

Scheme for Ashok Chakra Series of Gallantry Awards:

The Government of India has instituted several Awards to honour individual acts of merit and gallantry. The idea behind instituting a system of awards and decorations, which are tangible tokens of recognition of the service rendered by an individual, could act as a powerful incentive for greater efforts by that person and also serve as an example for others to emulate.

The Ashoka Chakra series of gallantry awards are amongst the highest gallantry awards of the country. These awards are given in three categories viz. *Ashoka Chakra* (awarded for most conspicuous bravery or some act of daring or pre-eminent valour of self service), *Kirti Chakra* (awarded for conspicuous gallantry) and *Shaurya Chakra* (awarded for gallantry). The awards are announced by the Government of India on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day every year. Besides the Defence personnel, civilian citizens of either sex in all walks of life, and members of Police Forces, Central Para military Forces and Railway Protection Force are also eligible for these awards.

It is the practice to invite nominations/ recommendations for the gallantry awards twice every year from all State/ UT Governments and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India. It has, however, been our experience that various incidents of gallant acts performed by individuals during natural calamities, accidents, drowning incidents, fire incidents miscreants/ extremist attack, theft and dacoity attempts etc. are regularly reported in the print and electronic media. Such acts of bravery/ gallantry go unrecognized in the absence of appropriate recommendation in their favour by the State Governments or other organizations to which the individual involved in the gallantry act belongs. This matter therefore deserves its due attention.

While finalizing the recommendations, following points may be kept in view:-

- i) It may be ensured that the person recommended for the award is bonafide and suitable candidate for award.
- ii) Complete details of the gallantry act, including sequence-wise details of the steps taken by the person connected with the act, nature of risk involved, etc. should be clearly mentioned in the recommendation. This should be properly corroborated by the documents like FIR or other report from the police authority.
- iii) It may be ensured that a certificate about the **verification of the character & antecedents** of the person recommended is forwarded in the enclosed format along with the recommendation, in the absence of which the recommendation will not be considered.
- iv) The Awards Committee considers recommendations for Ashoka Chakra series of awards within a period of **two calendar years** from the date of the performance of the gallantry act. Therefore, recommendations for the gallantry acts performed within two calendar years from the date of its performance may only be forwarded.
- v) The last date for receipt of the recommendations may be strictly adhered to.