



“RESTART” Conference

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Why in News

A digital conference on ‘**Rebooting the Economy through Science, Technology, and Research Translations (RESTART)**’ was organised on the occasion of the **National Technology Day (May 11)**.

- The conference was organized by the **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, an autonomous organization of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- **CII** is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization.

Key Outcome

- **Strengthen Medicines & Medical Technologies:**
 - Experts are of the opinion that the **Covid-19** pandemic is a great opportunity for R&D and needs to be used for strengthening ‘**Medicines & Medical Technologies for better preparedness to face future Pandemics**’.
 - The crisis has unfolded some of the best medical advancements and innovations, like drug discovery, vaccines, and diagnostic tools, etc. as well as ways to preserve electronic health records.
Example: Aarogya Setu app, BiPAP ventilators, use of combination of drugs to treat Covid-19.
 - Technologies such as **appropriate face masks** and best practices like **physical distancing** need to be made a part of life.

- **Use of Advanced Materials:**
 - Novel materials such as smart materials, special purpose alloys, engineering polymers & blends, graphene, composites, etc. **will be the key to revamping the industry's product lines** in the future.
 - To tackle pandemics like Covid-19, research **needs to quickly switch over from being capital intensive to knowledge-intensive and should be brought closer to industry.**
- **Advanced Manufacturing Technologies for Sustainable Future**
 - In addressing short term and long-term challenges, advanced technologies provide avenues to the industry to re-stimulate innovation, sustainability and employment.
 - Covid-19 has forced the Industries to go for **digital transformation.**
 - The world is moving towards **mass customization and mass specialization** today, and technology like **3-D printing** plays a major role in it.
- **Global Innovation & Technology Alliance:**

In today's pandemic scenario, virtual collaboration is the key to connect globally to fight against the common challenge of Covid-19, and collaboration between countries must continue with much vigour.

National Technology Day

- India observes its National Technology Day on **11th May** every year.

It is the day India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on May 11, 1998.
- It was first observed in 1999, and **aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists, engineers.**
- It is organised every year by the Technology Development Board of India. The focus this year is **'Rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.'**

Key Terms

- **Capital intensive and Knowledge intensive**
 - The term "capital intensive" refers to business processes or industries that require large amounts of investment to produce a good or service.
 - Knowledge Intensive includes reliance on professional knowledge for business services. Here the workers need a lot of education, skills, and experience in order to work effectively.
- **Mass customization:** It allows a customer to design certain features of a product while still keeping costs closer to that of mass-produced products.

Source: PIB