



36th Anniversary of Operation Blue Star

Why in News

Recently, the **36th 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**.

▪ 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.
- The operation 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.

National Security Guard

- The **National Security Guard (NSG)** 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**.

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