



# Gallantry Awards

## Why in News

Recently, group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman was awarded **Vir Chakra** which is a wartime gallantry award, by the President of India.

- The gallantry awards are **announced twice in a year** — first on the occasion of the **Republic Day** and then on the occasion of the **Independence Day**.



## Key Points

- **Gallantry Awards in India (History):**
  - Post-Independence, **first three gallantry awards** namely Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were **instituted** by the government of India on **January 26<sup>th</sup> 1950** which were deemed to have effect from August 15th, 1947.
  - Thereafter, other three gallantry awards — the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, **the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III** — were instituted in 1952, which were deemed to have effect from August 15, 1947.
  - These awards were renamed as **Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January 1967.
- **People Eligible for the Awards:**
  - **All officers of all ranks of the Army, Navy and the Air Force** or of any of the reserve forces, **territorial army** and any other lawfully constituted armed forces.
  - In addition to the above-mentioned **personnel, matrons, sisters, nurses, alongside the staff of the nursing services** and other services pertaining to hospitals and nursing

and civilians, both male and females, serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the above-mentioned forces.

▪ **Wartime Highest Gallantry Awards:**

◦ **Param Vir Chakra:**

- It is **India's highest military decoration awarded** for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime whether on land, at sea or in the air.

◦ **Maha Vir Chakra:**

- It is the **second highest gallantry award** for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.

◦ **Vir Chakra:**

- It is the **country's third-highest wartime gallantry** award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.

▪ **Peacetime Highest Gallantry Awards:**

◦ **Ashoka Chakra:**

- It is the **highest military award during peacetime** for valour, courageous action or sacrifice.
- It is **awarded for most conspicuous bravery** or some act of daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice otherwise than in the face of the enemy.

◦ **Kirti Chakra:**

- It is the **second highest peacetime gallantry award** and is **awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice** away from the field of battle.

◦ **Shaurya Chakra:**

- It is awarded to the **personnel of the armed forces** for instances of extraordinary gallantry.

▪ **Other Awards:**

◦ **Sena Medal:**

- It is **awarded for acts of exceptional devotion** to duty or courage in the Army.

◦ **Nao Sena Medal:**

- It is awarded for **individual acts of exceptional devotion** to duty or courage in the **Navy**.

◦ **Vayu Sena Medal:**

- It is awarded for individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage in the **Air Force**.

Source: [IH](#)