PM Modi awarded Sri Lanka's Mitra Vibhushana

Prelims – *Current events of International Importance*

Mains (GS II) – *Bilateral relations*

Why in News?

Shri Narendra Modi (1st Indian) was honored with the Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana Award.

- Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana is the highest honour bestowed on foreign leaders.
- It honours ***Heads of State and government heads*** with whom Sri Lanka has cordial relations.
- It appreciates their friendship towards and solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka.
- **Instituted in –** 2008.
- **Instituted by -** Mahinda Rajapaksa (former President of Srilanka).
- This award ranks *higher than the national honours granted by Sri Lanka*, including the Sri Lanka Rathna (equivalent to the Bharat Ratna).



- The award consists of a *citation and a silver medal* studded with Navarathna, or 9 Sri Lankan gems.
- The Navarathna surrounds a globe encircled by lotus petals.
- At its centre is a Pun Kalasa, a ceremonial pot with rice sheaves, akin to the kalasa used during Sankranti. It signifies prosperity and renewal.
- The top of the medal bears symbols of the Sun and the Moon. It also features a Dharma Chakra, representing the shared *Buddhist heritage of both countries.*
- The medal is worn around the neck with a 6.5 cm wide ribbon.
- The award is granted at the *President's discretion*.

Other foreign country awards received by PM Modi

Saudi Arabia's Order of King Abdul Aziz	**Mauritius**' Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean	**United States'** Legion of Merit
Order of the State of **Palestine**	**Russia**'s Order of St Andrew	**Papua New Guinea**'s Order of Logohu
United Arab Emirates' Order of Zayed	State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan of **Afghanistan**	**Egypt**'s Order of the Nile
Order of **Fiji**	Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin of **Maldives**	Legion of Honour of **France**
Egypt's Order of the Nile	King Hamad Order of the Renaissance of **Bahrain**	Order of Honour of **Greece**
Bhutan's Order of the Dragon King		

References

1. PIB | Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana award
2. The Indian Express | Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana

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