

# Bean bags & baking classes: employers turn cool

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**NEW DELHI:** Did you ever imagine bean bags at your work place for a quick nap or an X-Box to remove stress?

With companies unable to dole out decent salary hikes to employees due to the slowdown affecting demand, many start-ups and medium-sized companies are adapting innovative ways to satisfy staff with certain flexibilities and non-monetary benefits.

Start-up firm, Function Space, a social learning network, for instance, has floated bean bags for its employees



ILLUSTRATION: ABHIMANYU SINHA

at work place for a quick nap. They have also placed Xbox and board games in office for stress-busting sessions.

“Only thing that matters to us is getting the job done on

time and we have noticed that employees work for longer hours with better efficiency,” said Sumit Maniyar, co-founder, Function Space.

Cashkaro.com, a cashback and coupons site, has set aside an entertainment budget of ₹25,000 per month for an initiative called “Monday Masti” to help employees beat Monday blues. “It makes them feel more excited when coming to work on a Monday as we arrange a surprise snack or dessert for the entire team,” said Swati Bhargava, CEO, cashkaro.com.

The average age group at most firms designing such

options for staff is 25-26 years.

Firms are also trying cooking therapy to keep their employees stress free. “We are taking cookery classes at many companies as it is now understood that cooking and baking are stress-busting therapies,” said Ranjini Rao, founder, Tadka Pasta, an initiative to conduct workshops at business entities.

Apart from cooking, outings seem to be a common practice. “We make it a point to take our employees out for coffee and snacks at least once a week,” Paramita Chatterjee, co-founder, Triponomics, a travel solutions portal said.