

Padma Awards

April 29, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Padma Awards Latest News

Recently, the President of India conferred 4 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan, and 57 Padma Shri Awards at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I at Rashtrapati Bhawan's Ganatantra Mandap.

Padma Awards Historical Background

- The **Padma Awards** were established in **1954** alongside the **Bharat Ratna**.
- Initially, Padma Awards had **three classes**: *Pahela Varg*, *Dusra Varg*, and *Tisra Varg*.
- These were **renamed** in **1955** via **Presidential Notification** as: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri

Padma Awards Categories

- **Padma Vibhushan**: Awarded for **exceptional and distinguished service**.
- **Padma Bhushan**: Conferred for **distinguished service of a high order**.
- **Padma Shri**: Recognises **distinguished service in any field**.

Eligibility Criteria

- **All persons**, regardless of **race, occupation, position or gender**, are **eligible** for the award.
- **Government servants**, including employees of **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**, are **not eligible**, **except doctors and scientists**.
- Awards are **normally not conferred posthumously**, but in **highly deserving cases**, exceptions are allowed.
- A **minimum 5-year gap** is required for conferring a **higher category Padma award** upon a previously awarded individual. However, this can be **relaxed by the Awards Committee** in exceptional cases.
- **Nominations are open to the public**, and **self-nomination** is also allowed.

Selection Process

- All nominations are evaluated by the **Padma Awards Committee**, which is **constituted annually by the Prime Minister**.
- The Committee is **headed by the Cabinet Secretary**.
- Its recommendations are **submitted to the Prime Minister and President** for final approval.
- The awards are **presented by the President**, usually in **March or April**.
- Awardees receive a **Sanad (certificate)** signed by the President and a **medallion**.

Other Key Features

- The **total number of Padma awards per year** is capped at **120**, excluding:
 - **Posthumous awards**
 - Awards to **NRIs, foreign nationals**, and **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)**
- The award **does not constitute a title** and **cannot be used as a prefix or suffix** to the awardee's name.
- **Disciplines covered**: Awards span across **art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service**, among others.

Padma Awards FAQs

Q1. What are the Padma Awards?

Ans. The Padma Awards are civilian honours given by the Government of India to recognise exceptional service in various fields such as arts, education, public affairs, and science.

Q2. What are the three categories of Padma Awards?

Ans. The three categories are Padma Vibhushan (second-highest civilian award), Padma Bhushan (third-highest), and Padma Shri (fourth-highest).

Q3. Are Padma Awards given posthumously?

Ans. Yes, the awards can be conferred posthumously in deserving cases.

Source: [PIB](#)

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