

## Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

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French President has recently conferred the **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**, upon Prime Minister of India.



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### **About the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour:**

- The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour is **highest honour** of **France**.
- The honour normally recognises the contribution of the **French people** in the “**service of the nation**”.
  - **Foreigners** are honoured for their **support** to France, and the award is also conferred upon **high dignitaries** on a state visit to France.

### **What is the Legion of Honour?**

- The **National Order of the Legion of Honour** or The Legion of Honour is the **highest** French decoration, both **civil** and **military**.
- The Legion of Honour has **five degrees** of **increasing distinction**:
  - **Three ranks**- **Chevalier** (Knight), **Officier** (Officer), and **Commandeur** (Commander)
  - **Two titles**- **Grand Officier** (Grand Officer) and **Grand-croix** (Grand Cross)
- The **Order** was established by **Napoleon Bonaparte** in **1802**.
- It has been presented for more than the past two centuries on behalf of the **French Head of State** to its **most deserving** citizens in **all fields** of activity.
- The **motto** of the Order is- “**Honneur et Patrie**”.
  - Motto means- **French for Honour and Fatherland**.
- **2,200 French** and **300 foreigners** are decorated **every year**.

### **How is the award granted?**

- The Legion of Honour is worn before any other **French** or **foreign insignia**, on the **left-hand** side.
- With **informal attire**, **lapel insignia** (ribbon or rosette) is worn.
- Pendants and small-size decorations are preferred for **official ceremonies**.
- Foreigners may be given this award if they have rendered **services** (e.g. cultural or economic) to France or supported causes defended by **France**, such as **human rights**, **freedom** of the press, or **humanitarian action**".

### **What does the award entail?**

- There is **no material** or **financial benefit** given in this award.
- The **award badge** is a **five-armed Maltese asterisk** hung on an **oak** and **laurel wreath**.
- On the **obverse** is the **effigy** of the **Republic** and on the **reverse** two tricolour flags surrounded by the motto **Honneur et Patrie**.
  - The colour of the ribbon is **red**.