



Padma Awards

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Why in News

Online nominations/recommendations for the **Padma Awards** to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2022 are open.

In 2021, a total of 119 Padma awards were conferred, including 7 padma vibhushan, 10 padma bhushan and 102 padma shri.



Padma Vibhushan



Padma Bhushan



Padma Shri

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - The Padma Awards are announced **annually on Republic Day (26th January)**.
 - **Instituted in 1954**, it is one of the **highest civilian honours** of India.
- **Objective:**

To recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

- **Categories:**

- 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).
- **Padma Vibhushan is highest in the hierarchy** of Padma Awards followed by Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

- **Disciplines:**

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.

- **Eligibility:**

All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards.

- **Selection Process:**

- **Padma Awards Committee:**

The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is **constituted by the Prime Minister every year**.

- **Awarded by President:**

The awards are **presented by the President** of India usually in the month of March/April every year.

Bharat Ratna

- It 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