

# Off day for voting? IT cos undecided despite waiver

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**Pune :** Corporates in the city stands divided over the issue of granting a paid holiday to their employees on February 16 — the day when polling is to be held for the Pune Municipal Corporation.

While the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), after explaining to its members the ramification of any stern measures to prevent employees from voting, has left it to its members to take a final call on the issue. Nasscom has managed to get an exemption from the the state election commission wherein IT, ITES and BPOs will be able to carry on with their usual operations after giving employees a two-hour break to caste their votes.

A government notification has made it compulsory for all establishments to declare a holiday on February 16.

>> **Continued on P2**

## GLOBAL CLIENTS & POLLS

■ Rajiv Vaishnav, Vice-President, Nasscom had made a representation to the State Election Commission, saying given the 24x7 nature of the IT work cycle, it would be disastrous to declare a full day holiday on the day of polling.

■ Responding to the representation, the commission has now allowed IT companies to continue functioning normally on polling day, but has instructed them to ensure they give adequate time to their employees to cast their votes.

■ "We have requested all our members to provide company transport to the polling stations and back," Paresh Degaonkar, Senior Manager at Nasscom, Pune, told Sakal Times.

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Establishments in question include shops, offices and industrial units. While all public corporations, semi-government concerns and government departments will abide by the notification the corporate world, especially IT and ITES companies were not very happy about closing down operations, saying they served global customers and a full day holiday would cripple their operations.