

OPERATION VAJRA SHAKTI, GANDHINAGAR (GUJARAT)

On 24 September 2002, two armed terrorists entered Akshardham Temple in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat. Indiscriminate firing by the terrorists resulted in killing of 30 civilians. National Security Guard Task Force was mobilised by air on 24 September itself from Delhi to Gandhinagar. Task Force on reaching the target location took control of the situation from Police and re-established the cordon to ensure that no terrorist escapes from the spot. Task Force was divided into five small squads to undertake multiple entries to neutralise the terrorists. By mid-night the first contact with terrorists was established. However, due to large space in temple and open areas around, the terrorists kept on shifting from one place to another. On early morning of 25 September 2002, Subedar Suresh Chand Yadav in a daring act managed to close in with one of the terrorist and killed him in close quarter battle. However, in this effort the brave soul also sustained fatal bullet injuries and martyred on the spot. The second terrorist thereafter was shot down by another squad. The operation was terminated after handing over the situation to local police. Huge cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered and people trapped inside the temple were evacuated safely.
