



PADMA AWARDS 2026



WHY IN NEWS:

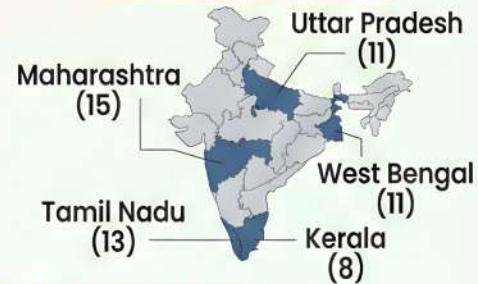
Ahead of Republic Day 2026, the Government of India announced the Padma Awards, continuing its recent tradition of recognizing grassroots changemakers and "unsung heroes."

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total Awardees: **131** individuals.



TOP 5 STATES



HISTORICAL & CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

Establishment: Instituted in 1954 alongside the Bharat Ratna.



Evolution: Originally named Pahela, Dusra, and Tisra Varg. Renamed to their current forms via Presidential Notification in 1955.

Constitutional Status (Article 18): These are civilian honors, not titles. They strictly cannot be used as name prefixes or suffixes.



Financial Grant: There is no monetary benefit. Recipients receive only a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.



HIERARCHY & SCOPE

Fields Covered: Art, Social Work, Public Affairs, Science, Medicine, Literature, Education, and Sports.

CATEGORY	CIVILIAN RANK	AWARDED FOR
Padma Vibhushan	2 nd -Highest	Exceptional and distinguished service
Padma Bhushan	3 rd -Highest	Distinguished service of a high order
Padma Shri	4 th -Highest	Distinguished service in any field

RESTRICTIONS

- Universal Eligibility:** Open to all individuals irrespective of race, gender, occupation, or position.
- Government Servants:** Strictly ineligible, with a specific exception made only for doctors and scientists.
- Posthumous Awards:** Generally avoided, but permitted in highly deserving cases.
- Annual Cap:** Strictly capped at a maximum of 120 awards per year.
- Cap Exemptions:** Posthumous awardees, NRIs, foreign nationals, and OCIs do not count toward the 120-award limit.



SELECTION & ADMINISTRATION

Constituted annually by the **Prime Minister** and headed by the **Cabinet Secretary**,

Padma Awards receive final approval and presentation from the **President of India**.

