

= Padma Vibhushan =

The Padma Vibhushan is the second @-@ highest civilian award of the Republic of India , preceded by Bharat Ratna and followed by Padma Bhushan . Instituted on 2 January 1954 , the award is given for " exceptional and distinguished service " , without distinction of race , occupation , position , or sex . The award criteria include " service in any field including service rendered by Government servants " including doctors and scientists , but excludes those working with the public sector undertakings . As of 2016 , the award has been bestowed on 294 individuals , including 6 posthumous and 19 non @-@ citizen recipients .

During 1 May and 15 September of every year , the recommendations for the award are submitted to the Padma Awards Committee , constituted by the Prime Minister of India . The recommendations are received from all the state and the union territory governments , the Ministries of the Government of India , the Bharat Ratna and previous Padma Vibhushan award recipients , the Institutes of Excellence , the Ministers , the Chief Ministers and the Governors of State , and the Members of Parliament including private individuals . The committee later submits their recommendations to the Prime Minister and the President of India for the further approval . The award recipients are announced on Republic Day .

The first recipients of the award were Satyendra Nath Bose , Nand Lal Bose , Zakir Hussain , Balasaheb Gangadhar Kher , Jigme Dorji Wangchuk , and V. K. Krishna Menon , who were honoured in 1954 . The 1954 statutes did not allow posthumous awards but this was subsequently modified in the January 1955 statute . The " Padma Vibhushan " , along with other personal civil honours , was briefly suspended twice , from July 1977 to January 1980 and from August 1992 to December 1995 . Some of the recipients have refused or returned their conferments . Vilayat Khan , Swami Ranganathananda , and Manikonda Chalapathi Rau refused the award , Lakshmi Chand Jain 's family declined the 2011 posthumous conferment , and Baba Amte returned his 1986 conferment in 1991 . On 25 January 2016 , the award was conferred upon ten recipients , including one non @-@ citizen recipient : V. K. Aatre , Girija Devi , Avinash Dixit , Jagmohan , Yamini Krishnamurthy , Rajinikanth , Ramoji Rao , V. Shanta , Sri Sri Ravi Shankar , and posthumously to Dhirubhai Ambani .

= = History = =

On 2 January 1954 , a press release was published from the office of the secretary to the President of India announcing the creation of two civilian awards ? Bharat Ratna , the highest civilian award , and the three @-@ tier Padma Vibhushan , classified into " Pahela Warg " ( Class I ) , " Dusra Warg " ( Class II ) , and " Tisra Warg " ( Class III ) , which rank below the Bharat Ratna . On 15 January 1955 , the Padma Vibhushan was reclassified into three different awards : the Padma Vibhushan , the highest of the three , followed by the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri .

The award , along with other personal civilian honours , was briefly suspended twice in its history ; for the first time in July 1977 when Morarji Desai was sworn in as the fourth Prime Minister of India , for being " worthless and politicized " . The suspension was rescinded on 25 January 1980 after Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister . The civilian awards were suspended again in mid @-@ 1992 , when two Public @-@ Interest Litigations were filed in the High Courts of India , one in the Kerala High Court on 13 February 1992 by Balaji Raghavan and another in the Madhya Pradesh High Court ( Indore Bench ) on 24 August 1992 by Satya Pal Anand . Both petitioners questioned the civilian awards being " titles " per an interpretation of Article 18 ( 1 ) of the Constitution of India . On 25 August 1992 , the Madhya Pradesh High Court issued a notice temporarily suspending all civilian awards . A Special Division Bench of the Supreme Court of India was formed comprising five judges : A. M. Ahmadi C. J. , Kuldeep Singh , B. P. Jeevan Reddy , N. P. Singh , and S. Saghir Ahmad . On 15 December 1995 , the Special Division Bench restored the awards and delivered a judgment that the " Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not titles under Article 18 of the Constitution of India " .

## == Regulations ==

The award is conferred for " exceptional and distinguished service " , without distinction of race , occupation , position , or sex . The criteria include " service in any field including service rendered by Government servants " , but excludes those working with the public sector undertakings , with the exception of doctors and scientists . The 1954 statutes did not allow posthumous awards , but this was subsequently modified in the January 1955 statute ; Vikram Sarabhai became the first recipient to be honoured posthumously in 1972 .

The recommendations are received from all state and union territory governments , the Ministries of the Government of India , the Bharat Ratna and previous Padma Vibhushan award recipients , the Institutes of Excellence , the Ministers , the Chief Ministers , the Governors of State , and the Members of Parliament , including private individuals . The recommendations received during 1 May and 15 September of every year are submitted to the Padma Awards Committee , convened by the Prime Minister of India . The Awards Committee later submits its recommendations to the Prime Minister and the President of India for further approval .

The Padma Vibhushan award recipients are announced every year on Republic Day of India and registered in The Gazette of India ? a publication released weekly by the Department of Publication , Ministry of Urban Development used for official government notices . The conferral of the award is not considered official without its publication in the Gazette . Recipients whose awards have been revoked or restored , both of which actions require the authority of the President , are also registered in the Gazette and are required to surrender their medals when their names are struck from the register .

## == Specifications ==

The original 1954 specifications of the award called for a circle made of gold gilt 1 3 ? 8 inches ( 35 mm ) in diameter , with rims on both sides . A centrally located lotus flower was embossed on the obverse side of the medal and the text " Padma Vibhushan " written in Devanagari script was inscribed above the lotus along the upper edge of the medal . A floral wreath was embossed along the lower edge and a lotus wreath at the top along the upper edge . The Emblem of India was placed in the centre of the reverse side with the text " Desh Seva " in Devanagari Script on the lower edge . The medal was suspended by a pink riband 1 1 ? 4 inches ( 32 mm ) in width divided into two equal segments by a white vertical line .

A year later , the design was modified . The current decoration is a circular @-@ shaped bronze toned medallion 1 3 ? 4 inches ( 44 mm ) in diameter and 1 ? 8 inch ( 3 @.@ 2 mm ) thick . The centrally placed pattern made of outer lines of a square of 1 3 ? 16 inches ( 30 mm ) side is embossed with a knob carved within each of the outer angles of the pattern . A raised circular space of 1 1 ? 16 inches ( 27 mm ) in diameter is placed at the centre of the decoration . A centrally located lotus flower is embossed on the obverse side of the medal and the text " Padma " written in Devanagari script is placed above and the text " Vibhushan " is placed below the lotus . The Emblem of India is placed in the centre of the reverse side with the national motto of India , " Satyameva Jayate " ( Truth alone triumphs ) , in Devanagari Script , inscribed on the lower edge . The rim , the edges. and all embossing on either side is of white gold with the text " Padma Vibhushan " of silver gilt . The medal is suspended by a pink riband 1 1 ? 4 inches ( 32 mm ) in width .

The medal is ranked fourth in the order of precedence of wearing of medals and decorations . The medals are produced at Alipore Mint , Kolkata along with the other civilian and military awards like Bharat Ratna , Padma Bhushan , Padma Shri , and Param Veer Chakra .

## == Recipients ==

The first recipients of the Padma Vibhushan were Satyendra Nath Bose , Nandalal Bose , Zakir Husain , Balasaheb Gangadhar Kher , V. K. Krishna Menon , and Jigme Dorji Wangchuk , who were

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Some of the conferments have been refused or returned by the recipients ; Vilayat Khan , Swami Ranganathananda , and Manikonda Chalapathi Rau refused the award ; Lakshmi Chand Jain 's family declined the 2011 posthumous conferment , and Baba Amte returned his 1986 conferment in 1991 .

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= = Explanatory notes = =