

Prof Sharada Srinivasan, a Bengaluru-based scientist, was among those conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award announced recently by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Prof Sharada Srinivasan is a Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.

The Padma awards namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri are one of the highest civilian honours in the country awarded for notable contributions in various disciplines. These awards are announced on the eve of Republic Day and are conferred by the President of India with a certificate signed by the President and a medallion. This year, 94 persons have received the Padma Shri for their 'distinguished service' in their respective fields.

Prof Sharada Srinivasan is a renowned archaeologist who specialises in the scientific study of art, archaeology, archaeometallurgy, and culture. Her significant contributions include archaeometric characterisation of bronzes using lead isotope analysis and archaeometallurgical studies on ancient mining and metallurgy in southern India. Research Matters has previously covered her work on the disappearing ancient Indian metallurgical traditions, the sophisticated high-tin bronze metallurgy in the Iron Age from Tamil Nadu and the usefulness of lead isotope ratio and compositional analysis in fingerprinting and studying the art history of sculptures.

Prof Srinivasan is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and World Academy of Art and Science. She is also a recipient of the Dr Kalpana Chawla State Award for Women Scientists 2011, besides many national and international recognitions. She is also an acclaimed performer of Bharatanatyam.