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37th Anniversary of Operation Blue Star

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Why in News

Recently, the 37th anniversary of Operation Blue Star was observed by the country.

Key Points

- **Operation Blue Star:**
 - It is a code name given to an **Indian Military Operation** to remove the separatists who were hidden inside the **Golden Temple** at Amritsar on **5th June 1984**.
 - The operation was ordered by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, primarily **to take control of the Harmandir Sahib Complex in Amritsar (popularly known as the Golden Temple)**.
 - The Indian military entered into the premises of the temple **to drive out the Sikh extremist religious leader, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale** and his armed followers.
 - The operation had **two components** to it, **Operation Metal** which was the invasion on the temple complex and **Operation Shop** which was confined to the countryside of the state.
 - This Operation **helped in eliminating Khalistani terrorism**.
 - It **resulted in the death of Bhindranwale**.
 - Few months post-Operation Blue Star, **Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards**, followed by severe **anti-Sikh riots in Delhi**.

- **Background:**
 - **Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale** wanted the Indian government to pass the **Anandpur Resolution**, and thereby agree to the formation of a **separate state of Khalistan for Sikhs**.
 - Since 1982, this radical leader of Sikhism had managed to gain enough support for his cause and **by mid-1983 had set up a base inside the Golden Temple complex, with ammunition and his followers**.
 - Hence, Operation Blue Star was launched between **1st June and 6th June 1984**, with the aim of getting rid of Bhindranwale and his demands.

National Security Guard

- It is a **counter-terrorism unit** that formally came into existence in 1986 by an act of Parliament- **'National Security Guard Act, 1986'**.
 - Its headquarters is located in **Manesar, Gurugram**.
- The idea behind raising such force came in the **aftermath of Operation Blue Star**, Akshardham Temple attack and the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi, for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances.

Source:IE