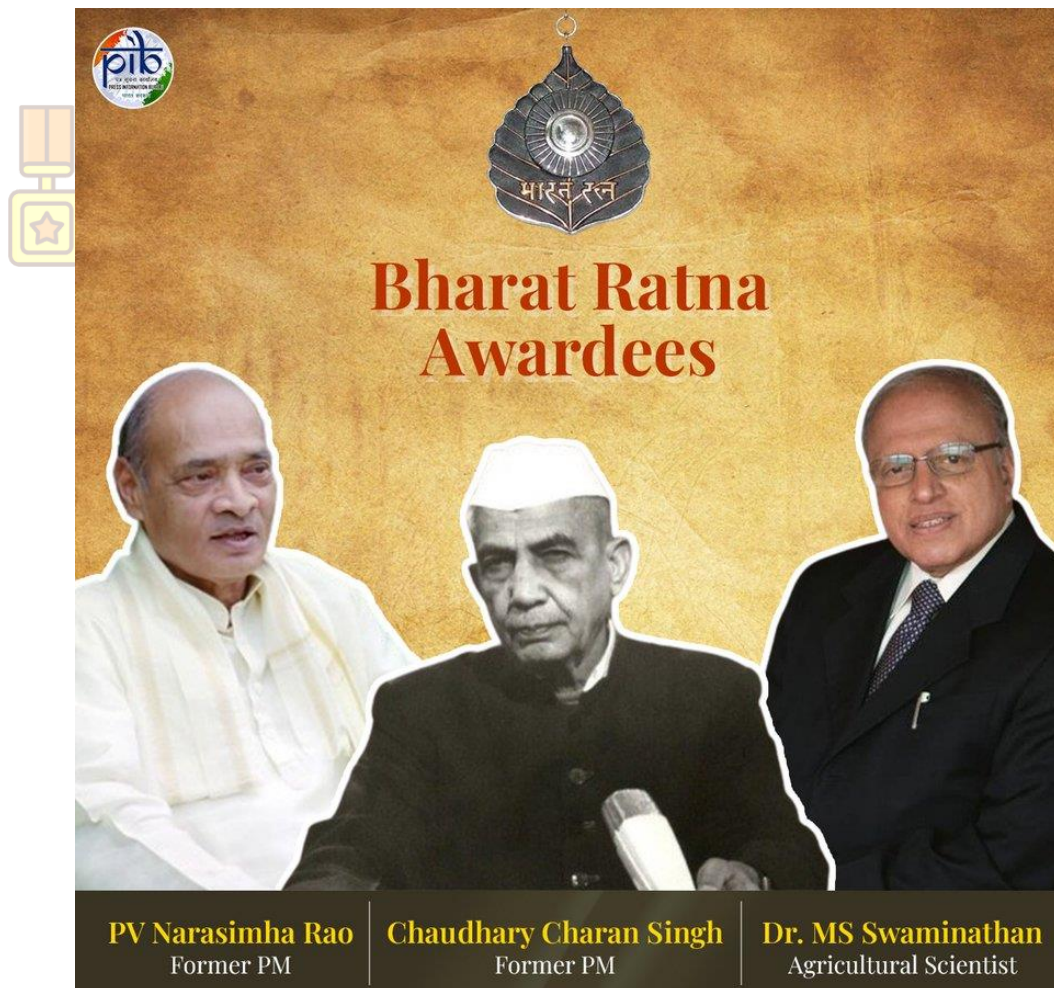


# Daily Current Affairs

## 10 February 2024

### Bharat Ratna

- The government has announced India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna to **Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and Father of Green Revolution, Dr. M S Swaminathan.**
- The announcement was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his social media post. Expressing delight over the announcement, Prime Minister Modi said **PV Narasimha Rao Garu** as a distinguished scholar and statesman, served India extensively in various capacities.



- He said that his visionary leadership was instrumental in making India economically advanced and laying a solid foundation for the country's prosperity and growth.
- Mr Modi further added that his contributions to **India's foreign policy, language, and education sectors** underscore his multifaceted legacy.
- Remembering the contribution of former **Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh**, Mr Modi said, the Bharat Ratna is dedicated to his incomparable contribution to the country.



- Prime Minister said, he had **dedicated his entire life to the rights and welfare** of farmers. Mr Modi also lauded his stand against the Emergency and said Chaudhary Charan Singh's dedication to the farmer and his commitment to democracy is inspiring to the entire nation.
- Prime Minister expressed immense joy over the announcement of Bharat Ratna to **Dr. MS Swaminathan for his monumental contributions** to agriculture and farmers' welfare.
- PM Modi said he played a pivotal role in helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture during challenging times and made outstanding efforts towards modernizing Indian agriculture.
- Recognising his invaluable work as an innovator, Mr. Modi said, Dr. Swaminathan's visionary leadership has not only transformed Indian agriculture but also ensured the nation's food security and prosperity.

## Water Prevention Amendment Bill

- Parliament has passed the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024** with the Lok Sabha approving. Rajya Sabha has already passed the legislation.
- The Bill seeks to amend the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. The Act establishes the central and state pollution control boards to prevent and control water pollution.
- The Bill decriminalises several violations and imposes penalties. It will initially apply to Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories. Under the act, the **chairman of a State Pollution Control Board** is nominated by the State government.



- According to the provision of the bill, the central government will prescribe the manner of nomination and the terms and conditions of service of the chairman. The Bill imposes a penalty between ten thousand rupees to 15 lakh rupees for violation of provisions related to the discharge of polluting matter in water bodies.
- Replying to a debate on the Bill, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav said that the **Government is committed to the Namami Gange Project** and appealed to the members to join hands to make it a mass movement.

- He also said that the guidelines that will be issued under the legislation will in no way encroach upon the **rights of the State Pollution Control Boards**.
- He assured the House it would be transparent and help promote ease of living and ease of business. He also said, the rules framed under the legislation will provide an opportunity for the violators to their views as well.
- He said it is important that there should be mindful utilisation of natural resources. He said over one lakh water bodies have been identified under **Amrit Sarovar and 75 lakes are included in Ramsar sites**.
- Earlier Moving the Bill, Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav said, the changes have been brought to give a push to the industrial development and ensure environmental protection.

## **ASEAN Secretary-General's First Official Visit**

- **Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Dr. Kao Kim Hourn** will be on a five day official visit to India.
- This will be the **first official visit of Dr. Kao** to India since assuming charge in January 2023.
- External Affairs Ministry said that the Secretary-General of ASEAN is scheduled to have meetings with the External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries in Delhi.



- He is also slated to deliver the Sapru House Lecture organised by the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)** on the theme **'The ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the Evolving Regional Architecture'**.

- Dr. Houn will also visit **the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Gaya.**
- As per the Ministry, the visiting dignitary is scheduled to deliver an address on **'The Future of ASEAN: ASEAN's Relevance and Resilience in the Evolving Strategic Environment'** at the **Nalanda University in Rajgir.**



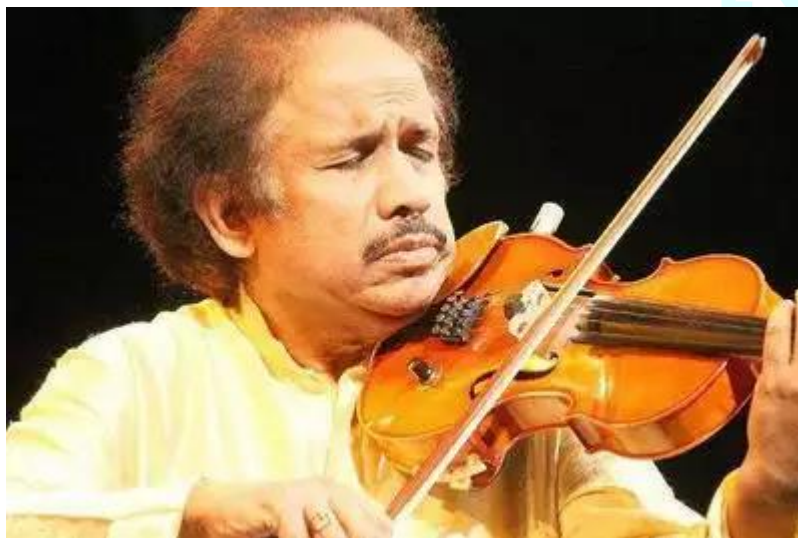
- Nalanda University leads the **ASEAN-India Network of Universities (AINU)**. The Ministry said that the engagement with ASEAN is an important pillar of India's **Act East Policy**, which has entered into its 10th year in 2024 as well as its vision for the wider Indo-Pacific.
- In 2022, the ASEAN-India relations were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The Ministry said that India firmly supports ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. India also supports the priorities set by Lao PDR in its ASEAN Chairmanship for the year 2024 under the theme **'ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience'**.

## Lakshminarayana International Award

- **Pyarelal Sharma**, one-half of the legendary composer duo **Laxmikant -Pyarelal**, has been felicitated with the prestigious Lakshminarayana International Award.
- This honour was bestowed upon him as part of the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival, acknowledging his invaluable contributions to the Indian music industry.



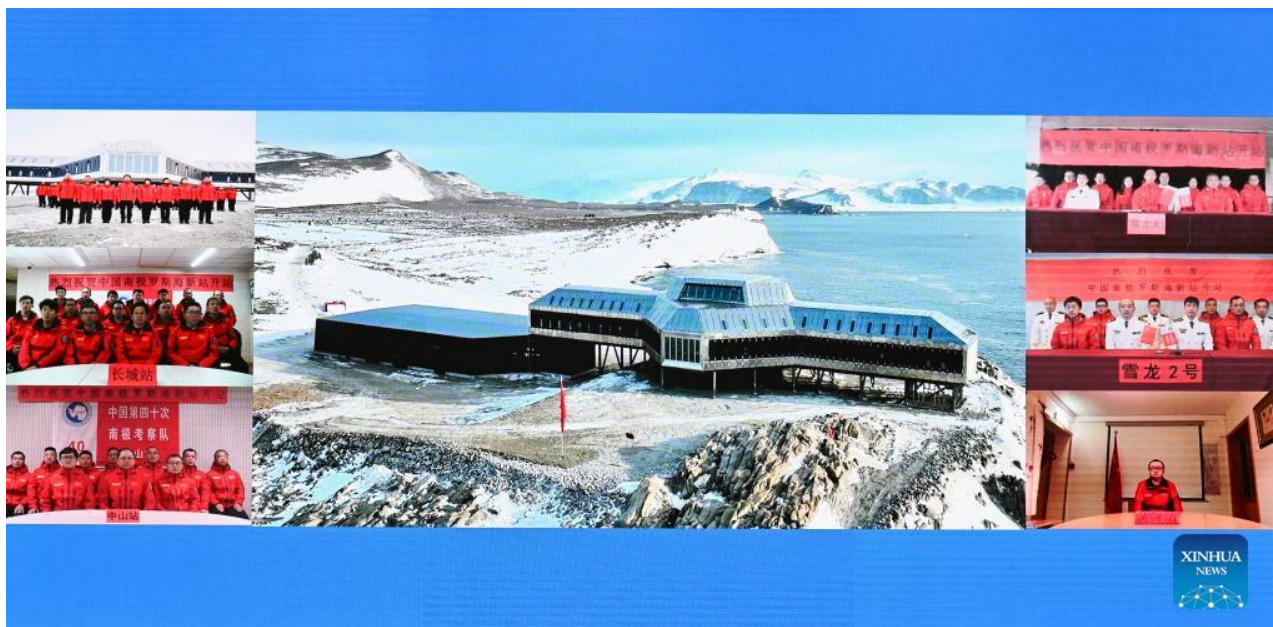
- Pyarelal Sharma, alongside Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar, formed the iconic music composer duo known as Laxmikant-Pyarelal. Their collaboration has been nothing short of legendary, giving the Indian cinema some of its most memorable and evergreen songs. From “Dosti” to “Ram Lakhan,” their compositions span across genres, moods, styles, and situations, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of millions.
- **The Lakshminarayana International Award**, named after the violin maestro Lakshminarayana, is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the world of music.



- Pyarelal Sharma’s receipt of this award is a testament to his artistic genius and the timeless appeal of his compositions.
- The award was **presented by renowned** musicians L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurthy Subramaniam, adding further prestige to the occasion.

## China Launches Qinling Station

- China has unveiled its **latest Antarctic research hub, the Qinling station**, situated on Inexpressible Island in the Ross Sea, marking its fifth such facility on the continent.
- This underscores China's dedication to advancing scientific exploration in Antarctica. The **Qinling station** will operate year-round, hosting a team of up to 80 researchers and support staff.
- **Its main objectives** include conducting a wide range of research activities spanning biological oceanography, glaciology, marine ecology, and other scientific fields.



- **China's investment in the Qinling station** underscores its commitment to expanding our understanding of the Antarctic ecosystem and its broader impact on global environmental dynamics.
- China sees the Qinling station as a platform for fostering international cooperation and collaboration in Antarctic research.
- Through engagement with other nations, **China aims to enhance scientific exchange**, promote joint research endeavors, and contribute to the peaceful and sustainable development of the region.
- The establishment of the Qinling station aligns with the principles of the Antarctic Treaty, which emphasize peaceful and cooperative exploration for the benefit of humanity.



- **As China strengthens its presence in Antarctica** with facilities like the Qinling station, it must navigate geopolitical complexities and address concerns about its activities.
- The Qinling station underscores China's commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and fostering global cooperation in one of the world's most remote and challenging environments.

## Nuclear Reactors Agreement

- India and Russia have bolstered their enduring nuclear partnership by signing a **protocol to amend the 2008 intergovernmental agreement**.
- This updated agreement prioritizes the construction of additional nuclear reactors at the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project** site and the expansion of Russia-designed nuclear power plants to new locations across India.





- Signatories: Alexey Likhachev, Director General of Rosatom State Corporation, and Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India and Secretary of the Department for Atomic Energy of the Government of India.
- Location: Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project site. The Russian delegation conducted inspections of the ongoing construction of power units for stages two and three of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project, encompassing reactors 3 to 6.
- Agenda Was Discussions revolved around the sustained collaboration between India and Russia in the nuclear energy sector.
- The **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP)** is India's largest nuclear power plant. It's located in Kudankulam, in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.
- The KKNPP project plans to build six nuclear **power plants of 1,000 MW** each, using pressurized water reactor (Voda Voda Energo Reactor) technology. The plant is owned by the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) in collaboration with Atomstroyexport**, a Russian state company.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Who Is The Current Secretary General Of ASEAN**

- A. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn
- B. Hartono Dharsono
- C. Ali Abdullah
- D. Umarjadi Njotowijono

**ANSWER: A**

**2. Who Was The First Recipient Of The Bharat Ratna**

- A. C. Rajagopalachari
- B. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- C. C.V. Raman
- D. All of the above

**ANSWER: D**

**3. The First Woman To Be Awarded The Bharat Ratna Was**

- A. Sarojini Naidu
- B. Mother Teresa
- C. Indira Gandhi
- D. Aruna Asaf Ali

**ANSWER: C**

**4. The Youngest Recipient Of The Bharat Ratna Was Only**

- A. 40 years old
- B. 37 years old
- C. 42 years old
- D. 48 years old

**ANSWER: A**

**5. 'Lupus', In The News, Is Related To Which One Of The Following**

- A. Autoimmune Disease
- B. A Geological Formation
- C. Satellite Launched By ISRO
- D. Invasive Plant

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Primary Objective Of SAMARTH Scheme, Seen In The News**

- A. Providing Scholarship To Rural Students For Higher Education
- B. Providing Assistance To Farmers
- C. Providing Assistance To The MSME's
- D. Providing Comprehensive Medical Care To Children

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Primary Objective Of 'Support To Students For Participating In Competitions Abroad' Scheme Introduced By AICTE**

- A. Encouraging Domestic Competitions
- B. Enhancing Global Competitiveness Of Indian Students In Technical Education
- C. Providing Financial Aid For Local Events
- D. Promoting Cultural Exchange Programs

**ANSWER: B**

**8. World Sustainable Development Summit Is Annually Organized By**

- A. The Energy and Resources Institute
- B. World Bank
- C. Environmental Assessment Institute
- D. Centre for Environment Education

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Which City Announced Free Bus Travel For Transgender Community**

- A. Lucknow
- B. Indore
- C. Delhi
- D. Jaipur

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Farooq Nazki, Who Passed Away Recently, Was Associated With Which Profession**

- A. Poet
- B. Wrestler
- C. Scientist
- D. Politician

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Kilkari Programme Launched In Which States**

- A. Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh
- B. Bihar & Jharkhand
- C. Gujarat & Maharashtra
- D. Rajasthan & Karnataka

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Proposed Interim Budget For Jammu And Kashmir For The Fiscal Year 2024-25**

- A. \$12 billion
- B. \$14 billion
- C. \$11 billion
- D. \$16 billion

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak Became The Prime Minister Of Which Country**

- A. Jordan
- B. Iraq
- C. Iran
- D. Yemen

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Which Country Of South America Has Declared A Health Emergency Due To A Surge In Dengue Fever Cases**

- A. Chile
- B. Argentina
- C. Peru
- D. Brazil

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Which Institute Recently Designed A New Image-correction Algorithm Which Enhances The Study Of Ultracold Atoms**

- A. Institute of Life Sciences
- B. Raman Research Institute
- C. Institute of Biotechnology
- D. National Institute of Virology

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Who Has Been Appointed As New Prime Minister Of Kazakhstan**

- A. Olzhas Bektenov
- B. Roman Sklyar
- C. Aslan Musin
- D. Arken Arystanov

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Who Was The First Asian To Lead A Global Bank And Recently Passed Away At The Age Of 76**

- A. Deepak Parekh
- B. Naina Lal Kidwai
- C. Rana Talwar
- D. Lakshmi Mittal

**ANSWER: C**

**18. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sports Event To Offer Equal Prize Money To Men & Women**

- A. BWF world championship
- B. US Open
- C. Australia Open
- D. NBA world championship

**ANSWER: B**

**19. In Which Location Did External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar Inaugurate The Indian Hotels Company Limited Skill Centre**

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Ektanagar
- C. Vadodara
- D. Ahmedabad

**ANSWER: B**

**20. 'Shab e-Barat' Is A Famous Event Observed In Which Religion**

- A. Islam
- B. Sikhism
- C. Jainism
- D. Buddhism

**ANSWER: A**