Padma Awards

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the 2026 Padma Awardees for their outstanding contributions across diverse fields, noting that their excellence inspires generations.

Padma Awards	
• They are ***one of the highest civilian Awards*** of the country, instituted in 1954, and are conferred in 3 categories. • **Padma Vibhushan –** It is for exceptional and distinguished service. • **Padma Bhushan –** It is for distinguished service of a high order. • **Padma Shri –** It is for distinguished service in any field.	
Awarded by	• The awards are presented by the ***President of India every year.*** • The awardees are presented with a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
Field of achievements/service	• They are given in various disciplines/fields of activity. • It includes art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
Recommended by	• Padma Awards are conferred based on recommendations of ***the Padma Awards Committee.*** • The committee is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
Nomination	• The nomination process is open to the public. • Self-nominations are also permitted.
Eligibility	• All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.

Exclusion	• Government servants, including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.
Exception	• The award is normally ***not conferred posthumously.*** • However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously.
Ceiling	• The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) should not be more than 120.
Non-Titular	• The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardee's name.
Padma Awards Committee	• It is *headed by the Cabinet Secretary* and includes the Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. • The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

References

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