

Taking the stairs and daily prayers keep this top boss going

SN Subrahmanyan, CEO, L&T, tells us what it's like to be back at work in the new normal

glynda.alves@timesgroup.com

Not one to sit still, SN Subrahmanyan, CEO of L&T, says that one of the biggest adjustments for him during the lockdown has been not being able to travel.

"I haven't stayed at one place for more than a week or so in my entire professional life due to extensive work-related travel. This lockdown has made me sit at one place — my home office — for more than five weeks at a stretch and allowed me to function quietly," says Subrahmanyan.

The L&T CEO and his team have been back to work at their Mumbai office for a little over a month now, and there are several precautions in place such as wearing masks, maintaining social distance all the time, frequently sanitising the buildings and so on. "This is the new normal and is unlikely to go in a hurry," he says.

Subrahmanyan has also formed some new habits in these unprecedented times. "I now take the stairs instead of the elevator — it improves my health and is an energetic start to my day. While walking towards my cabin, I pray to the almighty to keep everyone safe

and healthy during these uncertain times."

Virtual reality

And then it's business as slightly unusual. "Rigorously calling all the project directors to understand the status on ground is a key activity. But the thing we miss the most now is meeting our clients, partners and other team members, in person," says Subrahmanyan.

However, even though he may not be meeting people face-to-face, he's been reaching out to his employees virtually. "I reached out and interacted with 50,000+ employees in a series of webinars. Under normal circumstances, this would have been difficult to accomplish, but the lockdown gave me the opportunity to connect with so many of our colleagues directly," he says.

Going virtual has helped him in his down time too. "My daily morning jogs had to be cut down due to the lockdown. So, I log on to YouTube and pick a home workout. I have also managed to catch up on a lot of reading and I'm watching some interesting TV shows and movies."



SN Subrahmanyan says he has replaced his morning jogs with home workouts