The Prime Minister expressed his "gratitude" towards the scientists and their "efforts" that led to the **"successful Pokhran tests in 1998"** on **National Technology Day (11th May).**

National Technology Day
About:
- The day, which was **first observed on 11th May, 1999,** aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists, engineers. **The day was named by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- Every year, the **Technology Development Board of India (a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology) celebrates the day** by awarding individuals with the National Award for their contribution to science and technology in India.
- The focus this year is 'Integrated Approach in Science & Technology for Sustainable Future'.

Significance:
- It is the day India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on 11th May, 1998.
- India successfully test-fired its Shakti-1 nuclear missile in operation called Pokhran-II, also codenamed as Operation Shakti.
- The **nuclear missile was tested at the Indian Army's Pokhran** Test Range in Rajasthan. This was **the second test** which was conducted after **Pokhran-I** codenamed Operation Smiling Buddha, in May 1974.
- On the same day, India performed a successful test firing of the Trishul Missile (surface to air short range missile) and had test flown the first indigenous aircraft – 'Hansa – 3'.

Theme

- o The **National Technology Day** has a different theme every year. For 2023, the theme is **'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.'** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the programme marking National Technology Day 2023, at Pragati Maidan, on 11th May 2023. The programme will also mark the commencement of the celebration of the **25th year of National Technology Day**, which will be held from May 11 to 14, 2023.