



## PADMA AWARDS [LOTUS AWARD] AS HONOURABLE CIVILIAN AWARD; THE HALLMARK OF EXCELLENCE OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA

**\*Dr. Dhrubo Jyoti Sen**

School of Pharmacy, Techno India University, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, EM: 4/1, Koljata-700091, West Bengal, India.

**How to cite this Article** \*Dr. Dhrubo Jyoti Sen (2026). PADMA AWARDS [LOTUS AWARD] AS HONOURABLE CIVILIAN AWARD; THE HALLMARK OF EXCELLENCE OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA. World Journal of Advance Pharmaceutical Sciences, 3(1), 141-147.



Copyright © 2026 \*Dr. Dhrubo Jyoti Sen | World Journal of Advance Pharmaceutical Sciences

This is an open-access article distributed under creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International license (CC BY-NC 4.0)

### Article Info

**Article Received:** 17 December 2025,

**Article Revised:** 07 January 2026,

**Article Accepted:** 27 January 2026.

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18415836>

### \*Corresponding author:

**Dr. Dhrubo Jyoti Sen**

School of Pharmacy, Techno India  
University, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, EM:  
4/1, Koljata-700091, West Bengal, India.

### ABSTRACT

The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day [25<sup>th</sup> January]. 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). The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

**KEYWORDS:** Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and Bharat Ratna.

### INTRODUCTION

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.

The **Padma Awards** are given to individuals for their distinguished service in any field. **Padma Vibhushan** is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; **Padma Bhushan** for distinguished service of high order and **Padma Shri** for distinguished service in any field.

To get the **Padma Shri**, you need exceptional "excellence plus" in fields like art, science, social work, etc., demonstrated through selfless service, with

nominations open to all citizens (including self-nominations) via the official Padma Awards portal annually, emphasizing outstanding, distinguished contributions rather than just achievement, with selection by a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary and approval by the Prime Minister/President. The Padma Shri, also spelled Padma Shree, is the **fourth-highest civilian award** of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of "distinguished contribution in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, literature, science, acting, medicine, social service and public affairs". It is awarded by the Government of India every year on India's Republic Day.



Figure-1: Padma Awards [Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan & Bharat Ratna.

### Nomination

- Identify the Need: Recognize someone (or yourself) with truly distinguished, selfless service or achievement beyond just excellence in a field (e.g., inspiring a community, pioneering a method).
- Gather Details: Collect specific examples, data, and impact stories highlighting their exceptional contribution.
- Prepare a Citation: Write a narrative (max 800 words) detailing their achievements, impact, and why they deserve recognition, focusing on "excellence plus".
- Use the Portal: Go to the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal ([padmaawards.gov.in](http://padmaawards.gov.in)) during the nomination window (usually March-July/August).
- Register & Nominate: Register as an individual or organization, provide nominee details (including identity proof like Aadhar if required), upload supporting documents, and submit the citation.

### Eligibility & Criteria

- Who Can Be Nominated: Any person, regardless of race, occupation, sex, etc., except government servants (excluding doctors/scientists).
- What's needed: "Excellence plus" – distinguished service/achievement making a real difference to society, advancing a field, or inspiring others.
- Focus Areas: Art, Literature & Education, Science & Engineering, Public Affairs, Social Work, Medicine, Civil Service, Trade & Industry, Sports, etc.

**Selection Process:** Nominations are compiled and reviewed by the Padma Awards Committee, headed by the Cabinet Secretary. The committee recommends candidates to the Prime Minister and President. Awards are announced on Republic Day (Jan 26th) and presented by the President in March/April. The Padma Shri award is given for "distinguished service" in any field, recognizing significant contributions in areas like arts, education, medicine, social work, science, and public

affairs, making it one of India's highest civilian honours for people who serve the nation with distinction. It's awarded annually on Republic Day by the Government of India to individuals who show exceptional dedication and bring positive change to society, celebrating diverse talents and efforts.

### Key Reasons for the Award

- Distinguished Service: Acknowledges work that stands out and makes a real difference in a particular discipline.
- Broad Scope: Covers all fields of human activity, from traditional arts to modern science, sports, and social service.
- Public Service Element: Recognizes contributions where there's an element of public service involved.
- Inspiring Excellence: Honours individuals who become role models and beacons of hope through their efforts.
- Nomination: Open to all citizens, with a public nomination process including self-nomination.
- Selection: A committee reviews nominations, and awards are announced on Republic Day.
- Conferral: Presented by the President of India at a ceremonial function.
- In essence, the Padma Shri celebrates the spirit of India by recognizing the quiet heroes and trailblazers whose contributions enrich the nation.

### 2026 enlisted persons

**Bharat Ratna Sammaan 2025** awarded to **Dr. Thejo Kumari Amudala** (Tirupati) for transformative work. She has driven transformative projects in healthcare, IT, education. The Bharat Ratna Sammaan 2025 is one of the greatest honours that someone can receive in India.

**Padma Vibhushan (5)**

Name	Field	State
Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri K T Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
Ms. N Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Shri P Narayanan	Literature and Education	Kerala
Shri V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala

**Padma Bhushan (13)**

Name	Field	State
Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri Mammooty	Art	Kerala
Dr. Nori Dattatreya	Medicine	USA
Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri S K M Maeilanandhan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
Shri Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
Shri Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri V K Malhotra (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
Shri Vellappally Natesan	Public Affairs	Kerala
Shri Vijay Amritraj	Sports	USA

**Padma Shri (113)**

Name	Field	State	Name	Field	State
Shri A E Muthunayagam	Science and Engineering	Kerala	Shri Asok Kumar Haldar	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Asok Kumar Haldar	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Anke Gowda M.	Social Work	Karnataka	Shri Bhagwandas Raikwar	Sports	Madhya Pradesh
Ms. Armida Fernandez	Medicine	Maharashtra	Shri Bharat Singh Bharti	Art	Bihar
Shri Arvind Vaidya	Art	Gujarat	Shri Bhikya Ladakya Dhinda	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Ashok Khade	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra	Shri Bishwa Bandhu (Posthumous)	Art	Bihar
Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Brij Lal Bhat	Social Work	Jammu and Kashmir
Shri Buddha Rashmi Mani	Archaeology	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Charan Hembram	Literature and Education	Odisha
Dr. Budhri Tati	Social Work	Chhattisgarh	Shri Chiranjilal Yadav	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Deepika Reddy	Art	Telangana	Shri Gafruddin Mewati Jogi	Art	Rajasthan
Shri Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya	Art	Gujarat	Shri Gambir Singh Yonzon	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad	Art	Andhra Pradesh	Shri Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Posthumous)	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Chandramouli Gaddamanugu	Science and Engineering	Telangana	Ms. Gayatri Balasubramanian and Ms. Ranjani Balasubramanian (Duo)*	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri Gopal Ji Trivedi	Science and Engineering	Bihar	Shri Guduru Venkat Rao	Medicine	Telangana
Shri H V Hande	Medicine	Tamil Nadu	Shri Hally War	Social Work	Meghalaya
Shri Hari Madhab Mukhopadhyay (Posthumous)	Art	West Bengal	Shri Haricharan Saikia	Art	Assam
Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar	Sports	Punjab	Shri Jogesh Deuri	Agriculture	Assam
Shri Inderjit Singh Sidhu	Social Work	Chandigarh	Shri Juzer Vasi	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
Shri Janardan Bapurao Bothe	Social Work	Maharashtra	Shri Jyotish Debnath	Art	West Bengal

Shri K Pajanivel	Sports	Puducherry	Shri Kabindra Purkayastha (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Assam
Shri K Ramasamy	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu	Shri Kailash Chandra Pant	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
Shri K Vijay Kumar	Civil Service	Tamil Nadu	Ms. Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Art Kerala	Kerala
Shri Kewal Krishan Thakral	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Khem Raj Sundriyal	Art	Haryana
Ms. Kollakal Devaki Amma G	Social Work	Kerala	Shri Krishnamurthy Balasubramanian	Science and Engineering	Telangana
Shri Kumar Bose	Art	West Bengal	Shri Kumarasamy Thangaraj	Science and Engineering	Telangana
Prof. (Dr.) Lars-Christian Koch	Art	Germany	Ms. Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova	Literature and Education	Russia
Shri Madhavan Ranganathan	Art	Maharashtra	Shri Maganti Murali Mohan	Art	Andhra Pradesh
Shri Mahendra Kumar Mishra	Literature and Education	Odisha	Shri Mahendra Nath Roy	Literature and Education	West Bengal
Shri Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar	Literature and Education	Delhi	Ms. Mangala Kapoor	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai	Art	Gujarat	Shri Mohan Nagar	Social Work	Madhya Pradesh
Shri Narayan Vyas	Archaeology	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Naresh Chandra Dev Varma	Literature and Education	Tripura
Shri Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala	Social Work	Gujarat	Shri Nuruddin Ahmed	Art	Assam
Shri Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan	Art	Tamil Nadu	Dr. Padma Gurmet	Medicine	Ladakh
Shri Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy	Medicine	Telangana	Ms. Pokhila Lekthepi	Art	Assam
Dr. Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore	Literature and Education	Karnataka	Shri Praveen Kumar	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Prateek Sharma	Medicine	USA	Shri Prem Lal Gautam	Science and Engineering	Himachal Pradesh
Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal	Dr. Punniarumthy Natesan	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri R Krishnan (Posthumous)	Art	Tamil Nadu	Shri R V S Mani	Civil Service	Delhi
Shri Rabibal Tudu	Literature and Education	West Bengal	Shri Raghupat Singh (Posthumous)	Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Raghuveer Tukaram Khedkar	Art	Maharashtra	Shri Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri Rajendra Prasad	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Rama Reddy Mamidi (Posthumous)	Animal Husbandry	Telangana
Shri Ramamurthy Sreedher	Radio Broadcasting	Delhi	Shri Ramchandra Godbole and Ms. Suneeta Godbole (Duo)*	Medicine	Chhattisgarh
Shri Ratilal Borisagar	Literature and Education	Gujarat	Shri Rohit Sharma	Sports	Maharashtra
Ms. S G Susheelamma	Social Work	Karnataka	Shri Sangyusang S Pongener	Art	Nagaland
Sant Niranjana Dass	Spiritualism	Punjab	Shri Sarat Kumar Patra	Art	Odisha
Shri Saroj Mandal	Medicine	West Bengal	Shri Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri Satyanarayan Nuwal	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra	Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana
Prof. Shafi Shauq	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir	Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Literature and Education	Karnataka
Shri Shrirang Devaba Lad	Agriculture	Maharashtra	Ms. Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
Shri Shyam Sundar	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Simanchal Patro	Art	Odisha
Ms. Sivasankari	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu	Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi	Medicine	Karnataka
Swami Brahmdev Ji Maharaj	Social Work	Rajasthan	Shri T T Jagannathan (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Karnataka
Shri Taga Ram Bheel	Art	Rajasthan	Shri Tarun Bhattacharya	Art	West Bengal

Shri Techi Gubin	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam	Art	Tamil Nadu
Ms. Tripti Mukherjee	Art	West Bengal	Shri Veezhinathan Kamakoti	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu
Shri Vempaty Kutumba Sastry	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh	Shri Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Posthumous)	Sports	Georgia
Shri Yumnam Jatra Singh (Posthumous)	Art	Manipur			

The **Padma Bhushan** is the **third-highest civilian award** in India, awarded for distinguished service of a high order. Instituted in 1954, it follows the Bharat Ratna (1st) and Padma Vibhushan (2nd), and precedes the Padma Shri (4th).

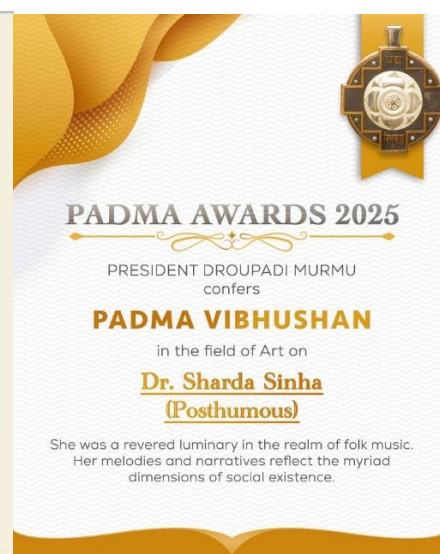
Key Details about the Padma Bhushan:

- Purpose: Recognizes distinguished service in any field, including government service.
- Announcement: Announced annually on the eve of Republic Day (January 26).
- Recipients: It is awarded to individuals regardless of race, occupation, position, or sex, including doctors and scientists.
- History: Established on January 2, 1954.

The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan and followed by the Padma Shri. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is given for "distinguished service of a high order without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex". The award criteria includes "service in any field including service rendered by Government servants" including doctors and scientists, but exclude those working with the public sector undertakings. As of 2025, the award has been bestowed on 1341 individuals, including 38 posthumous and 101 non-citizen recipients.

The **Padma Vibhushan** is the **second-highest civilian award** of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is given for "exceptional and distinguished service." All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, government servants including those working with public sector undertakings, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards. As of 2024, the award has been bestowed on 336 individuals, including 31 posthumous and 21 non-citizen recipients.

The **Bharat Ratna** is the **highest civilian award** of the Republic of India. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order", without distinction of race, occupation, position or gender. The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science, and public services, but the Government of India expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavor" in December 2011. The recipients receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the president and a peepal leaf-shaped medallion. Bharat Ratna recipients rank seventh in the Indian order of precedence.





**Figure-2: Certificates of civilian accolades.**

The Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, has been bestowed upon numerous distinguished individuals, including C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman (first recipients in 1954), and more recently, figures like Sachin Tendulkar, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Pranab Mukherjee, M.S. Swaminathan, Karpoori Thakur, Lal Krishna Advani, P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Charan Singh (in 2024), recognizing contributions across politics, science, arts, and social service, with recipients spanning from early leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru to contemporary figures.

#### **Early Recipients & Political Leaders**

- C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman (1954)
- Jawaharlal Nehru, M. Visvesvaraya, Bhagwan Das (1955)
- Rajendra Prasad, Zakir Husain, P.V. Kane (1962-1963)
- Indira Gandhi, V.V. Giri, K. Kamaraj (1971-1976)
- Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous, 1966)

#### **Nobel Laureates & Scientists**

- C.V. Raman (Physicist, 1954)
- Mother Teresa (Nobel Peace Prize, 1980)
- Nelson Mandela (Anti-Apartheid Leader, 1990)
- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (Scientist, 1997)
- Amartya Sen (Economist, 1999)
- C.N.R. Rao (Chemist, 2014)

#### **Arts & Culture**

- Satyajit Ray (Filmmaker, 1992)
- Ravi Shankar (Sitar Maestro, 1999)
- Lata Mangeshkar (Singer, 2001)
- Bismillah Khan (Shehnai Maestro, 2001)
- Bhupen Hazarika (Musician/Filmmaker, 2019)

#### **Sports & Social Reform**

- Sachin Tendulkar (Cricketer, 2014)
- Madan Mohan Malaviya (Educationist, 2015)
- Nanaji Deshmukh (Social Worker, 2019)
- M.S. Swaminathan (Agronomist, 2024)
- Recent Awardees (2024):
- Karpoori Thakur (Posthumous)
- L.K. Advani
- P.V. Narasimha Rao (Posthumous)
- M.S. Swaminathan (Posthumous)
- Charan Singh (Posthumous)

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Government of India instituted two civilian awards- Bharat Ratna & Padma Vibhushan in 1954. The latter had three classes namely Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg. These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri vide Presidential Notification issued on January 8, 1955.

**Bharat Ratna:** It 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 53 persons till date.

**Padma Awards:** 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. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards. 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 (includes Music, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Cinema, Theatre etc.)
- Social work (includes social service, charitable service, contribution in community projects etc.)
- Public Affairs (includes Law, Public Life, Politics etc.)
- Science & Engineering (includes Space Engineering, Nuclear Science, Information Technology, Research & Development in Science & its allied subjects etc.)
- Trade & Industry (includes Banking, Economic Activities, Management, Promotion of Tourism, Business etc.)
- Medicine (includes medical research, distinction/specialization in Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha, Allopathy, Naturopathy etc.)
- Literature & Education (includes Journalism, Teaching, Book composing, Literature, Poetry, Promotion of education, Promotion of literacy, Education Reforms etc.)
- Civil Service (includes distinction/excellence in administration etc. by Government Servants)
- Sports (includes popular Sports, Athletics, Adventure, Mountaineering, promotion of sports, Yoga etc.)
- Others (fields not covered above and may include propagation of Indian Culture, protection of Human Rights, Wild Life protection/conservation etc.)

The award is normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously. 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. The awards are presented by the President of India usually in the month of March/April every year where the awardees are presented a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion. e-Sanad is an online platform (<https://esanad.nic.in/>) for contactless and paperless document attestation and apostille by the Ministry of External Affairs, India, for educational, personal, and commercial documents. It enables digital verification, making it essential for legalizing documents for use abroad. The recipients are also given a small replica of the medallion, which they can wear during any ceremonial/State functions etc., if the awardees so desire. The names of the awardees are

published in the Gazette of India on the day of the presentation ceremony. 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.

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.

## REFERENCE

1. <https://www.padmaawards.gov.in/padmaawards/AboutAwards>