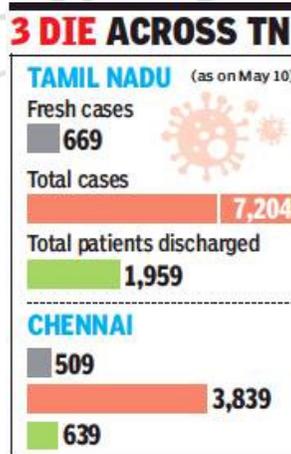


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 11, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – recorded 669 cases and three more deaths on May 10, taking the state’s total positive Covid-19 infections to 7,204 and the toll to 47**
- ✓ With this, the state has moved to the third spot on the national case list overtaking New Delhi.
- ✓ Out of the 669 cases, Chennai alone accounted for 509 fresh cases, taking its overall tally to 3,839.
- ✓ On the day, the rate at which Covid-19 cases double in the state has dropped to five days.



- ✓ On April 27, the doubling time for the infection was 21 days, on a weekly average basis.
- ✓ It further dropped to 9 days in the week after April 27, when the state reported between 104 and 266 cases.
- ✓ Later, since May 4, the doubling time quickly dropped to 5 days, following the reporting of more than 500 cases every day, with even touching above 700 on May 6.

- ✓ On May 10, the state discharged 135 people taking the total number of people recovered to 1,959.
 - ✓ There were 5,195 'active' patients under treatment, with around 60% of them in Chennai alone.
 - ✓ The percentage of people discharged in Chennai is just 16% compared to the state average of 32%
 - ✓ A total of 4,305 individuals, suspected to have the infection, are in isolation wards.
 - ✓ The three persons who were reported to have been died due to the infection included - a 75-year-old admitted to Chengalpet medical college, a 59-year-old man with comorbidities admitted to Stanley Medical College and another 55- year-old man with other critical diseases admitted to Kilpauk Medical College
 - ✓ Of the 19 districts that recorded cases on the day, Chengalpet reported 43 cases, Tiruvallur reported 47 and Kancheepuram reported eight, all three neighbouring Chennai.
 - ✓ Tirunelveli and Krishnagiri recorded 10 cases each, while all other districts recorded cases in single digits.
 - ✓ Until May 9, there were 2,005 people in the Koyambedu cluster compared to 1,350 in the Tablighi Jamaat cluster, recorded in March-April.
 - ✓ Outside the two clusters, there were 3,179 patients, overall in the state.
 - ✓ According to the bulletin from the Directorate of Public Health, a total of 13,376 samples were tested on the day, taking the total number of samples tested till date to 2,43,037.
 - ✓ The testing of 676 samples is under process, while 10,669 samples are repeat samples.
- **The Tamil Nadu Government – has made arrangements to send around 1,200 people from Manipur in a special train from MGR Central railway station to Jiribam, Manipur, via Guwahati at 8pm on May 10.**
- ✓ This is the second train from Chennai to leave carrying stranded people.
 - ✓ The train was arranged based on the request of Manipur
 - ✓ Apart from this, two more trains, one from Coimbatore and another from Tirupur, carrying 1,140 guest workers each, left for Muzaffarpur, Bihar on May 10.
 - ✓ While this is the fifth train to leave from Coimbatore, the one from Tirupur was the first to depart from the textile town carrying migrant workers.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, a special bus from Maharashtra brought back 25 Tamils working there on the day
 - ✓ They were thermal screened immediately and asked to remain home-quarantined for the next 14 days.
- **The Tamil Nadu Government – is planning to set up two new large wholesale markets, one for vegetables and another for fruits, in Chennai city soon.**

- ✓ The move is seen as an attempt to decongest Koyambedu market overcrowding, which has led to spread of Covid-19 to other parts of the city.

TWO NEW WHOLESALE MARKETS IN THE PIPELINE

<p>➤ Nandivaram in Guduvancherry is located on the southern suburbs, off GST Road, while the location beyond Madhavaram is situated in the northwest of Chennai</p>	<p>infrastructure projects including a wholesale market that would cater to the needs of residents of Chennai.</p>
<p>➤ CMDA was already exploring the 16-acre land at Nandivaram to utilise it for</p>	<p>➤ The current move is aimed at decongesting Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex, the second largest wholesale market in Asia.</p>

- ✓ The new markets are expected to come up at Nandivaram off GST road in the southern suburbs and at a spot beyond Madhavaram in the northwest.
- ✓ Koyambedu is now the only source market for vegetables and fruits for all retailers in the city and its suburbs.
- ✓ From May 11, the wholesale vegetable traders from Koyambedu having been shifted to Thirumazhisai Satellite Township to operate their shops temporarily
- ✓ Earlier, the state government has also announced a bus terminus for west bound buses at Kuthambakkam in an area of 20 acres near the Thirumazhisai satellite township.
- **The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy - will soon have a supercomputer at a cost of over Rs 17.11 crore.**
 - ✓ The supercomputer has been allotted based on the proposal submitted by NIT-T to National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - infrastructure team three years ago
 - ✓ The new supercomputer will be inducted as part of the NSM, a mission by the government of India
 - ✓ It was sanctioned by the Department of science and technology (DST) and Ministry of electronics and information technology (MeiTY)
 - ✓ The objective of NSM is to provide technology institutions with high-performance computing capabilities that can be used for solving computationally intensive problems.
 - ✓ The supercomputer involving central processing unit (CPU) and graphics processing unit (GPU) at a ratio of 70:30
 - ✓ It will be installed at the institute by the centre for development of advanced computing (C-DAC), Pune, soon, at an additional installation cost of about ₹2 crore.
- **From Tamil Nadu, two hospitals — the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Omandurar Estate, and the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital — have been chosen for the randomized trial purpose of the Centre.**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been chosen for a multi-centric, randomised, emergency 'Solidarity Trial' to help identify treatment options for COVID-19 patients.
- ✓ The study has four treatment methods, including Remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir with Ritonavir (anti-retrovirals), and Lopinavir with Ritonavir and Interferon Beta-1a
- ✓ The trial programme aims for the faster generation of quality global data to help identify treatment options for the COVID-19 disease
- ✓ Remdesivir and Interferon will be shipped from the ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute, while the State will be purchasing the other drugs.
- ✓ The drugs would be administered to critical patients and are not meant for asymptomatic patients
- ✓ Meanwhile, the State is also planning to start a trial to determine the effectiveness of using convalescent plasma in the treatment of COVID-19.
- ✓ Four institutes — the Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Omandurar Estate, and the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai, and the government hospitals in Tirunelveli and Madurai — will be the authorized centres for the trial of plasma therapy

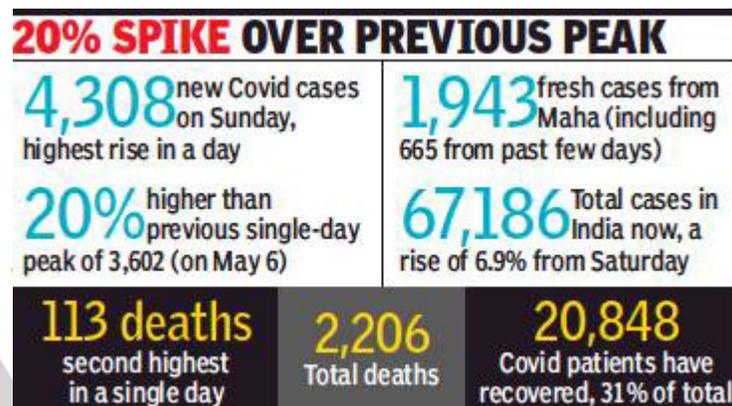
STATES

- **The Karnataka government - has implemented the amended Land Reforms Act, 1961 in the state, which now allows industries to buy land directly from farmers**
- ✓ However, the industries will still be required to seek permission from the revenue department.
- ✓ Earlier, industries were allotted the agricultural land through Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).
- ✓ The amendment was notified after the governor approved the Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which was approved earlier by the legislature in March.
- ✓ The April 27 gazette notification repeals the related Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Ordinance 2019.
- ✓ The move is expected to help industries set up new facilities and create more jobs faster.
- ✓ The other states that have been allowing such a procedure includes Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

NATIONAL

- **India - recorded its highest single-day jump in Covid-19 cases with the number crossing 4,000 for the first time**

- ✓ The country has reported 4,308 fresh Covid-19 positive cases on the day, a rise of 6.9% on a single day, taking the overall infections tally to 67,186, as per the reports from States.
- ✓ On the day, the pandemic touched another new high in Maharashtra, which added 1,943 cases, with Mumbai alone accounting for 875 patients
- ✓ Maharashtra also reported its highest single-day death toll of 53, while the virus claimed 113 lives across India.
- ✓ As on date, the death toll in the country stands at 2,201.
- ✓ Maharashtra's Covid-19 tally has reached 22,171 and 832 deaths have been confirmed in the state
 - ✓ Mumbai remains the worst-affected city in the state with a total of 13,739 cases and 508 deaths so far.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the number of people who have recovered from the disease has risen to 20,848, which is 31% of all cases, the highest proportion so far.



- ✓ Apart from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (669 new cases), Gujarat (398) and Delhi (381) also reported increasing figures.
- ✓ The eastern states of West Bengal (153), Odisha (83) and Bihar (85) reported their highest jump in cases, mainly due to the return of migrants.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, which has been reporting the second highest count of cases after Maharashtra in the past few days, overtook Delhi to claim the No.3 spot among Covid-hit states.
- ✓ Delhi recorded five more deaths due to the infection, while 381 fresh cases of the virus were reported.
 - ✓ With the fresh cases, the Covid-19 tally in the national capital has climbed to 6,923.
- ✓ Gujarat also crossed 8,000 positive cases mark with 8,195 total cases, becoming the second Indian state after Maharashtra to record the number.
 - ✓ According to the state government data, Gujarat added 1,000 cases in the past three days alone.
 - ✓ On a happier note, Gujarat has discharged more patients than new cases on the day.

- ✓ Gujarat discharged a record 454 patients in 24 hours, while the number of new cases in reported the state was 398.
 - ✓ A total of 21 patients succumbed to the virus.
 - ✓ In Odisha, 83 more persons tested positive for Covid-19, of which 80 are migrant workers, taking the total coronavirus patient count in the state to 377.
 - ✓ Telangana's Covid-19 tally stands at 1,196 with 33 new cases.
 - ✓ So far, 30 deaths have been reported in the state.
 - ✓ Bihar recorded the largest single-day spike with 85 fresh Covid positive cases and sixth death due to coronavirus on the day.
 - ✓ This takes the count of coronavirus cases in Bihar to 696.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, On May 11, PM Narendra Modi is planning to have an open-ended discussion with state chief ministers on the next steps towards a graded exit from the national lockdown.
 - ✓ This is the fifth meeting of the Prime Minister with all the Chief Ministers since the coronavirus outbreak.
 - ✓ The third, and the most relaxed, phase of the lockdown will end on May 17.
- **The Centre – is planning to introduce a limited passenger train services from May 12, 2020**
- ✓ The trains will be connecting the capital, Delhi with 15 major cities, including Mumbai, Howrah, Patna, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Dibrugarh

TO LINK DELHI WITH MOST MAJOR CITIES

15 Destinations

Only online booking through IRCTC

- No booking at counters, no sale of platform tickets
- Fare to be on a par with Rajdhani Express
- All trains to have only AC coaches & will have limited stoppages
- Passengers need to wear masks & undergo screening at station
- Only asymptomatic passengers can board trains after checks
- Those who earlier booked tickets to travel during this period can't board these trains
- No provision of tatkal

- ✓ This will be the first cautious step of the Government towards restoring mass transport, even before the third phase of the lockdown ends.
- ✓ The move may signal efforts to restore mass transport like buses, metros and airlines in the coming weeks.
- ✓ As per the government's announcement, bookings can be done only through IRCTC website and will start from 4 pm on May 11.

- ✓ No one will be able to purchase tickets from the station counters or buy platform tickets.
- ✓ Only asymptomatic passengers with confirmed and valid tickets will be allowed to enter the station and they should compulsorily wear face masks.
- ✓ They will be allowed to travel only after medical screening.
- ✓ People who had earlier booked tickets to travel during this period won't be allowed to board these special trains.
- ✓ All trains to be operated initially will have only AC coaches with only 'selected' stops between the origin and destination stations
- ✓ The frequency of services between Delhi and the other cities will be almost like that of normal Rajdhani services before lockdown.
- ✓ After starting special passenger train services, railways will start 'gradually' more services on new routes
- ✓ This is based on available coaches after reserving 20,000 coaches for Covid-19 care centres and adequate number of coaches for up to 300 daily Shramik Special trains for stranded migrants.
- ✓ There is a possibility of early resumption of other premium trains such as Vande Bharat and Duronto express.
- ✓ The special Shramik trains, which railways started operating from 1st May 2020 onwards, are different from these special trains, as Shramik trains are run on request of the states.
- ✓ As on May 10, 366 Shramik Special trains had been run by railways so far to carry 3.5 lakh migrant workers home
 - ✓ Uttar Pradesh has received 44% of these trains while over 30% of these trains reached Bihar.
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand were the other three states which received more trains as compared to other states.
 - ✓ These trains will continue to run even after partial resumption of services
- **The first naval ship, INS Jalashwa - carrying nearly 700 Indian evacuees from Maldives arrived at Cochin Port on May 10, while another vessel reached Male on the same day**
 - ✓ On the same day, about two dozen flights were operated by Air India as part of the Vande Bharat Mission to bring back citizens stuck abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.
 - ✓ A total of 698 people evacuated from the Maldives arrived at 9.30am by INS Jalashwa of the Indian Navy.
 - ✓ Of these 698 people, 440 people were from Kerala, while 187 were from Tamil Nadu and four from Delhi and the rest are from 17 other states and UTs.
 - ✓ Concurrently, on May 10, INS Magar reached Male to bring around 250 more stranded Indian nationals from the Maldives
 - ✓ The naval vessel is set to start its Kochi voyage under the exercise christened Operation Samudra Setu



- ✓ Passengers showing Covid-19 symptoms were disembarked first from INS Jalashwa, followed by others in small groups in district-wise manner
- ✓ Earlier, INS Jalashwa set sail from the Maldives on May 8.
- ✓ The naval vessel, based in Visakhapatnam, is manned by a trained medical team and has been engaged in the past in evacuation operations
- **The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) in Dehradun - has produced and distributed 50 transparent masks**



- ✓ The samples of the masks are being despatched to Maharashtra based Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities for quality testing.
- ✓ The masks were made of biopolypropylene, which is a biodegradable environment friendly plastic
- ✓ These masks will be useful for people with hearing loss, who need visual cues and lip-read to understand speech.
- ✓ Such masks will also be useful for communication between two deaf people as they need to lipread to understand the language.

- ✓ According to the 2011 census, 26.7 lakh men and 23.9 lakh women in India suffer from some degree of hearing impairment.
- **The Aarogya Setu app - has emerged as the fastest to reach 50 million users and is set to enter the 100 million club soon**
- ✓ The App has been helpful to the government in identifying 650 hotspots at the sub-post office level and another 300 emerging hotspots across the country



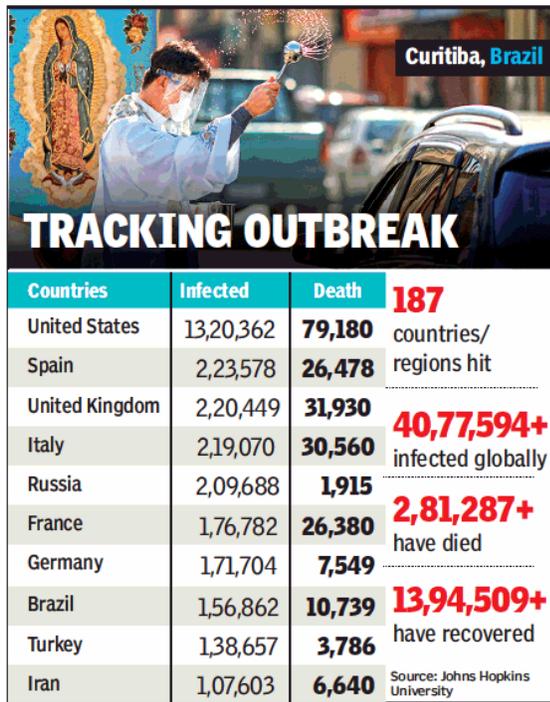
- ✓ The App's download has increased drastically, after the Centre made it mandatory for Union government employees and also requested the private companies to encourage its download to ensure employees remain safe from Covid-19 affected spots.
- ✓ Since its April 2 launch, the app has 96 million registrations, making it the fastest to reach 50 million users and is set to be one of the fastest App to get into the 100 million club.
- ✓ The app uses Bluetooth based contact tracing, which is integrated with ICMR database through APIs
- ✓ Thus, the App gets real-time testing alerts on coronavirus positive cases from across the country.
- ✓ The App's interaction data has led to more than 60,000 people being assessed and alerted at various degrees of risk - self isolation, quarantine and testing.
- ✓ Of the more than 8,500 tested from the set of people assessed as high risk, more than 23% have tested Covid-19 positive so far, highlighting the accuracy of the Aarogya Setu
- **On May 10, India had launched Mission Sagar - to provide assistance to the five island nations in the Indian Ocean in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.**
- ✓ The five island nations are Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Comoros.



- ✓ As per the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the naval ship will be carrying the COVID related medicines such as HCQ tablets, special Ayurvedic medicines, and food items along with other medical assistance teams.
- ✓ As part of the mission Sagar, Indian Naval ship Kesari will enter the Port of Male in the Republic of Maldives and will provide 600 tons of food provisions.
- ✓ The deployment of the naval ship is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'SAGAR- Security and Growth for all in the Region', which came in effect in March 2015.
 - ✓ The mission highlights India's relations with its neighboring countries and strengthens the mutual cooperation and trust.
 - ✓ The operation mission Sagar is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence and other agencies of the Indian government.
- ✓ India has strong naval presence in all the four Indian Ocean countries included in the mission.
 - ✓ In 2019, India and Maldives agreed to complete the previously stalled Coastal Radar Surveillance System (CSRR) in Maldives.
 - ✓ In 2018, India and Seychelles agreed to set up a naval base at Assumption Island
 - ✓ In October 2019, India and Comoros signed defence agreements with India providing a line of credit of 20 million USD to Comoros for the procurement of High-Speed Interceptor Boats

INTERNATIONAL

- **As on May 11, globally more than four million people - have been reported infected and nearly 2,80,000 have died, over half of them in Europe, according to Johns Hopkins University**
- ✓ Russia's count of Covid-19 infections climbed above 2,00,000 after its highest-ever daily tally of 11,012 new cases reported on the day
 - ✓ This takes the total infections to 209,688, apart from 1,915 deaths reported in the country, which has become Europe's new coronavirus hotspot.
- ✓ Germany has seen regional surge in cases linked to slaughterhouses, taking the country's new infections to above 1,000 again.



- ✓ Meanwhile, China reported 14 new cases on the day, its first double digit rise in 10 days.
 - ✓ Among them was the first case of coronavirus in over a month in Wuhan, the city where the outbreak first started in December 2019
 - ✓ The Chinese city of Shulan bordering North Korea imposed martial law after 11 people tested positive for the viral infection on May 10
- ✓ South Korea reported 34 more fresh cases as new infections increased suddenly, which are linked to club-goers in the country.
 - ✓ It was the first time that the country's daily infections were above 30 in about a month
- ✓ France, which has a similar number of infections as Germany but a far higher death toll at over 26,300, is letting some younger students return to school on May 11 after almost two months of lockdown.
- ✓ Across Europe, many nations were easing curbs on May 11 even though some countries have recorded a spike.
- ✓ For the time in Pakistan, a coronavirus patient has recovered following a convalescent plasma therapy at a hospital in Karachi
- ✓ Meanwhile, British PM Boris Johnson said the coronavirus lockdown will not end yet, urging people to "stay alert" to the risks caused by the pandemic
 - ✓ The PM outlined plans to begin slowly easing measures that have closed down much of the economy for nearly two months.
 - ✓ From May 13, people in the UK will be able to sunbathe in their local parks, do their exercises and drive to other destinations
 - ✓ The PM announced a limited easing of restrictions, including allowing people to exercise outside more often and encouraging those who can't 'work from home' to return to their jobs.

- ✓ Britain's coronavirus death toll of 31,855 is the second highest in the world, behind only the United States.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune - has developed and validated the IgG ELISA test named as 'Covid Kavach Elisa' for antibody detection for Covid-19.**
- ✓ This is the first time India has developed an indigenous ELISA test for coronavirus.
- ✓ The test kit will help detect the presence of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies among the people.
- ✓ Since the ELISA test is based on detection of antibodies, it can only help in knowing whether the person has been previously infected by coronavirus.
- ✓ The test kit was validated at two sites in Mumbai and was reported to have high sensitivity and accuracy, when compared to the several rapid test kits which have recently flooded the Indian market
- ✓ Earlier, NIV's scientists had earlier successfully isolated the SARS-CoV-2 virus from laboratory-confirmed patients in India.
- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research has partnered with Zydus Cadila for mass production of the ELISA test kits.
 - ✓ Zydus Cadila is one of India's leading healthcare companies that manufacture generic drugs.
- ✓ The Centre has also approved the indigenous antibody detection test for Covid-19 to reduce dependence on countries like China for testing kits.
- ✓ The indigenous antibody test will eliminate the need for low-quality Chinese kits, as recently, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had to return about 500,000 such kits after they produced errors and variable results.
- ✓ The ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test is used to detect antibodies in the blood for a wide variety of infections, particularly HIV.
- ✓ India has a 'successful' history of being able to combat HIV-AIDS in the entire country.
- ✓ The test has the advantage of accommodating 90 samples together in a single run of 2.5 hours.
- ✓ The ELISA-based testing is easily possible even at the district level as the kit has inactivated virus
- ✓ While real-time RT-PCR is the frontline test for clinical diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2, robust antibody tests are critical for surveillance to understand how much of the community has been exposed to infection.

SPORTS

- **China - won the inaugural \$180,000 FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup, after securing a 2-2 draw against USA on May 10.**



- ✓ China had lost to USA in the concluding league match on the previous day
- ✓ However, it was declared the winner on the basis of topping the points table in the round-robin stage.
- ✓ China won \$48,000, USA \$36,000 while the other participants received \$24,000 each.
- ✓ On May 9, India concluded its campaign as per its seeding position and finished fifth, ahead of sixth seed Rest of the World (RoW).
- ✓ The final standings (after 10 rounds) - 1. China (17 match-points), 2-3. USA and Europe (13 each), 4. Russia (8), 5. India (5), 6. RoW (4).

NATIONAL DAY

- **National Technology Day - May 11**



- ✓ The day brings together scientists, diplomats, technocrats, WHO officials from the research institutions, industries, and academic institutions to acknowledge the achievements and excellence of the science and technology in India.
- ✓ It is celebrated every year by the Department of Science and Technology
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Focusing on Rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.
- ✓ The day highlights the importance of science and its role in our routine life.
- ✓ It also encourages youngsters to opt for science as their career option to strengthen the technological developments in our country.
- ✓ On this day in 1998, India had successfully tested Shakti-1 nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.
 - ✓ The operation was called Pokhran II and was led by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
 - ✓ After two days, India had also successfully test-fired two nuclear weapons as part of Operation Shakti.
 - ✓ After this, the then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced India as a nuclear state.
 - ✓ It made India the sixth country to join the nuclear club and the first country to not join the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT).
 - ✓ These nuclear tests brought several sanctions against India, especially from USA and Japan
- ✓ On this day, May 11, the DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) accomplished the test of Trishul missile.
- ✓ It also marks the flight of first indigenous aircraft called Hansa-3.
- ✓ The code name of first phase of Operation Shakti was 'Smiling Buddha', which was conducted in May 1974.
- ✓ The second nuclear test, the phase II of Operation Shakti, conducted in 1998 was a series of 5 tests of nuclear bombs.

