



Civilian Awards

Padma Awards

Padma Awards were instituted in the year 1954. The award is given in three categories, namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year and normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously if the demise of the person proposed to be honoured has been recent, say within a period of one year preceding the Republic Day on which it is proposed to announce the award.

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.

- Padma Shri is awarded for 'distinguished service'.
- Padma Bhushan for 'distinguished service of a high order'.
- Padma Vibhushan for 'exceptional and distinguished service'.

Padma Awards 2015

Padma Vibhushan:

1. LK Advani- Public Affairs- Gujarat
2. Amitabh Bachchan- Art- Maharashtra
3. Prakash Singh Badal- Public Affairs- Punjab
4. Dr D Veerendra Heggade- Social Work- Karnataka
5. Mohammad Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar- Art- Maharashtra
6. Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya- Others- Uttar Pradesh
7. Prof Malur Ramaswamy Srinivasan- Science and Engineering- Tamil Nadu
8. Kottayan K. Venugopal- Public Affairs- Delhi
9. Karim Al Hussaini Aga Khan (Foreigner)- Trade and Industry- France/UK

Padma Bhushan:

1. Jahnua Barua- Art- Assam
2. Dr Vijay Bhatkar- Science and Engineering- Maharashtra
3. Shri Swapan Dasgupta- Literature and Education- Delhi
4. Swami Satyamitranand Giri- Others- Uttar Pradesh
5. N Gopalaswami- Civil Service- Tamil Nadu

6. Dr Subhash C Kashyap- Public Affairs- Delhi
7. Dr (Pandit) Gukulotsavji Maharaj- Art- Madhya Pradesh
8. Dr Ambrish Mithal- Medicine - Delhi
9. Sudha Ragunathan- Art- Tamil Nadu
10. Shri Harish Salve- Public Affairs- Delhi
11. Dr Ashok Seth- Medicine- Delhi
12. Rajat Sharma- Literature and Education- Delhi
13. Satpal- Sports- Delhi
14. Shivakumara Swami- Others- Karnataka
15. Dr Kharag Singh Valdiya- Science and Engineering- Karnataka
16. Prof Manjul Bhargava (NRI/PIO)- Science and Engineering- USA
17. David Frawley (Vamadeva) (Foreigner)- Others- USA
18. Bill Gates (Foreigner)- Social Work- USA
19. Melinda Gates (Foreigner)- Social Work- USA
20. Saichiro Misumi (Foreigner)- Others- Japan

Padma Shri (Not exhaustive)

1. Dr Manjula Anagani- Medicine- Telangana
2. S Arunan- Science and Engineering- Karnataka
3. Kanyakumari Avasarala- Art- Tamil Nadu
4. Dr Bettina Sharada Baumer- Literature and Education- Jammu and Kashmir
5. Naresh Bedi- Art- Delhi
6. Ashok Bhagat- Social Work- Jharkhand
7. Sanjay Leela Bhansali- Art- Maharashtra
8. Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora- Literature and Education- Assam
9. Dr Gyan Chaturvedi- Literature and Education- Madhya Pradesh
10. Prof (Dr) Yogesh Kumar Chawla- Medicine- Chandigarh
11. Jayakumari Chikkala- Medicine- Delhi
12. Bibek Debroy- Literature and Education- Delhi
13. Dr Sarungbam Bimola Kumari Devi- Medicine- Manipur
14. Dr Ashok Gulati- Public Affairs- Delhi
15. Dr Randeep Guleria- Medicine- Delhi
16. Prof Annette Schmiedchen (Literature and Education), Germany
17. Late Pran Kumar Sharma alias Pran- Art- Delhi (Posthumous)
18. Late R Vasudevan- Civil Service- Tamil Nadu (Posthumous)

Bharat Ratna

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Instituted in January 1954, the award is conferred "in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order".

- The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science and public services but the government expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavour" in December 2011.
- Recommendations for the Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President, with a maximum of three nominees being awarded per year.
- Recipients receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a peepal-leaf-shaped medallion; there is no monetary grant associated with the award.
- Bharat Ratna recipients **rank seventh** in the Indian order of precedence, but are constitutionally prohibited from using the award name as a title.
- The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were politician **C. Rajagopalachari**, scientist **C. V. Raman** and philosopher Sarvepalli **Radhakrishnan**, who were honoured in 1954.

- Recipients who are alive: - **Amartya Sen, Lata Mangeshkar, C. N. R. Rao, Sachin Tendulkar, Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

Issues:

- The Prime Minister makes the recommendation to the President, who merely signs and endorses the name; the award is conferred.
- Many experts believe that, this is not an appropriate and fair method to select an awardee of such national eminence.
 - The Prime Minister's partisan position lend a bias to such a selection.
 - The added scope — "to any field of human endeavour" — make the evaluation very difficult.
- Every modification of the award — from granting it to any and all endeavours, given posthumously, and even open to foreign nationals — has downgraded the merit of award, argues experts.
- **Sachin Tendulkar:** Many have argued that despite his national and international popularity and obvious greatness he can't be compared to people whose life has been devoted to public service. Also, in the field of sports the contribution of Dhyan Chand is more and he should be awarded.
- **CNR Rao:** A PIL was filed against Rao declaring that other Indian scientists, such as Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai, had contributed more than Rao and his claim of publishing 1400 research papers was "physically impossible". The suit also stated that as Rao had proven cases of plagiarism, he should not be presented with the award but rather should be annulled.
- **Madan Mohan Malviya:** Bharat Ratna to freedom fighters posthumously has also been criticized by many as there were many freedom fighters with immense contribution towards nation building and selecting an individual is like opening a box of Pandora. Many have also argued that if Mahatman Malviya is being awarded for his contribution towards education (establishment of BHU), then Sir Syed Ahmad Khan equally deserved the award (for establishment of AMU).
- **Past Issues:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was conferred the Bharat Ratna only in 1990 when a government in which his followers had influence was in power while Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi were the recipients while they the prime ministers.

Thus a better solution will be to revert to its original intent of commitment to public service, and be open only to Indian nationals. While the award standards should be made more insular, the selection process should require more than just political recommendation.

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