

India Inc copes with coronavirus threat as cases jump to 29

Across the country, companies have stepped up their act to contain the crisis. IT and other new economy firms seem to have taken a lead

BS REPORTERS

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MindSpace IT Park, Hyderabad's largest office hub spread over several acres, was a centre of panic on Wednesday as a techie tested positive for coronavirus. The complex, housing many marquee brands, caught on to the news in no time, prompting employers to send their staff home.

An employee of Dutch company DSM Shared Services, the software professional had recently returned from an assignment in Italy. Hers was the second confirmed case of the virus in Telangana. "Our thoughts are with our colleague, who is doing relatively well and is



FMCG companies are also taking several precautionary measures to minimise employee exposure

PHOTO: PTI

being treated in quarantine," the company said in an internal e-mail.

More than 1,000 km away, in Gurugram, next to New

Delhi, another person tested positive, this time in the Paytm office, taking India's tally to 29. He too had returned from a vacation in

Italy. The company has asked its staff to work from home for a couple of days while the office gets sanitised.

Across the country, India Inc has stepped up its act to contain the crisis. IT and new-economy companies seem to have taken a lead.

At the Manyata Tech Park in Bengaluru, a US-headquartered software product company advised its employees to work from home till Friday, after an associate who had travelled from an affected country showed flu-like symptoms. Even though the person was declared asymptomatic by medical experts, the company began disinfecting the campus as a precautionary measure.

While online major

Amazon confirmed its first case of coronavirus in its Seattle office, the company's India unit felt the ripple effect. Amazon India has imposed travel restrictions, advising employees to prioritise health over efficiency. According to the advisory, all domestic travels by the employees can be undertaken only after consulting the manager while approval from vice-president is required for international travels.

Walmart-owned e-commerce firm Flipkart too has imposed a complete ban on all business travels, both domestic and international. In case the travel is unavoidable, CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy must give an approval.

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FIGHTING THE ENEMY

- Paytm asks employees in Gurugram office to work from home for a couple of days after a positive case
- Many companies at MindSpace IT Park, Hyderabad, send their staff home as a woman techie diagnosed with virus
- Work-from-home advisories in many offices at Manyata Tech Park in Bengaluru



- Vendors getting screened in Intel's Bengaluru office
- Restriction on international travel at Amazon India, Flipkart, TCS, Godrej, RPG Enterprises, and Titan
- Monitoring teams put in place at Wipro to assess the crisis
- Events cancelled at Tech Mahindra, IPE Global

INSIDE STORIES

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RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY TWO VIRUS STRAINS

10-YR BOND YIELDS AT 39-MONTH LOW AS MARKETS BRACE FOR RBI ACTION



GOLD PRICES HEADING TOWARDS ₹50,000-MARK

A sudden reversal in gold price, which went up nearly ₹1,000 on Wednesday, has again given rise to hopes that the yellow metal would soon touch the ₹50,000-mark (per 10 gram). Despite some correction in India as well as globally, the gold price outlook looks quite bullish now. Analysts say, technically, the virus spread has set a strong bullish tone.

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