



## 2021 Padma Awards

### Why in News

Recently, the [President of India](#) presented the **Padma awards** to 119 recipients for the year 2021 at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

- The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushans and 102 Padma Shri awards.

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Padma Vibhushan



Padma Bhushan



Padma Shri

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - The Padma Awards are announced annually on **Republic Day (26th January)**.
  - It was instituted in 1954, except for brief interruption (**suspended**) during the years **1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997**.
  - It is **one of the highest civilian honours** of India. A higher category of Padma award can be **conferred on a person only where a period of at least five years has elapsed** since conferment of the earlier Padma award.
- **Objective:**
  - It seeks 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. No formal recommendations for Bharat Ratna are necessary.
- The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is **restricted to a maximum of three** in a particular year. Government has conferred Bharat Ratna Award on 45 persons till date.

**Source: IE**

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