

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<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 the Padma Awards Committee. 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 <u>not conferred posthumously</u>. 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 <u>headed by the Cabinet Secretary</u> 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](#)