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President Confers 51 Gallantry Awards at the Defence Investiture Ceremony

9 June 2026

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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President Confers 51 Gallantry Awards at the Defence Investiture Ceremony

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WHY IN NEWS

President Droupadi Murmu conferred **51 gallantry awards** at the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-1)** at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards included **7 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras**, several of them posthumous, recognising acts of valour by the armed forces. The ceremony is a high-yield occasion for revising India's gallantry-award hierarchy, a perennial UPSC topic.

THE AWARDS CONFERRED

AWARD	NUMBER
Kirti Chakra	7
Vir Chakra	15
Shaurya Chakra	29
Total	51

The awards honour gallantry in operations, including counter-insurgency and border actions, with several conferred posthumously on soldiers who died in the line of duty.

INDIA'S GALLANTRY AWARD HIERARCHY

This is the part to memorise. India's gallantry awards fall into two streams, **wartime** and **peacetime**, each in three tiers.

Wartime Gallantry Awards (for valour in the face of the enemy)

RANK	AWARD
1st (highest)	Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
2nd	Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)
3rd	Vir Chakra (VrC)

Peacetime Gallantry Awards (for valour away from the battlefield)

RANK	AWARD
1st (highest)	Ashoka Chakra
2nd	Kirti Chakra
3rd	Shaurya Chakra

So the **Kirti Chakra** is the second-highest peacetime gallantry award and the **Shaurya Chakra** the third; the **Vir Chakra** is the third-highest wartime award. These awards were instituted in **1952** (with effect from 1950).

WHY IT MATTERS

Gallantry awards:

- **Recognise valour** and sustain the morale and ethos of the armed forces.
- **Honour sacrifice**, including posthumous recognition of those killed in action.
- **Connect to civil-military relations**, as the President, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, confers them.

For UPSC, the precise ordering of the wartime and peacetime hierarchies is a frequently tested fact.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- President Murmu conferred **51 gallantry awards** (7 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 29 Shaurya Chakras) at the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026
- **Wartime hierarchy:** Param Vir Chakra > Maha Vir Chakra > Vir Chakra
- **Peacetime hierarchy:** Ashoka Chakra > Kirti Chakra > Shaurya Chakra

- Kirti Chakra = 2nd-highest peacetime award; Shaurya Chakra = 3rd
- Gallantry awards instituted in **1952** (effective from 1950)
- The **President** is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces

Mains Angles

- GS3 Security:** Discuss the role of gallantry awards in recognising valour and sustaining the morale of the armed forces.
- GS2 Constitutional Functionaries:** Examine the President's role as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
Ceremony	Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-1)
Conferred by	President Droupadi Murmu
Total awards	51 (7 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 29 Shaurya Chakras)
Highest wartime award	Param Vir Chakra
Highest peacetime award	Ashoka Chakra
Kirti Chakra	2nd-highest peacetime gallantry award
Shaurya Chakra	3rd-highest peacetime gallantry award
Vir Chakra	3rd-highest wartime gallantry award
Instituted	1952 (effective 1950)

Sources: *PIB, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Ministry of Defence*

Source: President Confers 51 Gallantry Awards at the Defence Investiture Ceremony — Ujyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujyari →](#)<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/06/09/defence-investiture-gallantry-awards-2026/>

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