

## **Gallantry Awards**

Param Vir Chakra: The highest decoration for valour is the Param Vir Chakra which is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre - eminent act of valour or self - sacrifice in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

- The decoration is made of bronze and is circularin shape. It has, on the obverse, four replicas of "Indra's Vajra" embossed round the State emblem in the centre. On the reverse the words "Param Vir Chakra" are embossed both in Hindi and English with two lotus flowers in the middle.
- The decoration is worn on the left breast with a plain purple coloured riband about 3.2 cm in width.

Mahavir Chakra: Mahavir Chakra is the second highest decoration and is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

It is made of standard silver and is circular in shape. Embossed on the obverse is a five-pointed heraldic star with domed centre - piece bearing the gilded State emblem in the centre. The words "Mahayir Chakra" are embossed both in Hindi and English on the reverse with two lotus flowers in the middle. The decoration is worn on the left breast with a half - white and half - orange riband about 3.2 cm in width, the orange being near the left shoulder.

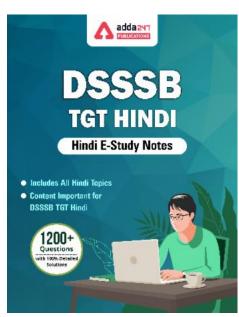
Vir Chakra: Vir Chakra is third in the order of awards given for act of gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

The decoration is made of standard silver and is circular in shape. Embossed on the obverse is a fivepointed heraldic star which has an Ashoka Chakra in the centre. Within this chakra is a domed centre - piece bearing gilded State emblem. On the reverse, words "Vir Chakra" are embossed, both in Hindi and English, with two lotus flowers in the middle. The Chakra is worn on the left breast with a half -

blue and half - orange riband, about 3.2 cm in width, the orange being nearer the left shoulder.

**Ashok Chakra:** Ashok Chakra is the country's **highest peacetime** gallantry award equivalent to Param Vir Chakra.

- The Chakra is made of gilt gold and is circular in shape. Embossed on the obverse is a replica of Ashok Chakra surrounded by a lotus wreath. Along the edge is pattern of lotus leaves, flowers and buds. On the reverse, the words "Ashok Chakra" are embossed both in Hindi and English, with lotus flowers in the intervening space.
- The Chakra is worn on the left breast with a green silk riband, about 3.2 cm in width and divided into two equal segments by an orange vertical line.



**Kirti Chakra:** The decorationis awarded for conspicuous gallantry. It is made of standard silver and is circular in shape. The obverse and the reverse are exactly the same as in Ashok Chakra.

The Chakra is worn on the left breast with a green silk riband, about 3.2 cm in width and divided equally into two by orange vertical lines.

**Shaurya Chakra:** The decoration is awarded for an act of gallantry. It is exactly like Ashok Chakra, except that it is made of bronze. The Chakra is worn on the left breast with a green silk riband, about 3.2 cm in width and divided into four equal segments by three orange vertical lines.

Param VishishtSeva Medal (PVSM), AtiVishishtSeva Medal (AVSM), VishishtSeva Medal (VSM): The VishistSeva Medals are awarded to personnel of all the three services in recognition of distinguished service of the "most exceptional", "exceptional" and "high" order respectively. Param Vishisht SevaMedal is made of gold, AtiVishishtSeva Medal of standard silverand VishishtSeva Medal of bronze, all circular in shape and 3.5 cm in diameter. Each medal has on its obverse five pointed stars and on its reverse the Lion Capitol. Its ribbon is golden with one dark - blue stripe down the centre for Param VishishtSeva Medal, two dark - blue stripes dividing it into three equal parts for AtiVishishtSeva Medal and three dark - blue stripes dividing it into four equal parts for VishishtSeva Medal.

## Following categories of persons are eligible for the Gallantry Awards:

- Officers and men and women of all ranks of the Naval, Military and Air Forces, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted Armed Forces.
- Matrons, Sisters, Nurses and the Staff of the Nursing Services and other Services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing, and Civilians of either sex serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the above-mentioned Forces.

Ministry of Defence invites recommendations twice in a year from the Armed Forces and Union Ministry of Home Affairs for gallantry awards. Recommendations are invited normally in the month of August for the awards to be announced on the occasion of the Republic Day and in the month of March for the awards to be announced on the occasion of the Independence Day.





