



CURTAIN RAISER FOR 34TH TIFAC FOUNDATION DAY – 2021

1. Inaugural Programme:

Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), an autonomous organisation of Department of Science & Technology, is going to celebrate its 34th TIFAC Foundation Day on February 10, 2021. Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call to the Nation for becoming **AatmaNirbhar Bharat** ignited TIFAC to dedicate this year's Foundation Day to the theme "**Technology, Innovation and Economy for AatmaNirbhar Bharat**".

TIFAC has requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to grace the occasion and dedicate several initiatives taken by TIFAC to push the AatmaNirbharta agenda to the Nation.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology, Health and Family Welfare and Earth Sciences, Government of India will be the Guest of Honour.

TIFAC, during the lockdown period wholesomely contributed towards the National Spirit of striving towards AatmaNirbharta and brought out a White Paper 'Focused Intervention for Make in India –post COVID 19' wherein policy options primarily in the areas of Public health system, MSME sector, Global relations, FDI, recalibrated trade alignments, new-age technologies, etc. have been flagged.

Subsequently, towards crystallizing a comprehensive action plan, a document titled '**Action Agenda for AatmaNirbhar Bharat (AAAN)**' was brought out by TIFAC. The AAAN document has been structured with reference to timeline, highlighting short/medium and long term technology and policy interventions in various identified sectors.

On the advice of Dr. Harsh Vardhanji, TIFAC has identified select key recommendations from AAAN document and has developed two programmes currently i.e. Seaweed Mission, development of



CURTAIN RAISER FOR 34TH TIFAC FOUNDATION DAY – 2021

SAKSHAM portal for Shramiks & MSMEs. A few more programmes are being conceptualised and will be launched soon.

All the three initiatives mentioned above, are very important in national perspective. It is proposed that **Hon'ble PM, would launch these initiatives in this occasion.** A brief of all these initiatives are mentioned in this context.

i) Seaweed

Out of the global seaweed production of ~ 32 million tons fresh weight valued around 12 billion US dollars. China produces ~57 %, Indonesia ~28% followed by South Korea, whereas India is having a mere share of ~0.01-0.02%. Despite several advantages, commercial seaweeds cultivation has not taken place in the country at an appropriate scale.

By an estimate, if cultivation is done in ~10 million hectares or 5% of the EEZ area of India, it can provide employment to ~ 50 million people; set up new seaweed industry; contribute to national GDP; ocean productivity; abate algal blooms, sequester millions of tons CO₂; create a healthier ocean; produce bio-ethanol approx. 6.6 billion litres. **TIFAC will demonstrate a model for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy.**

ii) SAKSHAM

The COVID-19 pandemic compelled the labour force to return to their native lands due to loss of jobs. TIFAC has developed SAKSHAM, a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks vis-à-vis requirements of MSMEs across the country.

This initiative will facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs (pan-India), directly connect Shramiks with MSMEs eliminating middlemen/ labour contractor, identification of skill proficiency level and development of Skill Cards for Shramiks. This portal will reduce the hardship of Shramiks in finding jobs in nearby MSMEs.



CURTAIN RAISER FOR 34TH TIFAC FOUNDATION DAY – 2021

2. Tech Talk

Inaugural TIFAC Tech Talk titled '**Reboot, Reinvent & Resilience – Road Ahead**' will be delivered by Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India & Distinguished Professor in the field of Developmental Genetics. Prof. VijayRaghavan will deliberate on the technology and policy needs for rebooting Indian Economy.

3. Panel Discussion:

The role of technology has always been emphasised in achieving sustainable development in India. Indigenised technology development and adoption of relevant policies are the key mantra for achieving AatmaNirbharta. Therefore, on the occasion of Foundation Day, a Panel Discussion on '*Technology: An Engine for Aatmanirbharta*' has been scheduled. **Prof. Ashutosh Sharma**, Secretary, DST, **Dr. Shekhar C Mande**, Secretary, DSIR & DG-CSIR, **Dr. Renu Swarup**, Secretary, DBT, **Dr. G Satheesh Reddy**, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, **Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar**, Chancellor, Nalanda University, **Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra**, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, **Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao**, Director-IIT Delhi, **Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale**, Healthcare Consultant, **Dr. Pallava Bagla**, Science Journalist, and **Prof. Pradeep Srivastava**, Executive Director, TIFAC will deliberate on this topic for deeper understanding on the subject. The outcome of this panel discussion will define and design the future initiatives.

4. In the occasion of the Foundation Day function, TIFAC Employees completing 25 years of service would be felicitated by Dr V K Saraswat, Hon'ble Member Science & Technology NITI Aayog and Chairman, TIFAC Governing Council.