



Padma Awards 2020

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Why in News

The Padma Awards are **announced annually on the eve of Republic Day (26th January)**.

- Instituted in the year **1954**, it is **one of the highest civilian honours of India**.
- The Award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where **an element of public service is involved**.
- The Awards are given in three categories:
 - **Padma Vibhushan** (for exceptional and distinguished service),
 - **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of higher-order) and
 - **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).
- The Awards are **given in various disciplines/ fields of activities**, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- The awards are **presented by the President of India** usually in the month of March/April every year.
- The **award does not amount to a title** and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name.
- 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**.
 - In **2020**, the President has approved conferment of **141 Padma Awards** including 4 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
 - The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri Awards.

Note: Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country.

- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.

- It is treated on a different footing from Padma Award. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India.
- The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a **maximum of three** in a particular year.

Source: PIB