

# Gallantry Awards, 2021

November 26, 2021

**In news**– Recently, the President of India presented the Gallantry Awards for the year 2020 and 2021.

## **About Gallantry Awards-**

- Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.
- Post-independence, **first three gallantry awards namely Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were instituted by the Government of India** on 26th January, **1950** which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August, 1947.
- Thereafter, **other three gallantry awards** i.e. Ashoka Chakra Class-I, Ashoka Chakra Class-II and Ashoka Chakra Class-III were **instituted by the Government of India on 4th January, 1952**, which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August, 1947.
- **These awards were renamed as Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January, 1967.
- These 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.**
- **Order of precedence of these awards is the Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.**

## **Types of Gallantry Awards-**

### **Gallantry Awards are classified into two Categories:**

1. Gallantry in the Face of Enemy.
2. Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy.

### **First Category of Gallantry Awards Comprises of the following**

## Awards-

### ▪ Param Vir Chakra(Bronze):

- It shall have embossed on the obverse four replicas of “Indra’s Vajra” with the State Emblem embossed in the centre.
- On its reverse, it shall have embossed “PARAM VIR CHAKRA” both in Hindi and in English with two lotus flowers between the Hindi and the English inscriptions.

### ▪ Mahavir Chakra(standard silver):

- It shall have embossed on the obverse a five-pointed heraldic star with the points of the star just touching the rim.
- The star shall have in the centre a domed gilded State Emblem.
- On the reverse, it shall have embossed “MAHA VIR CHAKRA” both in Hindi and in English with two lotus flowers between the Hindi and the English inscriptions.

### ▪ Vir Chakra( standard silver):

- It shall have embossed on the obverse a five-pointed heraldic star with the points of the star just touching the rim.
- The star shall have in the centre a Chakra and within the Chakra shall be a domed centre piece bearing the gilded State Emblem.
- On the reverse, it shall have embossed “VIR CHAKRA” both in Hindi and in English with two lotus flowers between the Hindi and the English inscriptions.

## Second Category of Gallantry Awards Comprises of the following Awards-

▪ **Ashok Chakra(gold gild):**

- On the obverse of the medal shall be embossed a replica of Ashoka's Chakra in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath.
- Along the rim, on the inner side, shall be a pattern of lotus leaves, flowers and buds.
- On its reverse shall be embossed the words "Ashok Chakra" both in Hindi and English the two versions being separated by two lotus flowers.

▪ **Kirti Chakra( standard silver):**

- On the obverse of the medal shall be embossed a replica of Ashoka's Chakra in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath.
- Along the rim, on the inner side, shall be a pattern of lotus leaves, flowers and buds.
- On its reverse shall be embossed the words "KIRTI CHAKRA" both in Hindi and English, the two versions being separated by two lotus flowers.

▪ **Shaurya Chakra(bronze):**

- On the obverse of the medal shall be embossed a replica of Ashoka's Chakra in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath.
- Along the rim, on the inner side, shall be a pattern of lotus leaves, flowers and buds.
- On its reverse shall be embossed the words "SHAURYA CHAKRA" both in Hindi and English, the two versions being separated by two lotus flowers.