# Seven Padmas bloom from Gujarat

**Ahmedabad:** The 60th Republic Day has brought glory for the state as seven people from Gujarat have been chosen for the coveted Padma awards. Vadodara's Nobel prize winner Venky has got a Padmavibhushan.

Email

Print

Share

Two top danseuse from city Mallika Sarabhai, Kumudini Lakhia and Indologist MA Dhaky have been awarded PadmaBhushan.Nuclear scientist PI John, industrialist Karsan Patel and NRI Dr Sudhir Parikh have got Padma Shri awards.

"Isn't it wonderful that two women from (Ahmedabad) Gujarat, both in the field of traditional dance, have been chosen forPadma Bhushan this year?" said an excited Kumudinibenon Tuesday evening. The news about awardhad just trickled in.

Mallika, is a famous dancer, choreographer, publisher, activist, writer, actor and, lately dabbled into politics. She wears several hats comfortably but, when you ask her what she has been honoured for, she says, "For standing up for truth." It was double whammy for Mallika as she also received an invitation to participate at the World Economic Forum at Davos. Happy that she has been recognized with a national award she says. "The Padma Bhushan is very important for me as my father was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan and my mother with the Padma Bhushan," she said. Veteran Indologist MA Dhaky, also from the city, is recovering from fracture. PI John works at the city's Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) on the ambitious International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). Karsanbhai is founder of Nirma whicle Dr Parikh is a US based doctor and social worker.

"It is wonderful to be recognized but that doesn't mean we stop working," septuagenarianLakhia who founded Kadamb Dance School said. "I am glad my efforts to pass on our heritage of traditional dance — and the correct values of dance — to the coming generations, have been acknowledged. Just moving your limbs is not dance." Kumudiben and Mallika are among the 17 women who have been chosen for different Padma awards this year.