

# Maharashtra police helps IT companies get WFH-ready

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**MUMBAI:** Information technology (IT) companies in Maharashtra have received help from the state police to implement work-from-home (WFH) for their employees. The police have pressed in the Maharashtra Home Guards to help these firms shift equipment from various office premises to employees' residences.

According to the Home Guards, over 30 companies have approached them since the lockdown that started on March 25 to help ferry equipment. The companies, which availed this service, include IBM, Cognizant Technology Solutions, eClerx and WNS Global Services. The Home Guards has also extended the service to companies based in Nashik, Pune and Nagpur.

The department mandate is to carry out an effective role in the field of disaster management. With a national strength of 16 lakh volunteers, the organisation is used to help out the administration in an overstretched disaster scenario. The volunteers receive training through periodic mock drills.

"With the announcement of the lockdown and the subsequent sealing of borders, these companies could not transport equipment unless a police escort was provided to them. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) had approached us with a request that we could help transport the equipment," said a senior police official.

"Accordingly, the state home guards provided their personnel to move the equipment from offices to residential premises of their employees," added the official.

Interestingly, the home guards also relied on technology to process the requests from these companies with a minimum human interface. "IT companies sent us their requirements via emails. These requests were posted on a Whats App group created to assist these firms. After checking the availability, the companies were intimated. Once the payment was received, orders were prepared by the Kalyan office of the Home Guards. Once approved, the Satara team took care of the deployment online," explained commandant general, Home Guards and director, civil defence, Sanjay Pandey.