



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



**MAJOR M SARAVANAN**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	SS-36288
<b>RANK (At the time of Award)</b>	Major
<b>NAME</b>	M Sarvanan
<b>SON OF</b>	Lieutenant Colonel Adi Mariappan (AMC)
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	1 BIHAR
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	11 March 1995
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 29 May 1999
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Kargil War/ Op VIJAY
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

Major M Saravanan was born on 10 Aug 1972 to an Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Adi Mariappan and his mother was Smt Amrithavalli Mariyappan. He was born in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu. Major Saravanan grew up listening to the stories of Indian Army's bravery and at a very early age made up his mind to follow the footsteps of his father and become an Army officer. His father Lieutenant Colonel Adi Mariappan a doctor in the Indian Army died in a road accident in Bangalore in 1989, while serving in the Indian Peace Keeping Force during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka. Major Saravanan, did his schooling from various places like Belgaum, Kannoor, Gurdaspur, and Jorhat. After his secondary school education, he joined St Joseph's College in Tiruchirapalli. Major Saravanan during his college days was also the President of the student's union. In 1992, he became a 'C' Certificate holder of NCC. On 11 March 1995, he graduated from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) and was commissioned into the Bihar regiment of the Indian Army and he served in Tamulpur, Cooch Bihar, and Bhutan before moving to Kargil.

The recruitment of soldiers from the region of Bihar dates back to the days of the British East India Company, which raised the 'Bengal Native Infantry' as a force. The Bihar Regiment's origin can be traced back to the sepoy battalions raised in 1775 by Lord Clive for British East India Company at Patna. The Bihar Regiment was formally raised in the year 1941 by regularising the 11 (Territorial) Battalion, 19 Hyderabad Regiment and raising new battalions. Despite being among the youngest, it has displayed exemplary valour and strength on various occasions. Their participation in World War II, Indo-Pak 1965 and 1971 is regarded highly in the annals of history of the Indian Army. 1 BIHAR participated in Operation Vijay in the Batalik Sub Sector and was responsible for recapture of Jubar Hill and Tharu. For its valour, the unit was honoured with Chief of the Army Staff Unit Citation.

The Kargil war of 1999 was fought 52 years after independence. The genesis of Indo-Pak conflict can be traced back to the year 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan are the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. The war commenced shortly after the signing of the Lahore declaration in 1999, when the Pakistan army surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts of the Indian Army. This act is thought to be the brain-child of General Pervez Musharraf, then chief of the Pakistan Army. On 3 May 1999, intrusions were detected. On 26 May <sup>1</sup>, the first air to ground strike was launched by the Indian Airforce (IAF), followed by Operation Vijay, by the Indian Army to evict the intruders from the Indian territory<sup>2</sup>. During Operation Vijay, Major M Saravanan was the Company Commander of one of the 1 BIHAR companies which launched an attack on Point 4268 in the Batalik area.

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<sup>1</sup> Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

<sup>2</sup> From Surprise to Reckoning: The Kargil Review Committee Report (2000) Sage Publications, New Delhi (Pg no 104-105)



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

During Operation VIJAY, 1 BIHAR, under the Col O P Yadav, arrived in the third week of May in the Batalik sub-sector. They were tasked to capture the enemy's nearest Observation Post (OP) on Jubar Complex, the Jubar OP, at the height of 16,400 feet. However, the first attack failed due to the lack of time given for acclimatisation. Within a week's time from the first attack, 1 BIHAR launched an attack on the Jubar Hill and despite stiff resistance, a small location near Jubar Hill was captured by dawn. Before the operation could proceed further, Major M Saravanan, the Company Commander of Charlie Company 1 BIHAR, was given the task of launching an attack on Point 4268 in the Batalik area. He was quick to act upon the orders and planned to deploy several small groups on the enemy reinforcement routes in order to curtail any kind of enemy movement. Major Saravanan deployed a support group which was ordered to engage the enemy with intense automatic machine gun fire, while he and his men advanced towards the enemy. Acting upon the plan, On 29 May 1999, Major M Saravanan launched the attack and faced heavy enemy fire. Unmindful of hostile fire, he and his men kept moving towards their objective. When Major Saravanan crawled forward to eliminate the final remaining enemy emplacement, he was fired upon by heavy volume of small fire. Despite the enemy fire and his injuries, he proceeded to destroy the remaining position held by the enemy. During this act, he killed two enemy personnel and was mortally shot by an enemy bullet.

For the display of fortitude, exceptional bravery and exemplary leadership Major M Saravanan was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
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## CITATION

Major M Saravanan, (SS-36288) 1 Bihar (Posthumous)  
(Effective date of the Award: 29 May, 1999)

Major M Saravanan was the Company Commander of one of the companies of 1 Bihar launched in the battalion attack on Point 4268 in the Batalik sector during OPERATION VIJAY.

Major M Saravanan while moving forward to eliminate the last position held by the enemy, was fired upon by the enemy with a heavy volume of small arms fire. Unmindful of the enemy fire, Major M Saravanan crawled forward to destroy the last remaining enemy position and before being fatally hit by an enemy bullet, killed two enemy personnel.

The officer displayed exceptional bravery, valour, and exemplary leadership, fighting from the front, destroying two enemy bunkers and killing two enemy soldiers before laying his life for the motherland and in the process eliminating an important enemy position.

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Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## REFERENCES

1. Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher
2. From Surprise to Reckoning: The Kargil Review Committee Report (2000) Sage Publications, New Delhi
3. The Heroes of Kargil Colonel Gurmeet Kanwal (2002) Army headquarters, New Delhi
4. Singh, Amarinder . (2001). A Ridge Too Far: War in the Kargil heights 1999. Patiala: Motibagh Palace.
5. Tyagi, Satish Chandra. (2019). The Kargil Victory Battles From Peak to Peak. The Speaking Tigers in association with The United Service Institute of India

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Gandhi, S.S. Portraits of Valour: India's Highest Gallantry Awards and Their Recipients. The Defence Review. (Ed 2006).
2. The Honourpoint: online memorial for every Indian Solider (Accessed on 12 April 2022)  
<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/major-m-saravanan-vrc/>
3. History of Bihar Regiment (Accessed on 12 April 2022)  
<https://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplete/frmTempSimple.aspx?MnId=o1YeyHTxyqv1Rd6DTymv8Q==&ParentID=4FkP2ejLd/9nZqWRYivyUQ==&flag=m7MEweoBAGAi11CoeqGhjw==>
4. Major M Saravanan Memorial Trust (Accessed on 12 April 2022)  
<https://majorsaravanan.com/index.php#>
5. Major M Saravanan, Vir Chakra 1 Bihar (Accessed on 12 April 2022)  
<https://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplete/frmTemp1P2C.aspx?MnId=ZrKlgJgOaoRBVAw/ogi7LA=&ParentID=w66+SDsicXGAYARrDwwl7Q==&flag=8CKP966uzg96kLov0aWdfQ==>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## MEMORIAL

A memorial in remembrance of Major M Sarvanan has been built in the center of a 4 road junction on Williams Road in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu; the Major Saravanan Memorial is at a walking distance from the headquarters of the 117 Infantry Battalion (TA) The Guards.



*Memorial Of Major M Sarvanan in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu*

Source: Major M Sarvanan Memorial Trust (<https://majorsaravanan.com/index.php#>)

- A memorial trust for Major M Sarvanan operates in his home town Tiruchi. The trust maintains his memorial and generate awareness regarding the gallant actions of Major M Sarvanan. This trust is an example of organisations that are committed to honour the sacrifice of the Indian soldiers. To read more about the trust and Major M Sarvanan visit- <https://majorsaravanan.com/>
- Two roads in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu are named in remembrance of this valiant Indian Army Officer.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## VIDEOS

Documentary on Major M Saravnan THYAGA OLI | தியாக ஒளி | 15 - 08 – 2019 (Source: DD Podhigai)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qsG6o0IBJs>

Renovated Major Saravanan Memorial Inauguration 2019, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, South India. (Source: Youtube majorsaravananvrc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHFP9naaUeA>

Forgotten Tamil Kargil martyr Major M. Saravanan from Tiruchi : reporter update ( Source: Youtube Tamil 7 News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHa-6NaZuAM>

Major Saravanan, Vr.C A Saga (Source: Youtube majorsaravananvrc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lamsa0IZ2I>

South With Sudha: Remembering Major Mariappan Saravanan on Kargil Vijay Diwas (Source: Youtube India Ahead News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvdkQYB5Juo>

**\*\*Disclaimer<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> DISCLAIMER:

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रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES<sup>4</sup>

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam recited one of his poems to honour the supreme sacrifice done by the first Army Officer Major M. Saravanan, Vir Chakra, during a ceremony at his memorial in Tamil Nādu.

My dear Soldiers

Oh! Defenders of borders  
You are great sons of my land  
When we are all asleep  
You still hold on to your deed

Windy season or snowy days  
Or scorching sun's sweltering rays  
You are there guarding all the time awake  
Treading the lonely expanses as yogis

Climbing the heights or striding the valleys  
Defending the deserts or guarding the marshes  
Surveillance in seas and by securing the air  
Prime of your youth given to the nation!!

Wind chimes of my land vibrate your feat  
We pray for you brave men!!  
May the Lord bless you all!!

Source: <https://majorsaravanan.com/major-apjpoem.php>

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<sup>4</sup> Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

### Tribute by Major Sarvanan's friend Amalraj (an IPS officer):<sup>5</sup>

“We were a bunch of three friends Saravanan, Karthik and Amalraj. A few years ago, we had made a trip to Kanyakumari. On the way, our bus driver fell asleep on the wheel and crashed headlong into an incoming lorry. “Seven people died on the spot and many were injured. We students were in a shock. But not Saravanan, he was cool. He went about checking the dead. Then he helped the injured into passing vehicles and took them to hospital. It was his Army background that made him react to an emergency so calmly and resolutely.”



*Major M Sarvanan with his mother*

Source: The Honourpoint: online memorial for every Indian Solider

### Mother's Tribute:

Maj Sarvanan's mother Amithavalli Mariappan paying tribute to her son said ” Saravanan was very industrious, always busy fixing his bike or other electrical items in the house. He hardly ever sat still. He was a good son who came home every year for his holidays. When he had told me that he wanted to join the Army, I never discouraged him even after losing my officer-husband”.

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<sup>5</sup> The Honourpoint: online memorial for every Indian Solider (Accessed 04 July 2022)

<https://www.honourpoint.in/profile/major-m-saravanan-vrc/>



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

### Other Videos:

Video- Major Saravanan | Official Tamil Animated Short Film | JFX STUDIO (Source: Youtube Janaarthanan PA)

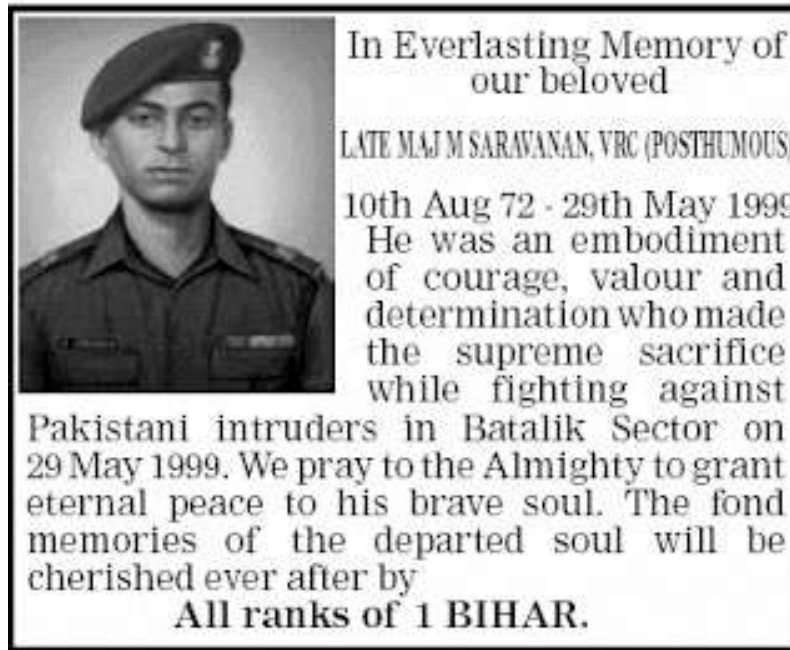
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwe7hlnwexg>

Video- A Talk about Major M Sarvanan with his Mother Smt Amrithavalli Mariyappan (Source: Youtube balasubramaniyan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4CyI-IOeI4>

Video- They are not bats; they are Batman: Army's tribute to Bihar Regiment (Source: Youtube The Print)

A remembrance message released by 1 BIHAR in Memory Of Major M Sarvavan<sup>6</sup>



Source: <http://generalsalute.blogspot.com/1999/05/major-m-saravanan-vrc.html>

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MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2008, the Postal Department of Tiruchirappalli brought out a special cover in memory of Major M. Saravanan, the 'Hero of Batalik'.



(Source: <http://rainbowstampclub.blogspot.com/2013/07/tributes-to-kargil-war-heroes.html>)