'All over in 20 mins': Oracle's pink slips shock employees

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Project update emails at Oracle India have increasingly created unease among employees, especially after recent layoffs, with many viewing them as a proxy for job cuts.

The company employs about 30,000 people in India, who are facing anxiety similar to their global peers. "Jobs as we know them just don't exist anymore," said an affected employee working in the database team.

"It was all over in less than 20 minutes — a Zoom invite, the manager on the call, and the HR rep telling me it wasn't about my performance but purely business reasons. My access was revoked very quickly. My RSUs were due to vest in Feb, but now I'll lose them," he said on condition of anonymity.

"My parents depend on me, and telling them was the hardest part," he said. Another laid-off employee was shocked when something that began as a business update quickly turned into a layoff call, citing restructuring. "I've signed up for outplace-

10% ROLES AFFECTED

ment services. But it will take some time. The HR only outlined the severance we would receive. The entire process felt cold and came as a complete shock," he added.

Oracle is reportedly laying off employees in its cloud unit, impacting teams in both India and the US, according to a report by Data Center Dynamics. The job cuts are in the company's Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) division, which includes engineering, data centre operations, and AI/ML functions. Some media reports suggest that nearly 10% of Oracle's workforce in India has been affected. An email sent to Oracle did not elicit a response before this article went to press.

TOI could not independently verify the number of layoffs within India's OCI division.

The company already had a significant R&D footprint here, with Oracle India employing around 40,000 people in 2017. Oracle India's revenue grew to Rs 20,459 crore during the 2023-24 financial year from Rs 18,283 crore the previous year, representing an increase of 12%, according to data sourced from data intelligence platform Tofler. The company's net profit for 2023-24 was Rs 1,410 crore, a decrease of Rs 216 crore from Rs 1,626 crore in the previous year. However, details for the 2024-25 financial year are not available.