

Akbar Nama

Shwetabh Singh takes us through the story of Mi25/35 family with the Indian Air Force

Introduction

“On 26 October 1987, Flight Lieutenant Atanu Guru flew in a mission ex-Jaffna to search and destroy militants’ vehicles operating on the Jaffna Karaitivu causeway. Five vans were located on the causeway while attempting to flee towards Karaitivu. With extraordinary accuracy and commendable professional calmness, he destroyed these vehicles and killed all the militant personnel aboard these vehicles.” This was the first mentioned incident on Ft Lt Atanu Guru’s Vir Chakra citation.



The Mi-25s of No 125 Helicopter Squadron were flown into Sri Lanka, under the command of Sqn Ldr Rajbir Singh, around 23 October 1987, in the aftermath of the disastrous Jaffna Helidrop Operation.

The first strike mission on 26 October was flown by Ft Lt Atanu Guru in a lone Mi-25. Five LTTE heavy transports carrying ammo and explosives were moving on the Jaffna Karaitivu causeway, the concentrated fire by Ft Lt Atanu Guru’s Mi-25 resulted in the death of over 100 LTTE cadres and an explosion that could be heard 30 kms away. The gunships were particularly effective in their role, immediately restricting LTTE’s



Chetak firing an AS11 ATGM. Photo: @bennedose