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Thrust on technology needed to boost GDP: Anil Kakodkar

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Mumbai: India needs to give highest priority to technological growth in the coming years to increase its Gross Domestic Product emphasised (GDP) Anil Kakodkar, chairman of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), as he inaugurated National Conference on Technology Vision 2035, at Nehru science Centre on Monday.

“Technology is a key driver to empower individuals, societies and countries, facilitate development and enhance capabilities while taking advantage of the democratic dividend,” he said while elaborating on the thought process behind ‘Technology Vision 2035’ (TV2035), the document that has been recently brought out by the TIFAC.

Dr Kakodkar pointed out that in 1700 AD, India had the highest GDP in the world and expressed confidence that India has the potential of leading the world in terms of GDP by 2035.

He said that the key ingredients of GDP are raw materials, human resources and technology and innovation, Dr Kakodkar said technology empowers citizens, societies and nations, but at the same time warned that technology is a double-edged sword. There is a need to ensure that there is responsible use of technology.

Technology enables strategic autonomy against restrictive regimes driven by political, economic and military interests. He added that there has to be robust decision making when putting technology to avoid vulnerabilities.

The document articulates a vision for all Indians in 2035 and how technology will bring it to fruition, keeping in view basic needs of security, prosperity and identity of the population, projected to be 153 crores from 120 crores in 2012. It has identified 12 sectors to realise the grand vision in the next 20 years, spanning education, medical sciences and healthcare, food and agriculture, water, energy, environment, habitat, transportation, infrastructure, manufacturing, materials and information and communication technology (ICT).

Experts from all these fields spoke at the conference to explain the vision.

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