

## ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

## PRESS RELEASE

- Headline : AICTE & DRDO join hands to launch M.Tech in Defence Technology program in six specialized streams
- Subhead line 1: DRDO to launch a regular M.Tech program in Defence Technology in technical institutions across India.
- Subhead line 2: New Post Graduate programme in Defence Technology by DRDO & AICTE to accelerate the technology development in the Defence Sector

**New Delhi, 08 July 2021**. The apex regulatory body for technical education – AICTE, has joined hands with the research organization for defence forces – DRDO to launch a regular M.Tech. program in Defence Technology in technical institutions across India. At the outset Col.A. Shreenath, Director (P&AP), AICTE welcomed the participants and Dr.Ranjana from DRDO hosted the event. This novel program will impart necessary theoretical & experimental knowledge, skill and aptitude to young aspiring engineers in various areas of defence technologies and motivate them to start their career in defence. Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe, Chairman AICTE and Dr. G.Satheesh Reddy, Secretary DDR&D & Chairman DRDO jointly launched the M.Tech. course in a virtual event organized by AICTE, New Delhi.

In our country very few institutes are offering specialized courses related to defence applications and very limited seats are available with these institutes, which are not sufficient to address the requirement of the large trained and talented human resource for accelerating the technology development in the Defence Sector. To fill this void, AICTE has closely worked with DRDO to launch this Masters-level Degree program in Defence Technology. The defence technology course will be conducted at AICTE affiliated institutes / universities. The Institute of Defence Scientists & Technologists (IDST) will provide support to the universities and institutions for conducting this course. M.Tech course has six specialized streams - Combat Technology, Aero Technology and High Energy Materials Technology. During the program, the students will get an opportunity to pursue their major project in distinguished DRDO labs, Defence PSUs & Private Sector Defence Companies. The students will get job opportunities in the ever expanding defence research and manufacturing, setting up start-ups, and pursing business opportunities in the defence sector.

Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE lauded the efforts of the joint working group of AICTE, DRDO and the industry, in bringing about a novel program structure and was hopeful that this will throw open new avenues for youth in the fields of research, start-ups, and in the production sector. Such a specialized program will boost the engineering education in the country and will enable to create a large pool of trained and talented workforce for defence that covers land, air and water. This program would create new opportunity for young students to become capable and trained professional engineers and capture job opportunities in near future.

Dr. G Satheesh Reddy congratulated all officials for joint and focused efforts of DRDO, AICTE and industries for evolving the PG program in Defence Technology. A large number of industries are involved in producing defence technologies & systems and many are emerging as production partner of government agencies, he asked industry leaders to extend their support for this program and offer opportunities to talented work force. DRDO's vision and mandate along with Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan and start up Indian policy aims to provide impetus to self-reliance in the Indian defence sector. Further, he highlighted the DRDO scheme of 'Technology Development Funding' for developing technology or systems.

Sh. Babasaheb Neelkanth Kalyani, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Forge Limited highlighted the importance of trained, professional manpower in the defence sector which will enable to achieve Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Prof Dileep Malkhede, Adviser of the Policy & Academic Planning Division at AICTE appreciated the meticulous planning of the minute details pertaining to the course by the joint working group and mentioned that this would offer a variety of additional opportunities to students who wish to pursue their higher education in the Defence Sector. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Sh. K. K. Pathak, Director DFTM, DRDO.

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