

COAS Unit Appreciation for NSG Group

August 28, 2020

Army Chief General Manoj Naravane conferred the **COAS (Chief of Army Staff) Unit Appreciation to 51 Special Action Group (SAG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)** in recognition of the Group's outstanding achievements in combating terrorism. **The NSG was raised in 1984 and functions under the Union Home Ministry.** The group's most noteworthy operation is the **Operation Black Tornado**, during which it eliminated eight terrorists during the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, freeing over 600 hostages.

National Security Guard

NSG is a **federal contingency world class zero error force** to deal with anti terrorist activities in all its manifestation. The NSG is a force specially equipped and trained to deal with special situations and is therefore, **to be used only in exceptional circumstances to thwart serious acts of terrorism.**

The ethos of the NSG is premised on the following:

- Pursuit for excellence
- Lead from the front
- Zero error
- Speed, surprise, stealth, precision and accuracy

The Union Cabinet in 1984 took a decision to create a federal contingency force comprising of personnel who are highly motivated, specially equipped and well trained to tackle the various manifestations of terrorism. In June 1984, a nucleus consisting of the Director General of NSG and other essential elements were sanctioned and steps were initiated to raise the force. A bill for creation of this organisation was introduced in the parliament in August 1986 and it **received the assent of**

the President in September 1986 and the NSG formally came into being.

The basic philosophy of NSG is **swift and speedy strike and immediate withdrawal from the theatre of action.** NSG was modelled on the pattern of the SAS of the UK and GSG-9 of Germany. It is a task oriented force and has **2 complementary elements in the form of Special Action Group comprising army personnel and Special Rangers Group, comprising personnel drawn from CAPF/ state police forces.**

Selection to NSG is demanding and has a **drop out rate of about 70–80%.** Three of their 14 months of training in Manesar, Haryana, are devoted to the basics. **Physical fitness training has 26 elements, ranging from a cross-country obstacle course to jumping from heights and across divides and scaling different kinds of terrain.** One endurance test involves martial arts, target shooting at the end of an obstacle-ridden cross-country run. This is meant to gauge the candidate's performance under conditions of stress and exhaustion. Those who successfully complete the tests are sent for nine months of advanced training. **Before being inducted into the NSG, aspirants also have to undergo a rigorous psychological test.** The training includes learning to conduct urban counter-terrorism, underwater operations, house intervention, counter-UAV and anti-drone operations, bomb detection and disposal skills, apart from various other specialisations.