



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



### MAJOR RAMASWAMY PARAMESWARAN

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-32907F
<b>RANK</b>	Major
<b>NAME</b>	Ramaswamy Parameswaran
<b>SON OF</b>	KS Ramaswamy
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Bombay, Maharashtra
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	8 MAHAR
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	16 January 1972
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous) / 25 November 1987
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	OPERATION PAWAN
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran was born on 13 September 1946, in Bombay (now Mumbai), Maharashtra to Mr K S Ramaswamy and Mrs Janaki Ramaswamy. He completed his schooling from SIES (South Indian Education Society) High School, Mumbai and went on to do his graduation in science from SIES College. He later joined the OTA in Chennai and passed out on 16 June 1972. He was commissioned into 15 MAHAR of Indian Army and subsequently joined 5 MAHAR while they were fighting insurgency in the hills of Mizoram and Tripura. In 1981, Major Parameswaran got married to Uma who was a poet and a writer and started his married life.

Major Parameswaran participated in several counter-insurgency operations in the North East while serving with the 15 MAHAR and 5 MAHAR battalions. He quickly developed a reputation for having steely resolve and unwavering leadership abilities. Major Parameswaran, affectionately known by his soldiers as "Parry Sahib," consistently took the lead during the difficult tasks that his battalion undertook. He was frequently found in charge of the most challenging patrols and perilous operations. Taking a group of men into the forests was one of his favourite pastimes. Dominating the area of responsibility was something he not only preached but also practised. As a result, even the most dogged and hardened insurgents kept away from his area for fear of being killed or captured. And yet he was kind and gentle with the local inhabitants.

Major Parameswaran was specially chosen to serve with the 8 MAHAR, when Op PAWAN was launched. The battalion was one of the first troops to deploy in Sri Lanka in 1987.



*The bust of Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran installed at Param Yodha Sthal, National War Memorial, New Delhi.*

Source: <https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/param-yoddhas/details/20>



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The MAHAR Regiment was initially intended to comprise of members from the Mahar community. Today it is one of the most diverse regiments in the Indian Army. In the 19th century, they were recruited by the British East India Company and were part of the Company's Bombay Army. However, with the introduction of the 'class regiments' policy after the First War of Independence in 1857, the British government demobilised the Mahar troops. When the First World War broke out in 1914, the British government was forced to expand its recruiting policies and a Mahar battalion was raised in 1917. After the war ended, the battalion was disbanded again in March 1921. In 1941, when Dr BR Ambedkar was appointed to the Viceroy's Executive Council, he exerted pressure on the British government to enlist the Mahar troops into the army. In October 1941, 1 MAHAR was raised in Belgaum, thus establishing the origin of the present-day Mahar Regiment. Between the two wars, the demand to raise Mahar regiment was constantly raised. The regiment's war cry is "Bolo Hindustan Ki Jai". The MAHAR Regiment has the distinction of having General KV Krishnarao, COAS (01 June 1981 – 31 July 1983) and General KS Sundarji, COAS (01 February 1986 – 31 May 1988) who belonged to this regiment.

On 29 July 1987, a historic accord known as the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene in Colombo. According to this agreement, India participated directly in counterinsurgency operations in Sri Lanka against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) during the Sri Lankan Civil War.<sup>1</sup> The Sri Lankan civil war has raged since 1983, making it one of the longest and most intractable armed conflicts in South Asia.<sup>2</sup> It has taken lives of more than 60,000 Sri Lankans, and has made refugees out of more than 300,000 people. Sri-Lanka occupies a strategic place in the Indian Ocean region and a multi ethnic and multi religious land. Eighty two percent of the population is Sinhala and follows Buddhism; and remaining 18 percent are Tamil and predominantly Hindu. The problem in Sri-Lanka between Sinhalese and Tamil minority started when Tamil felt that their interests were neglected. To safeguard their rights, Tamils took arms and declared their intention to achieve 'Tamil Eelam' - a separate state for Tamils.

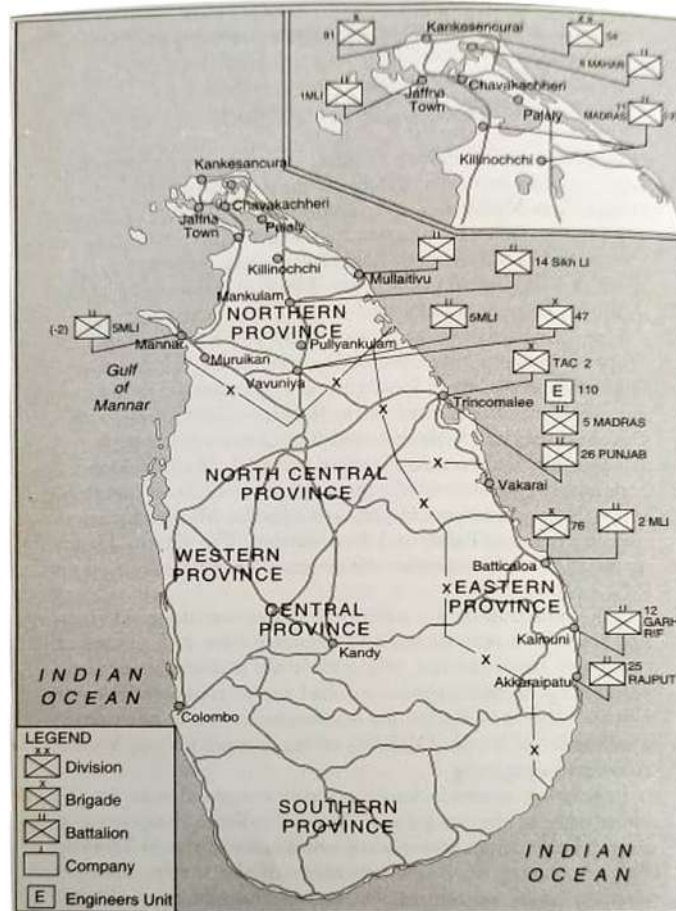
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<sup>1</sup> Operation Pawan: India in The Sri Lankan Civil War (Accessed on 20 February 2023)  
<https://www.thedefencearchive.com/post/operation-pawan>

<sup>2</sup> Nambiar, Satish. For the honour Of India: A History of Indian Peacekeeping. Published by CAFHR, United Service Institutin of India, New Delhi



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*Deployment of IPKF in Sri Lanka*

Source: Maj Gen Hakikat Singh. Intervention in Sri Lanka: The IPKF Experience Retold. Published by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi

The Sri Lanka Government tried to put down the Tamil movement by force but this resulted in the Tamil's taking to guerrilla warfare. This soon resulted in a large number of refugees emigrating to the southern Indian state Tamil Nadu, which created considerable problems for India. After protracted negotiations, in which leaders of various Tamil groups were involved, an agreement was arrived at between Sri Lanka and India on 29 July 1987. As per the agreement, an Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was inducted into Sri Lanka on 03 August 1987.<sup>3</sup> It was India's first international peacekeeping mission post-independence. The objective was to eliminate the LTTE from control on the Jaffna Peninsula and impose disarmament. With a total military strength of 100,000 soldiers, the IPKF ran a classic counter-insurgency (CI) campaign

<sup>3</sup> Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.



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from December 1987 to March 1990. Due to this even when the LTTE tried to take back Jaffna they were not able to.<sup>4</sup> This operation is also known as OPERATION PAWAN.



*Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene signing the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement*

Source: Air Marshal Bharat Kumar, Operation Pawan: Role of Airpower with IPKF. Published by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi

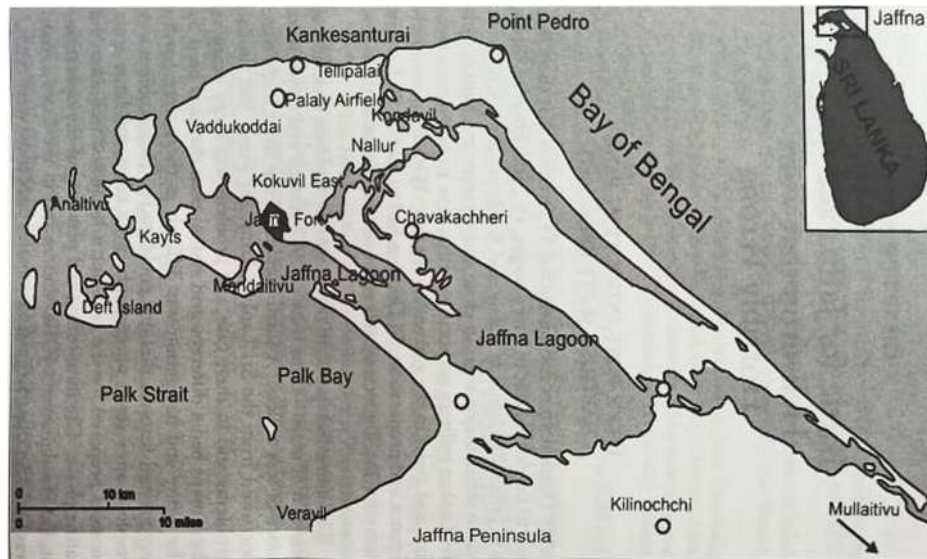
Major Parameswaran's battalion, 8 MAHAR, took part in OPERATION PAWAN as part of 91 Infantry Brigade and 54 Infantry Division. They were tasked to oversee the implementation of Indo-Sri Lanka accord signed on 29 July 1987. The battalion was the first unit to have landed in Sri Lanka as part of IPKF. The militants were expected to surrender after the arrival of Indian forces, but the dreaded LTTE pulled out and started waging war on them. The battalion engaged in several actions against the LTTE while deployed in Sri Lanka, the major ones being at Maruthanamadam, Annai Kotai Manipai and Kantarodai. It was at Kantarodai where Major Paramsewaran fought his gallant action.

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<sup>4</sup> Operation Pawan: India in The Sri Lankan Civil War (Accessed on 20 February 2023)  
<https://www.thedefencearchive.com/post/operation-pawan>



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*Jaffna Peninsula*

Source: Air Marshal Bharat Kumar, Operation Pawan: Role of Airpower with IPKF. Published by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi

On 24 November 1987, the battalion received information that a consignment of arms and ammunition had been unloaded at a house in the village of Katarodai. A powerful patrol of 20 men that was deployed under Captain D R Sharma to investigate the accuracy of this report. The patrol came under fire from a temple close to the suspected home, and after exchanging gunfire, the patrol informed the battalion at Uduvil that the LTTE had taken control of the region and had more members than had been previously estimated.

Major Parmeswaran, 'A' Company Commander came to the conclusion that a proper operation would have to be launched and taking a strong patrol from his company proceeded at 2030 Hours to reinforce Captain Sharma's patrol. They arrived at the vicinity of the suspects around 0130 Hours on 25 November 1987. On seeing no movement except for an empty truck parked near the house, they cordoned off the area and decided to carry out the search after first light.

On 25 November 1987, at 0530 Hours, the search got under way, but they turned up nothing. Finally, they decided to move back. At this time the point section drew fire from the temple-grove area which was effective and pinned it down. The party went to ground and returned the fire. One person was killed and one person was injured in the initial hostile fire. While he and his party took a detour from the west to go behind the LTTE and trap them in the temple-grove area, Major Ramaswamy Parmeswaran gave Captain D.R. Sharma instructions to keep the enemy occupied and fixed by returning effective fire from the same place and to advance at the same time by clearing the route house by house.



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When Captain Sharma began to advance, he received a lot of automatic fire from the coconut and temple grove areas. His group cleared the homes to the west of the road and observed some terrorists, who were shot and wounded, being dragged away by their comrades. In the meantime Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran had reached behind the militants in the area of the coconut grove and seeing the enemy he charged at them. The militants were using AK-47s, grenades, explosives and the deadly Heavy Machine Guns (HMG) that inflicted heavy damage. The LTTE had even mined the area that restricted the movement of the soldiers, who were totally at a disadvantage. Maj Parameswaran quickly assessed the gravity of the situation and decided to launch a counter-ambush to save his soldiers. He fought back ferociously and continued to surround the militants, with no concern for his own safety. With cool presence of mind, he encircled the militants from the rear and charged into them, taking them completely surprise. During the hand-to-hand combat, a militant shot him in the chest. Undaunted, he snatched the rifle from the militant and shot him dead. Despite being gravely wounded, he continued to give directions to his troops and to inspire them till his end. The militants who by now sensed that they had been trapped fought their way back and in the ensuing fighting both sides suffered casualties. Reinforcements from the battalion had also arrived. The militants realising that they would be defeated ran away into the jungle. Six enemy dead were confirmed, and three AK-47 rifles and two rocket launchers with bombs were recovered and the ambush was cleared.

For his cold courage, indomitable fighting spirit and supreme sacrifice, Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran was given the nation's highest gallantry award, 'Param Vir Chakra'. He became the first person from OTA Chennai to receive the prized PVC award, and the only one to receive during OPERATION PAWAN, the IPKF in Sri Lanka.



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## CITATION

Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran (IC-32907F) (Posthumous) 8 MAHAR

(Effective date of the award: 25 November 1987)

On 25 November 1987, when Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran was returning from search operation in Sri Lanka, late at night, his column was ambushed by a group of militants. With cool presence of mind, he encircled the militants from the rear and charged into them, taking them completely surprise. During the hand-to-hand combat, a militant shot him in the chest. Undaunted, Major Parameswaran snatched the rifle from the militant and shot him dead. Gravely wounded, he continued to give orders and inspired his command till he breathed his last. Five militants were killed and three rifles and two rocket launchers were recovered and the ambush was cleared.

Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran displayed the most conspicuous gallantry and thought nothing of dying at his post.

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





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## REFERENCES

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2. Operation Pawan: Role of Airpower with IPKF. Air Marshal Bharat Kumar (2015) Published by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi
3. Intervention in Sri Lanka: The IPKF Experience Retold. Maj Gen Hakikat Singh. (2007) Published by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi.
4. Insights into Indian Infantry Regiments. Anand Ballabh. (2013) Published by Forward Books, New Delhi.

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1. Stories of Heroism: PVC & MVC Winners. Dr B C Chakravorty (1995) History Division, Ministry of Defence. Allied Publishers Limited. New Delhi.
2. India's Wars: A Military History 1947 -1971. Arjun Subramaniam (2016) Harper Collins Publishers. Uttar Pradesh, India.
3. For the honour Of India: A History of Indian Peacekeeping. Lt Gen Satish Nambiar (2009) Published by CAFHR, United Service Institution of India, New Delhi
4. Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran (Accessed on 20 February 2023)  
<https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/param-yoddhas/details/20>
5. The undeterred hero from the Indian Peacekeeping force: Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran (Accessed on 20 February 2023)  
<https://bioconblog.com/2020/08/14/the-undeterred-hero-from-the-indian-peacekeeping-force-major-ramaswamy-parameswaran/>
6. Operation Pawan: India in The Sri Lankan Civil War (Accessed on 20 February 2023)  
<https://www.thedefencearchive.com/post/operation-pawan>
7. 45 Years Later, Batchmates Honour Param Vir Chakra Major Parameswaran (Accessed on 20 February 2023)  
<https://www.thebetterindia.com/128397/param-vir-chakra-major-parameswaran/>



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## VIDEOS

PM Modi participates in ceremony to name 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar (Source: YouTube **PMO India**)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1PEUqeVLfM&t=2s>

Param Vir Chakra: Extraordinary tales of bravery of Captain GS Salaria, Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran (Source: India Today Television)

[https://www.indiatoday.in/programme/param-vir-chakra/video/param-vir-chakra-extraordinary-  
tales-of-bravery-of-captain-gs-salaria-major-ramaswamy-parameswaran-1400504-2018-12-01](https://www.indiatoday.in/programme/param-vir-chakra/video/param-vir-chakra-extraordinary-<br/>tales-of-bravery-of-captain-gs-salaria-major-ramaswamy-parameswaran-1400504-2018-12-01)

Veergati Ep 8: Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran Biography | Operation Pawan Sri Lanka | Param Vir Chakra (Source: YouTube Lokmat Hindi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9iRihkH4Zs>

Biography of Ramaswamy Parameswaran, Hero of India's Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka #ParamVirChakra (Source: YouTube StudyIQ IAS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Am5Ug6u-NTU>

Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran: Sri Lanka की सुरक्षा में शहीद होने वाला पराक्रमी | वनइंडिया हिंदी (Source: YouTube Oneindia Hindi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NITeR4LLN6M>

Param Vir Chakra Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran (Source: YouTube Remember theirsacrifices1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb3NkEiVvx8>

Param Vir chakra: Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran PVC, hero of Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka | Oneindia (Source: YouTube Oneindia News)

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

Disclaimer\*\*<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Disclaimer: Photos, links to publications and videos presented here are not intended to serve as a substitute for consultation and should only be used at the user's own risk. These are primarily shared because of the extensive coverage available on the subject. No copyright infringement is intended and it is not intended to hurt anyone or make sales of any sort. All copyright belongs solely to the relevant owners/creators. Usage here is purely for Fair Usage in accordance with the Indian Copyright Act 1957.



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## MEMORIALS

- Memorial of Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran at OTA



Source: <https://bioconblog.com/2020/08/14/the-undeterred-hero-from-the-indian-peacekeeping-force-major-ramaswamy-parameswaran/>

- . The bust of Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran installed at Param Yodha Sthal, National War Memorial, New Delhi



Source: <https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in/param-yoddhas/details/20>



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- On 23 January 2023 during the Parakram Diwas, 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. One such island has also been named after Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran.



- The Army welfare housing board built a colony in Arcot Road Chennai and named it as A.W.H.O Parameswaran Vihar in the year 1998 in honour of Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran.<sup>6</sup>

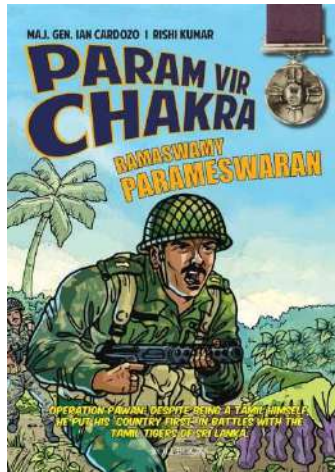
<sup>6</sup> [https://modeindia.co.in/special\\_days/birthday-of-ramaswamy-parameswaran/](https://modeindia.co.in/special_days/birthday-of-ramaswamy-parameswaran/)



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## OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES<sup>7</sup>

- 1) Roli Comics- ‘Param Vir Chakra: Ramaswamy Parameswaran’ is comic by Major General Ian Cardozo and Rishi Kumar. It was published in 2018 by Roli Books, India.



Source: <https://rolibooks.com/product/param-vir-chakra-ramaswamy-parameshwaran/>

- 2) Book- A book titled ‘The Brave: Param Vir Chakra Stories’ by renowned author Rachna Bisht Rawat narrates engaging tales of valour of our twenty-one Param Vir Chakra awardees. It was published by Penguin, India in 2014.



Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

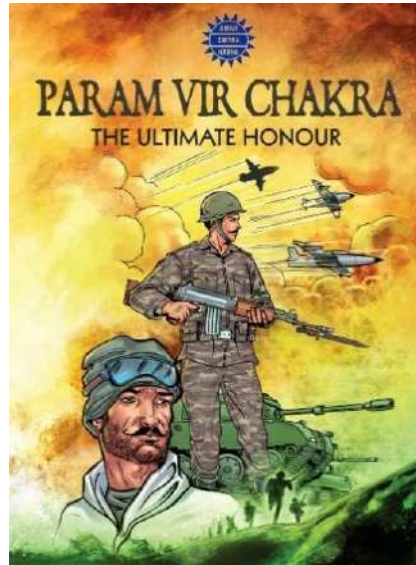
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<sup>7</sup> Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.



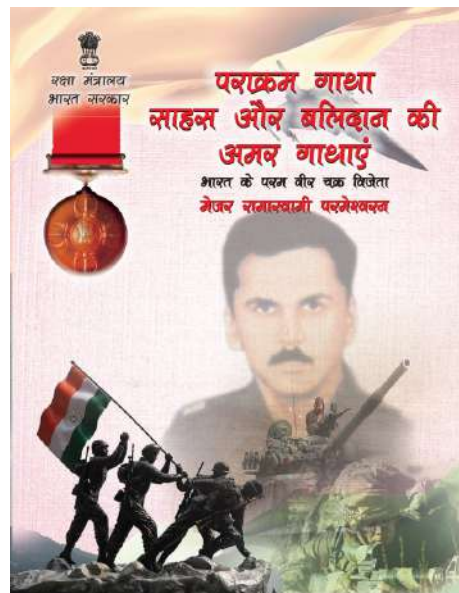
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- 3) Amar Chitra Katha- To honour 21 Param Vir Chakra Recipients, a special comic titled 'Param Vir Chakra: The Ultimate Honour' was published on 1 January 2015. The book is the result of combined efforts by the Indian Army and Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

- 4) Magazine: Published by Ministry of Defence on Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran.



Source: <https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/assets/images/books/books/1617707377-3.pdf>



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- 5) Book- Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle by Major General Cardozo was published in 2003 by The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. The book provides its readers a vivid description of the gallant actions of India's Param Vir Chakra winners.



Source: Source: <https://www.amazon.in>

- 6) First day cover released by the Army Postal Services in remembrance of Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran



Source: <https://www.collectorbazar.com/item/india-army-postal-service-cover-the-mahar-regiment-xith-reunion-major-ramaswamy-parameswaran-param-vir-chakra-2006-2752-130489>