



Padma Awards 2022

Why in News

General Bipin Rawat, first [Chief of Defence Staff](#) who died in an air crash recently, and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Kalyan Singh** who headed the State during the [Babri Masjid demolition](#) were conferred with **Padma Vibhushan** posthumously on the **eve of the Republic Day (73rd)**.

- Padma Vibhushan, part of the Padma series, is the **second highest civilian award**.

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.

▪ 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

- 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: TH

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