

With Google, Apple foraying into energy sector, power companies to take a cue for disruption

Industry leaders deliberated on pertinent issues during 7th UPES Power HR Round Table

New Delhi, December 08, 2017: The entry of tech giants like Google and Apple in the energy sector has forced traditional organizations in this sector to disrupt themselves- both in terms of use of technology and talent management. CEOs and HR heads of leading Indian companies in the power sector such as Tata Power, Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd., GMR Energy, Adani Green Energy Ltd., and DB Power Ltd. deliberated on various challenges faced by the sector today and possible solutions at the 7th Power HR Round Table organized by UPES.

Delivering the keynote address, **Dr. Jayant Kumar, Chief Human Resource Officer, Tata Power Co. Ltd.** said, “With technological disruptions like artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, augmented reality etc. that are impacting the power sector as well, it has become imperative to re-train and re-skill resources for emerging careers where the demand is more than the supply”. “Curiosity, courage and comfort with technology are the traits of a future digital worker”, he added.

During the CEO panel discussion on ‘Power sector transformation: Impact of digitisation’, Ashis Basu, CEO (Corporate), GMR Energy Ltd. suggested, “Power distribution companies (Discoms), due to their nature of work, have access to huge consumer data and they can use this data to foray into other allied businesses just the way cab aggregators are delivering food or e-commerce companies providing video-on-demand services”. Other panellists on this panel were A.S. Khushwaha, General Manager, Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd; Gargi Chatterjea, Executive Director (Regulatory & Corporate Affairs), CESC Ltd.; Sanjeev Mehra, Managing Director, Tata Power Trading Co. Ltd. and Sidharth Jain, Founder & Managing Director, MEC Intelligence.

UPES plays an instrumental role in developing industry-ready talent for this sector as it offers specialized engineering and management programs in power. Besides this, UPES is the first University to enter into a MoU with NITI Aayog to assess national energy issues. **Utpal Ghosh, President & CEO, UPES, explained,** “This MoU provides as a framework for cooperation between NITI Aayog and UPES to collaborate for designing, developing, and conducting consultative policy dialogue and business research to promote and enable high level energy efficiency policy formulation in India. It also includes providing inputs on the implications of high penetration of renewables on the grid”.