**ART AND CULTURE**

**BHARAT RATNA**

**Why in News?**

Recently Government of India has announced that Late former Bihar chief minister **Karpoori Thakur** will be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna.

**What is Bharat Ratna?**

* ‘Bharat Ratna’, the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year **1954.**
* Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is **eligible** for these awards.
* It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in **any field of human endeavour.**
* The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are **made by the Prime Minister himself to the President**. No formal recommendations for this are necessary.
* The number of annual awards is **restricted to a maximum of three** in a particular year.
* On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
* The Award **does not carry any monetary grant**.
* In terms of **Article 18 (1)** of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name**.**
* The year 1999 witnessed four Bharat Ratna recipients instead of three.
* **Sachin Tendulkar** became the youngest recipient of Bharat Ratna in 2014. He also became the first sportsperson to be awarded the Bharat Ratna.
* In 1997 the award was cancelled because of the ongoing controversy over Subhas Chandra bose’s death. This was the only time Bharat Ratna was withdrawn after the announcement.
* Any **non-Indian is eligible** to win the award.
* **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Nelson Mandela** are the first non-Indians to have received the Bharat Ratna Award.
* The **first three Bharat Ratna recipients** were as follows: 1. C Rajagopalachari 2. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan 3. Dr. C.V Raman.

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