

# Newspaper Clips

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Mail Today ND 01-Dec-11  
P-27

Times of India ND  
01-Dec-11 P-15

## IIT graduate grabs top US energy job



**US PRESIDENT Barack Obama has appointed Arun Majumdar, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT),**

**Bombay, alumnus as the top bureaucrat in the department of energy. At over two dozen, Obama administration has more Indian-Americans in high places than ever before with their numbers rising through Clinton and Bush presidencies.**

## Obama gives IITian top US energy job

**Washington:** Naming yet another Indian-American to a key administration post, President Barack Obama has appointed Arun Majumdar, an IIT-Bombay alumnus as the top bureaucrat in the department of energy.

Announcing the appointment of Majumdar as under-secretary of energy along with four other key administration posts, Obama said, "These men and women have demonstrated knowledge and dedication throughout their careers. I am grateful they have chosen to take on these important roles, and I look forward to working with them in the months ahead."

At over two dozen, Obama administration has more Indian-Americans in high places than ever before. IANS

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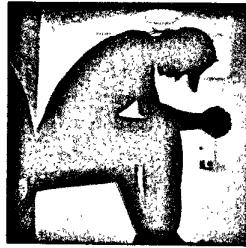
# 'Our colleges aren't equipped to handle stress among students'

By Ambrose Pinto SJ

The recent suicide of Pranay in the hostel of a Bangalore college once again highlights the need for institutions of repute to meaningfully respond to the complex issue of students' suicides. What the PES institution did initially was sad. While trying to defend itself, the management of PES Institute of Technology, in whose hostel the incident happened, failed to adhere to an ethical code. To frame a student by manufactured data is not correct. Besides given our cultural practices, we do not speak ill of the dead. How could the institution dub a dead student a drug addict without evidence, make an allegation that the student was below average when he had scored 90 per cent in his PUC and misinform the public that he had shifted to a single room while he had been in an independent room all through? Unable to face the public wrath,

of students and of relatives, the college had to withdraw the allegations and agree to issue a corrective. The one silver lining in the entire episode was the admission by the CEO of the institution of the failure of collective responsibility in the institution, their lack of skills in handling the situation and to accept to right the wrongs. One must appreciate the institution at least for this noble deed!

The students' protests therefore were justifiable. They were rightly angered by the attitude of the college and the electronic media that carried false stories. Instead of finding out the truth, the various channels with an agenda of selling their stories relied on the official version given by the college. For all of them, it was sensation and not the persons that were behind the incident. How are the students, parents and relatives of the deceased to be sympathetic to the media if the reports of the media were to 'sell their stories' in-



stead of communicating the truth? It is not easy to find out the truth. It takes time and channels have to have patience. But they have no time to wait. If they delay, they feel their rivals will 'scoop' the story. Naturally, the students were angry and rightly expressed their anger.

This is not to make a case against the institution for the suicide of the student. Students in an institution come from different backgrounds. They would have grown up in different environments. In the years of their growth, some learn to ask for help when they are down in the dumps while many do not.

## Inner turmoil

Unable to cope with the inner turmoil, individuals may resort to the tragic step. When one is completely helpless from within, the individual takes the final step. The taking of one's own life is the most private of acts and the person alone can be held responsible to it. It is difficult to know how individuals respond to situation around. That is why, the responsibility is that of individual and the institution need not be blamed even if there was some provocation by individual teacher.

However, institutions can assist individ-

uals not to reach that stage. Appointing Counsellors is only part of the solution. Students in most colleges are afraid to go to the counsellors for fear of being noticed by their peers. More than counselling, what the institutions need is a mentoring system. If every teacher becomes a mentor for a group of more or less two dozen students, it is possible to help out students to handle their stress. When the students leave their home what they miss is that bonding and succour in times of distress. If the mentors are able to provide that acceptance and create a personal and human relationship among students and students and staff that newly established bonds would be able to come to the rescue of students who get alienated from themselves.

When students are emotionally disturbed, their academics decline. How can a college help out students like Pranay who as a result of emotional disturbances did not perform? This is a challenge. At

present our institutions are too formal and there is a big distance between the teachers and the students. It is this gap that needs to be handled for students to freely approach their teachers. Unfortunately, majority of the teachers come to the profession for employment. Their interest is not in forming students. With that attitude it is not easy to assist students in their growth processes. Society needs teachers who can help students in their growth of heart, mind and body. Students need to learn their subjects. More important is that they need to be formed by mentoring, involvement and participation. This needs an attitude of total acceptance of every student, ability to sympathise when they err or fail and to recognise them as 'persons' in the campus. This is the most practical way of ensuring prevention of suicides in the campuses.

(The writer is with St. Joseph's College, Bangalore)

Hindu ND 01.12.2011 P-16

# Smart Grid is the 'energy Internet' of the future

In India, the demand for power is surging with shortage peaking over 15 per cent. Many of the households are still not connected to the country's electricity grid. According to the Ministry of Power, India's transmission and distribution losses are among the highest in the world, averaging 24 per cent of total electricity production, in some states as high as 62 per cent.

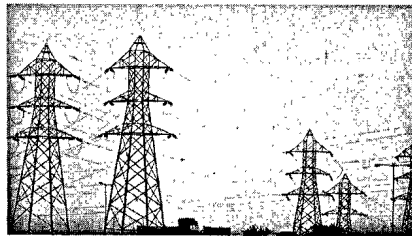
In fact, the total average losses are as high as 50 per cent when energy theft is taken into consideration of which technical losses alone account for 30 per cent of all losses. Indian utilities need to address challenges of high AT&C losses, payment default by consumers, encroachments on electrical network creating unsafe situations, theft of electricity and electrical equipment, dis-

tribution transformer failure and rising power purchase costs.

To address what is emerging to be a serious national issue, considering the increase in demand for power and to create the required infrastructure for growth, India needs to invest in building a modern, intelligent grid. Let us first define a grid.

A grid is a collective name for all the wires, transformers and infrastructure that transport electricity from power plants to end users. The present day grid is unidirectional and does not maximize technological developments.

Even today people need to inform the utility of a problem or failure in their area. The effort is to change this in India, and across the world. Solutions such as capability of remote disconnection on non-payment by consumers,



**CUTTING COSTS:** A Smart Grid can reduce the need for additional transmission lines.

— PHOTO: S. THANTHONI.

automatic alarms when network is being encroached or when people engage in theft will enable utilities stop pilferage and avoid unsafe situations or accidents. In addition, optimal asset utilisation can be planned with online data of overloading of transformers and network,

which can help reduce or prevent failures.

A national Smart Grid would evolve the existing system into one that would be better suited for the information flow which is required for energy conservation, higher reliability and the introduction of variable generation

power from renewable sources. Smart Grid is the convergence of Information Technology (IT), communication technology and electrical infrastructure.

It is a network for electricity transmission and distribution systems that uses two way state-of-the-art communications, advanced sensors and specialized technology to improve the efficiency, reliability and safety of electricity delivery and use. It is actually a process, an evolution of the electricity network from generation to consumption in a way that is interactive, flexible and efficient.

Proper implementation of Smart Grid might provide uninterrupted electricity to consumers across India to a larger extent, even in remote locations, while eliminating wastage of power units. Smart Grid solutions would

enable utilities to increase energy productivity and power reliability while allowing customers manage usage and costs through real time information exchange. It impacts all components of the power system like generation, transmission and distribution.

The Smart Grid presents some primary benefits including lower operating and maintenance costs, lower peak demand, increased reliability and power quality, reduction in power theft and resultant revenue losses, reduction in carbon emissions and expansion of access to electricity. Smart Grids through demand response and load management reduce the per unit production cost. By reducing the peak demand, a Smart Grid can reduce the need for additional transmission lines.

Smart Grids are undoubt-

edly the "energy internet" of the future. The engagement and cooperation of all stakeholders (regulators, utilities, vendors, customers, etc) is a vital first step. Everybody has to work together and move at the same speed.

It will take India a few years to realize the full impact of Smart Grid when a utility control room operator can regulate an electric meter in homes.

The technology can help us reduce electricity transmission and distribution losses to 5-10 per cent annually. Without Smart Grid, India will not be able to keep pace with the growing needs of its cornerstone industries and will fail to create an environment for economic growth.

MINI SHAJI THOMAS  
(The author is the IEEE MGA Vice Chair, Member Development)

## DIVERSITY QUEST

# Government accepts GMAT to globalize business education

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

Indian business schools have been allowed to admit students on the basis of the globally recognized graduate management aptitude test (GMAT), a move that will help these schools attract more overseas aspirants.

Fewer than 4,000 foreign students are currently getting enrolled across all disciplines of higher education in India every year, according to the government data. But business schools in particular are keen to increase the number to make classrooms more diverse, improve their global rankings and gain international accreditations.

The 13 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), the country's best-known business schools, recently decided to hold roadshows to attract foreign students. In the first week of November, the HRD ministry also gave them formal permission to improve their brand image internationally so that more foreign students join them.

Being able to admit students on the basis of GMAT, which is recognized in more than 110 countries, will now make it easier for India's 3,000-plus business schools to draw international students, education

officials and experts said.

"We all know the credibility of GMAT," said H. Chaturvedi, director of the Greater Noida-based Birla Institute of Management and Technology. "Our schools' diversity index is poor, and this works as a stumbling block whenever we apply for international accreditation. This will now be taken care of."

The decision is part of the HRD ministry-controlled regulator All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) efforts to simplify the admission process for business schools.

Various business schools earlier used to carry out their own tests, making the process opaque. This year AICTE announced to prohibit the practice, and asked all business schools to select students on the basis of the common admission test (CAT) conducted by the IIMs; management aptitude test conducted by the All India Management Association; Xavier Aptitude Test conducted by XLRI, Jamshedpur; the joint management entrance test (JMET) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology

(IITs); and a national test conducted by the AICTE.

The IITs scrapped JMET in August and decided to use CAT as their basis for admission to management courses.

"Since JMET has been discontinued, the same shall be replaced by GMAT," reads a revised notification on the AICTE website.

The Graduate Management Aptitude Council, which conducts GMAT, welcomed the step. "The government accepting us as one of the exams for admitting students in recognized business schools in India will help the sector get foreign students. This is a sweet crucial step in the direction of internationalising management colleges," said Ashish Bhardwaj, the council's regional director for South Asia.

He said the council gave a presentation to AICTE on the merits of GMAT. "Now, one door has opened and here it

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**Business schools are keen to increase the number of foreign students to make classrooms more diverse**

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depends on Indian B-schools on how much they position themselves as effective brands. Singapore and Hong Kong have positioned them as great destinations, similarly, India needs to collectively position

itself as an education destination."

Bhardwaj said he expects African, West Asian and South Asian students will soon show interest in Indian business schools, "Our job is to connect students with opportunities," he said, adding that the council won't tweak the examination format to suit Indian candidates.

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## Scientists send worms on space mission

**London:** British scientists claim to have successfully sent worms on a mission to space to test how they deal with the travel as well as to understand how humans could respond to the rigours of inter-planetary journeys.

A team at the University of Nottingham, which sent *Caenorhabditis elegans*, a tiny worm found in rubbish tips, to the International Space Station, says that not only did the insects remain healthy throughout their six-month-long mission but they produced 24 generations of offspring in orbit.

The scientists say the research is partly to understand how astronauts would be affected by extended journeys, such as a two-year trip to Mars, the 'Daily Mail' reported.

In fact, *Caenorhabditis elegans* were deployed for the 200-mile journey because it shares more than 20,000 genes with humans and its muscles and central nervous system work in a similar way. When the survivors — worms only live for a few weeks — returned to Earth to be studied, the scientists found they showed normal development movement, feeding patterns, and the capacity to reproduce.

Hindustan ND 01.12.2011 P-3

# जीमैट से दाखिले को तैयार एआईसीटीई

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्रा

राहत

आल इंडिया काउंसिल फॉर टेक्निकल एजुकेशन ने पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा इन मैनेजमेंट (पीजीडीए) में दाखिले के लिए जीमैट को भी मान्यता प्रदान कर दी है। जीमैट परीक्षा का आयोजन ग्रेजुएट मैनेजमेंट काउंसिल द्वारा कराया जाता है। अब एआईसीटीई में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट मैनेजमेंट में दाखिले छह प्रवेश परीक्षाओं के माध्यम से होंगे।

2012-13 के लिए प्रस्तावित गाइडलाइंस में एआईसीटीई ने कहा है

● पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा इन मैनेजमेंट में दाखिले के लिए जीमैट को भी मान्यता प्रदान की

कि मैनेजमेंट में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा कराने वाले संस्थान कैट, मैट, जेट, एटीएमए, जीमैट और सीमैट के स्कोर के आधार पर प्रवेश दे सकते हैं। जीमैट के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि यह पचास साल पुराना टेस्ट है और इसे 22000 परीक्षार्थियों द्वारा भारत में दिया जाता है।

भारत में बढ़ रहे हैं मौके

- 5200 एमबीए प्रोग्राम स्वीकार करते हैं जीमैट
- भारत में आईआईएम अहमदाबाद, कोलकाता, बेंगलुरु आदि के एक

वर्ष के एग्जीक्यूटिव प्रोग्राम के लिए जीमैट स्कोर होता है स्वीकार

- कई दो साल के एमबीए प्रोग्राम भी स्वीकार करते हैं जीमैट

2012 से बदल जाएगा जीमैट

जीमैट के प्रारूप में 2012 से बदलाव होने जा रहा है। इस बार नया सेक्शन इंटीग्रेटेड रीजनिंग को जोड़ा जाएगा। वर्बल स्किल और क्वांटिटेटिव एनालिसिस के अतिरिक्त नया सेक्शन परीक्षार्थी की विभिन्न स्रोतों से मिलने वाली जानकारियों का आकलन करने की क्षमताओं को जांचेगा। इंटीग्रेटेड रीजनिंग यह जांच सकेगी कि क्या छात्र में बिजनेस वर्ल्ड को समझ सकने वाली पारख नजर है या नहीं।