

# PADMA AWARDS



## Context:

- The Padma Awards, considered to be the highest civilian honours in India, were presented by the Indian President.

## About:

- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.

## What are the categories in the award?

- Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.
- The award is given in three categories, namely,
  - ▶ Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service;
  - ▶ Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order; and
  - ▶ Padma Shri for distinguished service.



## In how many categories it is given?

- The award seeks to recognize works of distinction and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields of activities/disciplines. An illustrative list of the fields is as under:
  - ▶ Art, Social work, Public Affairs, Science & Engineering, Trade & Industry, Medicine, Civil Service, Sports, other of Human Rights, Wild Life protection/conservation etc.

## Can it be conferred posthumously?

- The award is normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously.

## What are the conditions to confer the award?

- 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. However, in highly deserving cases, a relaxation can be made by the Awards Committee.

## Who decides the nomination?

- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.
- The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

## Who presents the award?

- The awards are presented by the President of India usually in the month of March/April every year where 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.
- The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name