President Pranab Mukherjee confers Padma Awards on 44

New Delhi: President Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday conferred coveted Padma awards to 44 people which included celebrities and unsung heroes who have worked for the society.

In a formal ceremony in the imposing Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Mukherjee conferred Padma Vibhushan to mystic guru Sahdguru Jagadish Vasudev and singer K J Yesudas. Wife of former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Sunder Lal Patwa received the award on his behalf.

The focus of this year’s Padma awards, according to the officials in the home ministry, was on recognising talent of unknown and unsung heroes of the country.

Among 44 people who were awarded with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, 40 were present to receive the honour while in three cases, where awards were given posthumously, relatives received it. One recipient of Padma Shri was also not present in the ceremony.

Inventor of musical instrument ‘Mohan Veena’, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt; Professor of modern languages and Acharya of Kashi Vishvanath Temple, Devi Prasad Dwivedi; Jain monk, Jainacharya Ratnasundersuri Maharaja were conferred Padma Bhushan by the President in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior Cabinet ministers and Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

Journalist Cho S Ramaswamy was also honoured with Padma Bhushan posthumously and his wife received it.