Revamped Gallantry Awards portal launched

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News

Raksha Rajya Mantri (MoS Defence) Sanjay Seth launched the revamped Gallantry Awards portal (gallantryawards.gov.in) in New Delhi on 12 Nov 2026, with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh present. The new portal has a citizen-friendly design, a Warpedia, Gallantrypedia articles, memorials and museums, an interactive tribute section and a digital hub for Project Veer Gatha.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Launched by	MoS Defence Sanjay Seth
Ministry	Ministry of Defence
Aim	One digital record of gallantry awards, awardees, wars and operations since Independence
Previous revamp	25 Jan 2021, eve of Republic Day, by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh

Background

- Wartime gallantry awards: Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra (instituted 26 Jan 1950). Peacetime: Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra (instituted 4 Jan 1952 as Ashoka Chakra Class I–III; renamed Ashoka, Kirti, Shaurya Chakra in 1967).

- The Param Vir Chakra was designed by Savitri Khanolkar; it carries the "Vajra" of sage Dadhichi. The first PVC went to Major Somnath Sharma (posthumous), killed at Badgam, Kashmir, on 3 Nov 1947.
- Project Veer Gatha (2021, Defence and Education Ministries) invites school students to write, draw and present on gallantry award winners. Its 5th edition drew over 1.92 crore students from 1.9 lakh schools (1st edition: about 8 lakh students, 4,788 schools), including 28,005 students from 91 CBSE schools in 18 countries.

Tamil Nadu link: Major Mukund Varadarajan of Chennai (44 Rashtriya Rifles) fell in a counter-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir in 2014 and received the Ashoka Chakra posthumously on Republic Day 2015. The Officers Training Academy, Chennai trains Short Service Commission officers.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Minister of State for Defence launched the revamped Gallantry Awards portal on 12 Nov 2026?

A) Rajnath Singh

B) Ajay Bhatt

C) Sanjay Seth

D) Rajesh Kumar Singh

Answer: C – Explanation: Sanjay Seth launched it in New Delhi with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh present. It has Warpedia, Gallantrypedia and a Veer Gatha hub.

2. Which of these is NOT a wartime gallantry award?

A) Param Vir Chakra

B) Kirti Chakra

C) Maha Vir Chakra

D) Vir Chakra

Answer: B – Explanation: Wartime: Param Vir, Maha Vir, Vir Chakra (1950). Peacetime: Ashoka, Kirti, Shaurya Chakra (1952).

3. Who designed the Param Vir Chakra medal?

A) Savitri Khanolkar

B) Nandalal Bose

C) Pingali Venkayya

D) Raja Ravi Varma

Answer: A – Explanation: Swiss-born Savitri Khanolkar designed it; it bears the "Vajra" of sage Dadhichi.

4. Who was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra (posthumous)?

A) Captain Vikram Batra

B) Abdul Hamid

C) Arun Khetarpal

D) Major Somnath Sharma

Answer: D – Explanation: Major Somnath Sharma fell at Badgam, Kashmir on 3 November 1947 defending Srinagar airfield.

5. Which award was conferred posthumously on Major Mukund Varadarajan of Chennai?

A) Kirti Chakra

B) Shaurya Chakra

C) Ashoka Chakra

D) Sena Medal

Answer: C – Explanation: Killed in a 2014 counter-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir, he received the Ashoka Chakra on Republic Day 2015.

Sources: PIB – Ministry of Defence (12 Nov 2026); ThePrint/PTI (12 Nov 2026). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.