

Awards and Honours

Gallantry Awards

After conclusion of British rule in India, the old institution of British honours and awards came to an end. Independent India introduced various awards such as Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, etc to recognise and encourage the contributions made by army personnel.



Param Vir Chakra (PVC)

It is the highest gallantry award given to the Indian Armed Forces, instituted on 26th January, 1950. It is awarded to officers and enlisted personnel of all military branches to recognise the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy. The PVC is a post-independent equivalent of the Victoria Cross, (UK) and the Medal of Honour (USA).

List of Param Vir Chakra Winners

Name	Regiment	Date	Battle
1. Major Somnath Sharma	4th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment	3rd November, 1947	Badgam, Kashmir
2. Naik Jadunath Singh	1st Battalion, Rajput Regiment	February, 1948	Naushera, Kashmir
3. Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane	Corps of Engineers	8th April, 1948	Naushera, Kashmir
4. Company Havildar Major Piru Singh Shekhawat	6th Battalion, Rajputana Rifles	17th July, 1948-18th July, 1948	Tithwal, Kashmir
5. Lance Naik Karam Singh	1st Battalion, Sikh Regiment	13th October, 1948	Tithwal, Kashmir
6. Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria	3rd Battalion, 1st Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)	5th December, 1961	Elizabethville, Katanga, Congo
7. Major Dhan Singh Thapa	1st Battalion, 8th Gorkha Rifles	20th October, 1962	Ladakh, India
8. Subedar Joginder Singh	1st Battalion, Sikh Regiment	23rd October, 1962	Tongpen La, North-East Frontier Agency, India
9. Major Shaitan Singh	13th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment	18th November, 1962	Rezang La, Ladakh
10. Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid	4th Battalion, The Grenadiers	10th September, 1965	Chima, Khem Karan Sector
11. Lieutenant-Colonel Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore	17th Poona Horse	15th October, 1965	Phillora, Sialkot Sector, Pakistan
12. Lance Naik Albert Ekka	14th Battalion, Brigade of the Guards	3rd December, 1971	Gangasagar
13. Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon	Number 18 Squadron, Indian Air Force	14th December, 1971	Srinagar, Kashmir
14. 2/Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal	17th Poona Horse	16th December, 1971	Jarpal, Shakargarh Sector
15. Major Hoshiar Singh	3rd Battalion, The Grenadiers	17th December, 1971	Basantar River, Shakargarh Sector
16. Naib Subedar Bana Singh	8th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry	23rd June, 1987	Siachen Glacier, Jammu and Kashmir
17. Major Ramaswamy Parameshwaran	8th Battalion, Mahar Regiment	25th November, 1987	Sri Lanka
18. Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey	1st Battalion, 11th Gorkha Rifles	3rd July, 1999	Khaluber/Juber Top, Batalik Sector, Kargil Area, Jammu and Kashmir

Name	Regiment	Date	Battle
19. Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav	18th Battalion, The Grenadiers	4th July, 1999	Tiger Hill, Kargil Area
20. Rifleman Sanjay Kumar	13th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles	5th July, 1999	Area Flat Top, Kargil Area
21. Captain Vikram Batra	13th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles	6th July, 1999	Point 5140, Point 4875, Kargil Area

Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)

It is the second highest military decoration in India and is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air. It may be awarded posthumously.

Vir Chakra

It is awarded for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land or at sea or in the air. It is third in precedence in the war time gallantry awards and comes after the Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra. It was instituted on 26th January, 1950 (with effect from 15th August, 1947) by the President of India.

Ashok Chakra

It is awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield. It is the peace time equivalent of the Param Vir Chakra and is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent valour or self-sacrifice other than in the face of the enemy. Recipients of this award may be officers, men and women of all ranks at the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserved Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted forces. It was established as the 'Ashoka Chakra, Class I' by the President of India, 4th January, 1952 (with effect from 15th August, 1947). The award is open to civilians also. These awards are biannual and are given on the Republic Day and Independence Day.

Shaurya Chakra

It is awarded for gallantry otherwise than in the face of the enemy. It is the peacetime equivalent of the Vir Chakra. The decoration may be granted to civilians or to military personnel and may be awarded posthumously.

Kirti Chakra

It is a military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle. It is awarded to both civilians and military personnel, including posthumous awards. It is the peacetime equivalent of Maha Vir Chakra.

Yuddh Seva Medal

It was instituted on 26th June, 1980 to recognise distinguished service of a high order during war/conflict/hostilities.

Param Vishisht Seva Medal

It was instituted on 26th January, 1960 as Vishisht Seva Medal Class-I to recognise the distinguished service of the most exceptional order. It was renamed on 27th January, 1967 as PVSM.

Ati Vishisht Seva Medal

It was instituted on 26th January, 1960 as Vishisht Seva Medal Class II for distinguished service of an exceptional order. It was renamed on 27th January, 1967 as AVSM.

Sena (Army) Medal / Nao Sena (Navy) Medal/ Vayu Sena (Air Force) Medal

These medals are awarded for such individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage as have special significance for the Army/Navy/Air Force. Sometimes these awards may be made posthumously.

In these awards a bar shall be given for every subsequent award of the medal to a person. These awards can be given to all ranks of the Army/Navy/Air Force.

Non-Gallantry Awards

Bharat Ratna Award

It is the highest civilian honour, given for exceptional service towards advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of public Service of the highest order. The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954. The first ever Indian to receive this award was the famous scientist, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

In fact, there is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only. The award has been awarded to a naturalised Indian citizen, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, better known as Mother Teresa (1980) and to two non-Indians—Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Nelson Mandela (1990). In 2009, the award was conferred on famous Indian vocalist Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi. Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and eminent scientist Professor CNR Rao have received the Bharat Ratna from President of India on 4th February, 2014 in New Delhi. On 30th March, 2015, it was conferred on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and late educationist and freedom fighter Madan Mohan Malaviya (Posthumously).

Padma Awards

These awards are given for exceptional and distinguished service in any field including service rendered by government servants. The recommendations for Padma Awards are received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, Central Ministries/ Departments, Institutions of Excellence etc which are considered by an Awards Committee. On the basis of the recommendations of the Awards Committee and after approval of the Home Minister, Prime Minister and President, the Padma Awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day. Padma Awards were instituted in the year 1954. Except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 to 1979 and 1993 to 1997, these awards have been announced every year.

This award is given in three categories, *viz*, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri in the decreasing order of importance.

- Padma Vibhushan for ‘exceptional and distinguished service’. Padma Vibhushan is second highest civilian award in India.
- Padma Bhushan for “distinguished service of a high order”. Padma Bhushan is third highest civilian award in India.
- Padma Shri is awarded for “distinguished service”. Padma Shri is last and fourth highest civilian award in India.

The Padma award is just an honour. No cash allowance or any facility/benefit is attached to these awards.