

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are <u>one of the highest civilian Awards</u> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The awards are presented by the <u>President of India every year.</u> • The awardees are presented with a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
Field of achievements/service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padma Awards are conferred based on recommendations of <u>the Padma Awards Committee.</u> • The committee is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
Nomination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nomination process is open to the public. • Self-nominations are also permitted.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.

Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government servants, including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.
Exception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award is normally <i>not conferred posthumously.</i> • However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously.
Ceiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is <i>headed by the Cabinet Secretary</i> 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

1. [PIB | Padma Awards](#)
2. [Padma Awards | About](#)