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National Cadet Corps (NCC)

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National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The National Cadet Corps is India's tri-services youth organisation, spanning the Army, Navy and Air Force. With close to 20 lakh cadets, it is widely described as the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world.

> **Born** 15 July 1948, NCC Act.
> **Wings** Army, Air (1950), Naval (1952).
> **Motto** Unity and Discipline.
> **Cadets** Close to 20 lakh; about 40% girls.

NCC: National Cadet Corps.

DG NCC: An Army Lieutenant General.

EBSB: Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

PM-AJAY: Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana.

1 Chapter 1: How the NCC Grew

Must Know

The timeline

- 1917: the roots lie in the University Corps, set up under the Indian Defence Act.
- 1920: it was replaced by the University Training Corps, under the Indian Territorial Act.
- 15 July 1948: the NCC itself came into being, under the National Cadet Corps Act.

- 1949: a Girls Division was added, so school and college-going girls had equal opportunity.
- 1950: an Air Wing was added.
- 1952: a Naval Wing was added.
- Those additions made the NCC a tri-services body: Army, Navy and Air Force.

Aims and motto

- It aims to build character, discipline and leadership among young citizens.
- It also provides trained manpower to the armed forces.
- Its motto is “Unity and Discipline”.

Who runs it

- The NCC is headed by a Director General, an Army Lieutenant General, at its headquarters in Delhi.
- Below that are 17 state-level Directorates and around 99 Group Headquarters.
- Directorates are headed by senior service officers, including Major Generals or equivalent. Group Headquarters work under them.
- It has close to 20 lakh cadets, and roughly 40% of them are girls.

Remember: NCC: 1948 Act → 1949 girls → 1950 Air → 1952 Naval. 17 Directorates, DG is a Lt General.

> **Quick check 1.** The NCC came into existence on 15 July 1948 under the National Cadet Corps Act. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

2 Chapter 2: What Tri-Services Means

Good to Know

Three wings

- A cadet does not join “the NCC” in general.
- They join one of three wings: Army, Navy or Air Force.
- They train in that wing’s own uniform, drills and camps.
- This is why the 1950 and 1952 additions mattered.
- Before them, the NCC offered only Army-style training.
- The organisation today has about 700 Army wing units, 73 Naval wing units and 64 Air Squadrons.

Programmes and camps

- Cadets join national campaigns like Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (drug-free India) and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (clean India).
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camps bring cadets from different states together to build national integration.
- An NCC Alumni Association exists for former cadets.

Related

- Sainik Schools and India’s Security and Intelligence Agencies sit in the wider defence landscape the NCC feeds into.
- TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan is another campaign NCC cadets support.
- SEED Scheme is another youth-focused welfare scheme.
- Sam Manekshaw came up through India’s military training tradition.

Remember: Three wings, three uniforms, three kinds of camp.

Quick check 2. Before 1950, the NCC offered Navy and Air Force training. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Think it through: Think it through: why add wings in 1950 and 1952?

A young person who dreams of flying or sailing gets little from rifle drills alone. Separate wings let cadets taste the life they want. That also feeds the right recruits to each service.

3 Chapter 3: Past Papers

Exam Point of View

CDS II 2019: the NCC motto

- The question asked directly for the motto of the NCC.

- The answer: “Unity and Discipline”.
- (Source: CDS II 2019, Q1.)

> **Quick check 3.** The NCC motto is “Unity and Discipline”. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

4 Chapter 4: Current Affairs

Current Affairs

NCC expands into SC-concentrated areas

- On 28 July 2026, the government said it is expanding NCC coverage in Scheduled Caste-concentrated areas and areas under PM-AJAY.
- Minister of State Ramdas Athawale gave the update in a Rajya Sabha written reply.
- 263 government schools have been identified under the initiative.
- Of these, 25 already have NCC units and 8 are on the waiting list.
- The remaining 230 have not yet applied.
- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment shared the list of 230 eligible schools with authorities in seven States and one Union Territory.
- No school from Maharashtra is on the list. (Source: PIB, 28 Jul 2026.)

A Vice Presidential briefing

- On 13 July 2026, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan was briefed on the NCC by the Ministry of Defence.
- The briefing described it as a nearly 20-lakh-strong organisation.

- He praised its Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camps and community service.
- He asked for more coordination with state governments on land and training infrastructure.
- The same briefing covered Sainik Schools. (Source: Vice President of India Secretariat.)

> **Quick check 4.** Of 263 identified schools, 25 already have NCC units. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Quick Q&A

- **NCC Act year?** 1948.
- **Air Wing added?** 1950.
- **Naval Wing added?** 1952.
- **State Directorates?** 17.
- **NCC motto?** Unity and Discipline.

Practice MCQs

1. On 15 July 1948, which Act brought the National Cadet Corps (NCC) into existence?

A. The National Cadet Corps Act

B. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act

C. The Indian Territorial Act

D. The Indian Defence Act

See answer ↓

2. The NCC's Air Wing was added in 1950, and its Naval Wing was added two years later. In what year did the Naval Wing join, completing the NCC's tri-services structure?

A. 1953

B. 1951

C. 1955

D. 1952

See answer ↓

3. What is the motto of the National Cadet Corps, adopted in 1980?

A. Duty, Honour, Country

B. Service Before Self

C. Unity and Discipline

D. Ever Onward

See answer ↓

4. The National Cadet Corps is headed by a Director General, based at its headquarters in Delhi. What rank does this officer hold?

A. Brigadier

B. Lieutenant General

C. Field Marshal

D. Major General

See answer ↓

5. On 13 July 2026, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan was briefed on the NCC and Sainik Schools by the Ministry of Defence. He specifically called for greater coordination with state governments on which issues, to help the NCC grow further?

A. Foreign collaboration agreements

B. Curriculum design and examinations

C. Officer recruitment quotas

D. Land and training infrastructure

See answer ↓

6. As of the Government's 28 July 2026 update, how many Government schools have been identified under the NCC expansion drive for SC-concentrated and PM-AJAY areas?

A. 263 schools

B. 150 schools

C. 230 schools

D. 300 schools

See answer ↓

7. The Government's NCC expansion initiative in SC-concentrated areas is linked to which scheme?

A. PM-AJAY

B. PM-SHRI

C. PM-DAKSH

D. PM-JANMAN

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** The NCC came into existence on 15 July 1948, under the National Cadet Corps Act. ↑ Q1
2. **D.** The Air Wing was added in 1950, and the Naval Wing in 1952, making the NCC a full tri-services organisation. ↑ Q2
3. **C.** The NCC adopted its motto, 'Unity and Discipline,' in 1980. ↑ Q3
4. **B.** The NCC is headed by a Director General, an Army Lieutenant General, based at its headquarters in Delhi. Below this, it is organised into 17 state-level Directorates. ↑ Q4
5. **D.** At the 13 July 2026 briefing, the Vice President called for greater coordination with state governments on issues like land and training infrastructure. (Source: Vice President of India Secretariat, 13 Jul 2026) ↑ Q5
6. **A.** 263 Government schools have been identified under the initiative. Of these, 25 already have NCC units, 8 are on the waiting list, and 230 have not yet applied. ↑ Q6
7. **A.** The initiative expands NCC coverage in areas under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), alongside SC-concentrated areas generally. Minister of State Ramdas Athawale gave this update in a Rajya Sabha written reply, on 28 July 2026. ↑ Q7

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **True.** ↑ 3
4. **True.** ↑ 4

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