Padma Awards

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Awards*

Why in News?

The nomination process for the Padma Awards 2027 officially opens on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.

- **Padma Awards** – These awards are ***India's highest civilian honours*** instituted to recognise exceptional achievements/service across diverse fields.
- **Presented by –** The President of India to symbolise national gratitude for distinguished contributions beyond normal expectations.
- **Instituted in –** 1954.
- **Timeline of the Award Cycle –** Awarded **Annually on January 26** (Republic Day).
- **Categories –** Three-tier – Vibhushan >Bhushan > Shri
- **Given By –** President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan investiture
- **Received By –** Civilians (OCI exceptionally), no routine foreigners.
- **Fields –** 9 fields - Art, Literature & Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science & Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade & Industry.
- **Selection Process – Cabinet Secretary committee** (Home Secretary, Presidential Secretary, 4-6 experts), **PM** recommendation, **President** approval.
- **Nomination – self-nominations** on "People's Padma" achievement proforma.
- **Eligibility –** All, irrespective of race, religion, sex, occupation or position.
- **Exclusions –** Govt servants/PSUs except Doctors & Scientists.
- **Posthumous Cases –** Generally, the awards are not conferred posthumously, but exceptions are made in highly deserving cases.
- **Decoration – Sanad** (Presidential certificate) + **Medallion** (Main Award Medal) + **Replica** (Ceremonial Wear Version)

Features	Padma Vibhushan	Padma Bhushan	Padma Shri
Rank	2nd highest	3rd highest	4th highest
Medallion	Peacock	Samrat	Lotus
Purpose	Exceptional service	High-order distinction	Field merit
Quota	Max 20	Max 60	Remainder
Upgrade Gap	5 years min	5 years min	Entry tier

References

1. PIB | Padma Awards
2. Rashtriya Puraskar| Padma Awards

