](#) in northern Uttar Pradesh state, is ranked as the world's most polluted city, with an average PM 2.5 concentrations of 110.2 as of 2019. The government having incorporated all planned measures only ended up mulling over the need to do something bigger and better.

But the change in the situation happened when China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment reported that the average number of good quality air days has increased by 21.5% in February, compared to the same period last year.

The new satellite images released by NASA and the European Space Agency showed a massive decline in nitrogen and carbon dioxide emissions released by vehicles, power plants and industries. "This is the first time I have seen such a dramatic drop-off over such a wide area for a specific event," said Fei Liu, an air quality researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "I am not surprised because many cities nationwide have taken measures to minimize the spread of the virus."

In India, the most populous cities such as Mumbai, [Delhi](#), [Pune](#), [Ahmedabad](#) have observed a significant decline in pollutant levels as reported by System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). There was 45% drop in of nitrogen oxide concentration in Mumbai this month compared to March 2018 and 2019.

How did this happen?

Coronavirus, as an unintended boon in this regard, has swept the roads off the traffic and brought the air pollution levels down in a couple of days.

When the outbreak of Coronavirus struck India earlier this month with the social media reporting a gradual increase in the effected count, preventive measures started rolling out from everywhere. Schools were closed, social and public gatherings were postponed, and many companies announced work from home for employees.

It is overwhelming that apart from many companies such as Google, Amazon, IBM, Accenture, Cognizant, Snapdeal, Uber, Ola, Paytm, Wipro, who had readymade work-from-home solutions, others with no such prevalent modes also attended to the call of the situation by adopting the best possible means.

These include many government organizations where digital media still remains a secondary platform due to dependency on paper and the reluctance to denounce traditional methods amongst the majority of old aged employees. It is no less a wonder

construction, maintenance, shipping, driving, and other types of physical works. But it has been observed that a majority of these employees travels by public transport which utilizes the vehicular capacity to a higher level and hence causes lesser pollution per capita.

While the white collar people who drive their own vehicles or travel in chauffeur-driven cars, are the primary culprits in rise of carbon footprint. According to the reports, the number of such employees is over 20 lakhs all across the country. So a sudden work from home backdrop is no less than a revolution on its own if you keep aside the negative motivation in the form of Coronavirus for a while.

In the emergency situation, while there is a mix of WFM, staggered and conventional mode, there are companies who are preparing for a situation where all employees could be required to work from home, and hence are developing business continuity plans (BCP).

Fewer cars on the road mean less traffic, less time on the road, and therefore less air pollution exposure. Hence now, after people seem to be settling in the new working methodology which can alleviate the pollution to desired levels, more emphasis may be laid to help perpetuate these cultural changes at work. This can be done by:

- Administrative and regulatory approval such as acquisition of Other Service Providers (OSP) license from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT).
- Proliferation of e-office, digital file management systems and productivity tools
- Adoption of AI-driven approaches
- Regularization of staggered office timings
- Replacement of blue-collar employees with machines and
- Upliftment of blue-collar workers
- Strengthening of Wi-Fi and other required resources

We are now in a place where we can get the science and technology right, in terms of monitoring air quality and improving our approach by targeting the most impactful strategies, specially after the recurrent failure of odd-even hegemony in [Delhi](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the article above are those of the authors' and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of this publishing house. Unless otherwise noted, the author is writing in his/her personal capacity. They are not intended and should not be thought to represent official ideas, attitudes, or policies of any agency or institution.

Bharti Jain

The author is an Electronics and Communication Engineer, graduated from Amity School of Engineering and Technology, GGSIPU, Delhi in 2011 who started her career as a Digital Signal Processing Firmware Engineer in Azcom Info solutions Pvt. Ltd, Delhi-NCR. She has worked on Physical Layer of LTE in MATLAB and C for over two years, delivering the TI emulators to French army for LTE-based communication. Presently, she is a PMP Certified Project manager in RITES Ltd, Ministry of Railways. With an immense experience of management of Signaling and Telecommunication projects for Indian Railways and energy sectors across the country such as Chhattisgarh, Allahabad, Vishakhapatnam, Jaipur, etc, she is also working on Semi High Speed Rail projects. During her academic period and professional journey, she has received training in several technical courses such as 'TPWS' from IRASET, 'Automatic Fare Collection System' and 'Basic Signalling Course' from DMRC, and Project Management Professional Course as the member of the global Project Management Institute, USA. She has also received various accolades from the company for her innovative efforts and technical publications. Apart from that, she is an ISO 9001:2015 qualified Lead Auditor

[More From The Author >>](#)

We are closing the KomentBox services.

For further details contact at support@nlpcaptcha.com

Category Jmplist ↑



Easy Working From Home

Ad WhiteHat Jr

"How Is Work From Home For Women, Who Have Several...

businessworld.in

Technology Has Redefined "Work...

businessworld.in

Remote Working Challenges Faced By...

businessworld.in

Work From Home: A FAD OR THE NEW...

businessworld.in

Work from Home: Study Shows 30% of...

businessworld.in

Crucial Role of HR and Leaders Pre-COVID...

businessworld.in

5 Ways The Fu Work Will Cha

businessworld.in

BW COMMUNITIES

BW Communities is an array of business news websites targeted towards niche communities and readers across various industries



BW CIO WORLD

42% of Indian Employees Access Corporate Data on Personal Devices: Report

BW DISRUPT

We'll Be Foraying Into More Cities To Reach Our Customer Base Across The Nation: V Deekshith

BW SMART

How Tech Fight Covid1'