

Growth and Transformation of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Higher Education Institutions of India: A Longitudinal Analysis (1948–2026)

Kusha Sharma^{1*} and Madhuri Hooda²

¹Assistant Professor (Education) & ANO NCC, J K & L Directorate, Government College for Women, Udhampur, University of Jammu, India

²Professor & HoD, Department of Education, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana, India

*Corresponding author: scholarkusha@gmail.com

Received: 16-03-2026

Revised: 25-05-2026

Accepted: 02-06-2026

ABSTRACT

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is unarguably the oldest uniformed youth organisation in India. Over the last 75 years it has acted as a critical bridge between the educational system and national safety, security and growth. This article aims to provide a comprehensive academic analysis of the growth of the NCC within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from its legislative inception in 1948 to the projected expansions by the year 2026. While assessing the compilation of historical enrolment data, this study critically examines the volatile compulsory training era of 1960s, the shift toward voluntarism, thereafter and the more recent "Gender Parity Initiative", driven by the introduction of Mixed Units. A special focus is laid on the Certificate 'C' being the primary catalyst for enrolment while analysing its role in providing career incentives for jobs within the Armed Forces, paramilitary organisations as well as the civilian sector. Furthermore, the article explores the integration of the NCC pedagogy into the national curriculum under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, as it has been a fundamental tool for human capital development and nation-building. The research adopts a qualitative synthesis approach by collating data from contemporary print news media and analysis longitudinal enrolment statistics of the NCC's Senior Division and Senior Wing. By integrating these records with an analysis of the broader national scenario, the paper attempts to interpret the organisational impact of NCC through the lens of enrolment record and historical event trends. This methodology declares that its findings are derived from a situational synthesis and detailed analysis of evolving societal patterns, thereby providing a fresh perspective to complement traditional empirical research.

Keywords: National Cadet Corps, Longitudinal study of NCC enrolments, Senior Division, Senior Wing

The primary rationale for this research was to analyse the significant growth and institutional evolution of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India. As the organisation expands toward a final sanctioned strength of 20 lakh cadets, it is essential to investigate the multi-faceted reasons driving student enrolment and the organisation's strategic responses to the changing global landscape.

A central driver for this study remains the role of the Certificate 'C' as a coveted certification

offering many benefits. For many student cadets, the rationale for joining the NCC finds its basis in the lucrative professional incentives, including, but not limited to, the direct entry into the Indian Armed Forces and substantial bonus marks in *Agniveer* and paramilitary recruitments. Beyond

How to cite this article: Sharma, K. and Hooda, M. (2026). Growth and Transformation of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Higher Education Institutions of India: A Longitudinal Analysis (1948–2026). *Educational Quest: An Int. J. Edu. Appl. Soc. Sci.*, 17(02): 161-171.

Source of Support: None; **Conflict of Interest:** None



this economic utility, the study reports the unique opportunity offered by NCC towards observation of defence careers, up close and the allure of the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP), which offers high-achieving cadets a prestigious chance to travel and represent India as youth ambassadors on the global stage. Furthermore, the article attempts to explore the intrinsic desire of the youth to inculcate self-discipline while developing a sense of patriotic commitment to the nation.

Finally, this article is necessitated by the NCC's recent, rapid curriculum modernisation initiative. As chronicled through contemporary media reports, the organisation is shifting toward a "New Training Philosophy" that prioritises technology and innovation, including specialised training in cyber defence, drone technology, and collaborations with premier agencies like DRDO and ISRO. By examining these shifts, the study attempts to highlight the NCC aim of remaining relevant in the third millennium thereby fulfilling its core objective to create promising, technologically savvy youth who are dedicated to serving the nation in multiple heterogenous domains.

The Institutional Genesis and Philosophy

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was formally established under the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948, following the recommendations of the H.N. Kunzru Committee (ET online, 2025) While its official birth followed independence, its roots lie in the University Corps created in 1917 under the Indian Defence Act to address manpower shortages during World War I (Directorate on NCC, n.d.). This was later restructured as the University Training Corps (UTC) in 1920 and the University Officers' Training Corps (UOTC) in 1942, models that directly shaped the structure of the contemporary NCC (Directorate of NCC, n.d.).

At its raising in 1948, the NCC was a modest organisation with approximately 20,000 cadets (Akashvani News, 2026; NCC Day 2025, 2025). Over time, the organisation was bifurcated into the Junior Division/Wing for schools and the Senior Division (SD) and Senior Wing (SW) for college and university students (ANO Hand Book, n.d.). The primary mission of NCC has not been purely military and the NCC has aimed for holistic development of character, comradeship, leadership,

and a secular outlook, among India's youth. In July 1949, the formal inauguration of the Senior Wing for women marked a significant shift toward inclusivity, creating a dual-track growth model for Higher Education Institutions (ANO Hand Book, n.d.).

Longitudinal Analysis of Enrolment Dynamics (1949–2025)

The numerical history of the NCC in HEIs is characterised by periods of rapid, crisis-driven expansion and subsequent strategic recalibration. The data on enrolments (Annex 1) as collected by the researchers from the NCC directorate, with due permissions is tabulated in Table 1.

The Formative Voluntary Phase (1949–1962)

The initial decade was a period of steady institutionalisation. In 1949, the SD had 14,275 cadets only, while the newly created SW had no enrolment in its first months (Table 1). Female enrolments began in 1950 with 270 SW cadets, a number which remained fixed for three years. This era also focused on establishing a tri-service identity: the Air Wing was raised in 1950, followed by the Naval Wing in 1952 (ANO Hand Book, n.d) By 1959, SD enrolment had touched the number of 81,755, and the SW had grown to 9,045, representing a stable voluntary and growing model (Table 1).

The 1960s Surge: The Era of Compulsory Training

Then came the most volatile and dramatic shift in NCC history. This was a follow-up of the 1962 Sino-Indian War. Recognising a need for widespread military preparedness, the government announced that NCC training was compulsory for all able-bodied undergraduate men in July 1963 (Banaras Hindu University, n.d).

The numerical explosion was therefore immediate. SD enrolment doubled from 407,667 in 1962 to 850,700 in 1963, eventually touching an all-time historical high of 1,145,700 cadets in 1967 (Table 1). This rapid expansion started outpacing the available military resources, leading to an extreme shortage of regular army instructors. To mitigate this, the NCC decided to hire ex-NCC girl cadets as Girl Cadet Instructors (GCIs), a move that laid

grounds for professional female presence within the organisation (ANO Hand Book, n.d.).

At around the same time, while women's participation remained voluntary, the SW started experiencing an extraordinary spurt. As a result, between 1964 and 1965, SW numbers surged from 13,500 to 79,400 cadets (Table 1). This six hundred per cent increase was largely attributed to the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War, during which Senior Wing cadets had executed vital civil defence duties, thereby providing medical support and assisting in traffic control etc., thereby enhancing the organisation's social standing and increasing its desirability among girl students (Ministry of Defence, 1965).

Recalibration and the "Data Gap" (1968–2005)

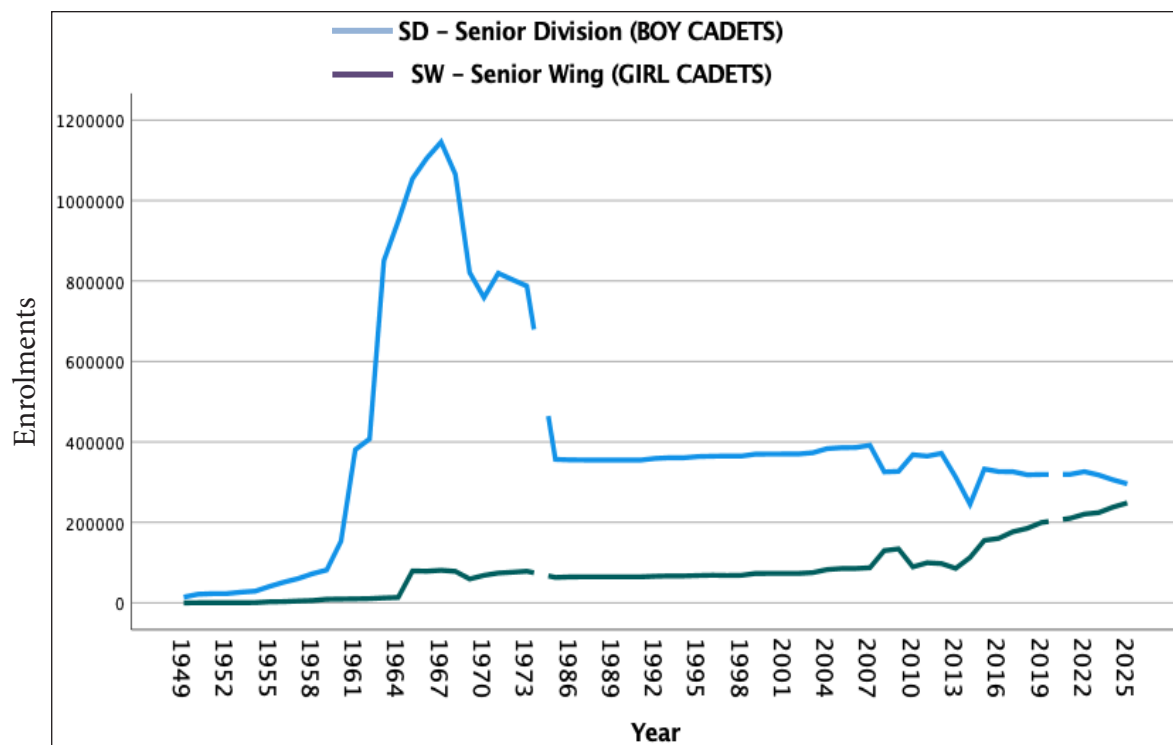
Over time, this compulsory model became unsustainable due to logistical reasons discussed earlier and also due to shift in national priorities. Many stakeholders from Education demanded the restoration to the erstwhile voluntary model (Malhotra, 2026). Consequently, in 1968, the NCC decided to shift back into the voluntary model while

shifting focus on attracting enrolments through quality training and leadership development. As a response, the SD numbers started reflecting a steady decline, falling to 787,600 by 1973 (Table 1).

A notable anomaly exists in our paper for what happened between 1974 and 1984, a period for which official year-wise enrolment statistics were not shared with the researcher while collecting the data. When data availability resumes i.e. the year 1985, the organisation had stabilised at a lower baseline of 356,720 SD cadets and 63,280 SW cadets. These figures remained relatively constant for the rest of the 20th century (Table 1).

Current Dynamics: The Gender Parity Era (2005–2026)

The 21st century observed a strategic policy shift toward gender inclusivity. One of the landmark decisions was the introduction of the Mixed Unit concept in the year 2005, which allowed men and women to enrol for the same battalion (Press Information Bureau, 2022). This was vital for smaller Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) that could not sustain separate girls' cadet units.



Note: (1) Data not available for 1974 – 1984; (2) Data not collated for year 2020 due to Covid.

Fig. 1

The data of this era reveals an intriguing divergence: while SD enrolment has been contracting (dropping to 296,050 in 2025), SW enrolment has been surging, reaching 248,478 in 2025 (Table 1). This could also be attributed to the possibility of careers as GCIs having been created in the NCC itself. Today, female participation stands at 40%, with the directorate aiming for a 50:50 ratio (The Hindu, 2025; *Akashvani* News, 2026). The total sanctioned strength has reached 20 lakh cadets, covering 90% of all the districts of India (*Akashvani* News, 2026; India Strategic, 2025; 'NCC syllabus revamped', 2025), while the total student strength across HEIs in India is about 4.5 crores.

Certificate 'C' as Enrolment Enhancer

It can be safely assumed that the high demand for NCC participation in HEIs is primarily driven by the significant career incentives associated with Certificate 'C'. The certificate acts as a career enhancer, providing NCC cadets with a distinct advantage across both military and civilian spheres (Proud NCC, 2026).

1. Direct Entry and Military Incentives

The most coveted benefit remains the Special Entry Scheme for the Indian Armed Forces. As per current rules, the Certificate 'C' holders with a minimum 'B' grade are eligible for a direct interview with the Service Selection Board (SSB), bypassing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) written exam (ANO Hand Book, n.d.; Press Information Bureau, 2025). For women, this is additionally impactful, as the Officers Training Academy (OTA) Chennai reserves 20% of its vacancies specifically for female NCC cadets (ANO Hand Book, n.d.; Press Information Bureau, 2025).

2. Agniveer Bonus Marks

Under the latest *Agniveer* recruitment scheme of the government of India, Certificate 'C' holders receive substantial bonus marks as per following marking patterns:

- ❑ Army GD: 20 marks (Proud NCC, 2026).
- ❑ Other Posts: 15 marks (Proud NCC, 2026).
- ❑ RDC Participation: If a 'C' certificate holder has also participated in the Republic Day Camp (RDC), the bonus marks increase to 25 for GD and 20 for other posts (Proud NCC, 2026).

3. Paramilitary and Civil Sector Benefits

Additionally, certificate 'C' holders are given 2 to 10 bonus marks for recruitment into paramilitary forces and the Department of Telecommunications (ANO Hand Book, n.d.). On similar lines, many state governments and private industries also give preference to these cadets, citing the "discipline advantage" as well as "knowledge of a set of soft skills including time management, leadership, and emotional resilience" developed through NCC training (ANO Hand Book, n.d.).

Core Values and Academic Integration

The growth of the NCC in HEIs has been further cemented by its integration into mainstream academics. Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the NCC is now being offered as an Open Elective Course, allowing students to earn academic credits for their training (Sharma & Hooda, 2026).

Academic studies have also validated the efficacy of NCC training. A 2015 study evaluated 25 essential soft skills—including critical thinking, adaptability, and work ethics—and reported that NCC training helped cadets achieve excellence in over 80% of these areas (Sonia, 2015). The NCC aims to instil ten core values, such as patriotism, respect for diversity, and commitment to the Indian Constitution, which are now being formally measured using Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) to improve pedagogy (Sharma & Hooda, 2026). The inculcation of these values marks an important objective from the point of view of the NEP also.

Modernising the NCC Curriculum: A Technology-Driven Paradigm Shift

1. In parallel, the NCC has been undergoing a comprehensive overhaul of its training philosophy with a mission to align with the rapid technological advancements of the third millennium. This "New Training Philosophy" aims for simulation-based training, spread of innovation and ideation etc. in order to replace traditional rote learning models (The Hindu, 2025). To provide cadets with exposure to cutting-edge domains, the NCC is extensively exploring collaborations with premier institutions such as the Defence Research & Development

Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) The Hindu, 2025).

2. Additionally, the organisation has been establishing specialised hubs across the nation, which are dedicated to drone and counter-drone technology (Deccan Herald, 2026). This modernisation aims to ensure that while cadets receive physical training, they are also being mentally prepared for contemporary challenges in national security (Akashvani News, 2026).

The Wall of Digital Defence - the 'Cyber Warriors' Initiative:

Another important aspect of the modernised curriculum is the Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme. This initiative aims to raise a specialised cadre of 10,000 'cyber warriors' who would be trained to serve as digital defence workers for the nation (Deccan Herald, 2026). This is a strategic collaboration between the NCC and the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) (PIB, 2026). This program is structured into multiple rigorous stages: a 15-hour online "Cyber Security Awareness" module for all cadets and an intensive 60-hour offline "Cyber Defender" course for merit-based selections (PIB, 2026).

Areas of Operation for NCC Cyber Warriors

These 10,000 warriors are intended to be digital trainees with a long-term vision of becoming functional assets for national security and digital literacy at the grassroots level (PIB, 2026). Use cases for this cadre include:

1. Spreading Grassroots Awareness and Digital Hygiene: These warriors are expected to lead community-based campaigns to educate citizens in rural and semi-urban areas about safe internet practices, password security, and the identification of phishing attempts (Press Information Bureau, 2026).
2. Exigency Reporting and First Response: Integrated with a national database, these cadets are to serve as local eyes and ears, who will be identifying and reporting cyber-threats or digital vulnerabilities within respective educational institutions as well

as local government offices (Deccan Herald, 2026).

3. Expanding 'Digital India': These warriors are to assist in the secure implementation of government digital services thereby ensuring that underprivileged populations can access these services without falling victim to cyber-fraud (Press Information Bureau, 2026).
4. Emergency Auxiliary Support: Replicating NCC's role in civil defence during physical wars, these cyber warriors shall be mobilised to support the national agencies during large-scale digital attacks or misinformation campaigns, thereby creating a trained reserve of youth technologically ready for digital warfare (Deccan Herald, 2026).

Disaster Response: 'Yuva Apda Mitras'

The NCC has also planned to significantly expand its mandate from auxiliary military training to becoming a frontline contributor to national resilience. A primary initiative in this domain remains the government's plan to train 1 lakh cadets as specialised first responders for natural disasters viz. "Yuva Apda Mitras". These specially trained cadets are being integrated into a national database to ensure that their skills are mobilised by civil authorities during emergencies (Deccan Herald, 2026).

Yuva Apda Mitras in action

1. High-Altitude Search and Rescue: The efficacy of specialised Yuva Apda Mitras was demonstrated in June 2026 during the 'All India NCC Mount Deo Tibba Expedition'. A team including Cadets Jitendra and Vibhor launched a daring mission to rescue George Richmond, a critically injured British cinematographer, after private operators deemed the weather too dangerous (ANI News, 2026). The cadets stabilised the impending casualty at high altitude and coordinated with the Indian Air Force for a successful evacuation (ANI News, 2026).
2. Civil Administration Support: During 'Operation Sindoor,' a number of approximately 75,000 cadets remained deployed to provide medical support and assist local administrations (Akashvani News,

2026). This role often includes management of large-scale blood donation drives. NCC cadets contributed 40,000 units of blood during this exercise (India Strategic, 2025).

3. Local Emergency Assistance: The NCC curriculum now includes mandatory modules on assistance during natural calamities like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes through the 'Avan' model of NCC (The Hindu, 2025). This training prepares the cadets to serve as organised community leaders who are supposed to manage groups and apply presence-of-mind during localised accidents or calamities (Sonia, 2025).

Cadets as Young Ambassadors

The Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) of NCC has emerged as a prestigious platform for "Track II" diplomacy. It allows India's youth to represent national values on a global stage (India News Calling, 2026). This programme aims mutual understanding and friendship with 25 friendly foreign countries (Akashvani News, 2026).

Youth Ambassadors in News

1. Global Representation: In 2026, two cadets from Lovely Professional University, were selected to represent India in Peru and the United Kingdom, respectively (India News Calling, 2026). Their role was to engage with international young leaders and promoting India's cultural heritage (India News Calling, 2026).
2. Diplomatic Interaction: During the annual Republic Day Camp (RDC), NCC cadets host officers and cadets from nearly 18 to 25 foreign nations (India Strategic, 2025). These interactions with international audiences provide a much valued use case for cadets to act as cultural liaisons, demonstrating Indian discipline and hospitality to foreign delegations (Akashvani News, 2026).
3. YEP Selection process: The selection process for YEP is one of the most competitive processes in the organisation, requiring high performance at the RDC and rigorous scrutiny by the Directorate General NCC (India News Calling, 2026). This "prestigious experience" excites cadets as a major inducement. Many

high-achieving college students join the corps, because failure to enrol means missing out on unique international leadership opportunities.

Tech Integration: From Simulation to Cyber Defence

As reported in news, the NCC has adopted a "New Training Philosophy" to remain relevant in the "Third Millennium," shifting away from traditional methods and towards a curriculum heavy on technology and innovation. This revamp is carefully designed to organise cadets mentally, for contemporary security challenges (The Hindu, 2025) which are systematically planned through simulation-based training, ideation, and digital literacy.

Latest Training Grounds

1. Aviation and Drone Training Centres: The NCC has established four to five specialised hubs across India, dedicated to training of select cadets in drone and counter-drone measures (Deccan Herald, 2026). Cadets can gain Civil Aviation Authority-endorsed drone qualifications, which are highly applicable in modern logistics and defence.
2. Collaboration with National Scientific Development agencies: These integrations aim to ensure that cadets, even if they choose civilian careers, possess a foundational understanding of wireless technologies, satellite communications, and national scientific infrastructure. To expose the cadets to cutting-edge science, the NCC now organises regular visits to, and introductory capsules in association with, the DRDO, ISRO, and NPCIL (India Strategic, 2025).

Findings

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has been undergoing a profound transformation ever since its inception, but more so in the past decade. As it evolved from its 1917 roots as a colonial-era University Corps into a vital pillar of modern India's human capital development, it is now evolving into a modern force aiming to inculcate values among students of HEIs. The current longitudinal analysis has profoundly brought out that the organisation

is no longer a mere post-independence auxiliary but a technology-driven institution. It is now fully integrated into the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a credit-bearing elective. While the primary driver for its sustained relevance in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) remained the significant career incentives of Certificate 'C', which acts as a "career springboard" by offering direct entry into the Armed Forces and essential bonus marks for recruitment into paramilitary and civilian sectors, the specific training and exposure to enhance innovation and skills in latest domains is alluring the students in all new ways.

The journey to this current state has been marked by periods of extreme volatility, particularly during the 1960s. The 1962 Sino-Indian War had triggered an era of compulsory training that saw Senior Division (SD) enrolment peak at a historical high of over 1.1 million cadets in 1967. This era also highlighted the organisation's resilience; where military resources were strained, the professionalisation of the Senior Wing (SW) began, with girl cadets serving in critical civil defence roles during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War. The historical surges lucidly demonstrate how national security priorities have governed the organisation's scale and social standing over the decades.

Off-late, the NCC has been navigating a "Gender Parity Initiative" and a "Comprehensive Technological Paradigm Shift". With female participation reaching 40 per cent and a clear path toward a 50:50 ratio, the introduction of the Mixed Units has paved the way for inclusivity which is highlighted as a central institutional goal. Simultaneously, the "New Training Philosophy" clearly eyes the 21st-century challenges by moving away from rote methods toward innovation-heavy domains. Specialised hubs for drone technology, collaborations with premier agencies like DRDO and ISRO, and the creation of 10,000 'Cyber Warriors' shall be the ways to ensure that cadets are technically prepared for modern security landscapes.

The organisation's parallel expansion into disaster resilience through the training of 1 lakh 'Yuva Apda Mitras' positions cadets as frontline contributors to national stability, as evidenced by high-altitude search and rescue missions reported in news and large-scale administrative support operations

during operations like 'Operation Sindoor'. The international platforms like the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP), continue to attract cadets wanting to serve as youth ambassadors, representing Indian values and discipline on the global stage through Track II diplomacy.

This study, synthesised from longitudinal data and print news records, provides a broad overview of an organisation that is successfully evolving by merging lucrative career inducements with modern civic responsibilities. By producing disciplined, technologically savvy, and patriotic youth, the NCC is continuing to contribute to the nation's growth across both military and civilian domains in a major way.

Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research

There has been a specific methodological framework from which these findings are derived. The conclusions presented are primarily synthesised from a longitudinal analysis of year-wise enrolment data (1948–2026) and a detailed review of print news items and official press releases. The reliance on public records and participation statistics serves as a foundational "general scenario" analysis which distinguishes the findings from those of a controlled experimental study.

One significant situational analysis reported is the interpretation of historical "surges" and "recalibrations." For instance, the dramatic rise in Senior Division enrolment to over 1.1 million in 1967 was a direct response to the 1962 Sino-Indian War, while the surge in Senior Wing participation in 1965 was driven by civil defence duties during the Indo-Pakistan War. These interpretations are collated from historical print news and regimental records, reflecting how national security crises have historically dictated the scale of the organisation and those reports may have been questionable in their times. Additionally, the study has duly acknowledged inherent limitations in the data, such as the "Data Gap" between 1974 and 1984 where official year-wise statistics were not provided by the NCC directorate, and the 2020 gap also, which was necessitated by the global pandemic.

The more contemporary findings of the "Gender Parity Pivot" and "New Training Philosophy" are

similarly analysed through the lens of ongoing national initiatives reported in the current media. Projects such as the training of 10,000 'Cyber Warriors' and 1 lakh 'Yuva Apda Mitras' are evaluated based on their envisioned functional roles or as functional assets for national security and digital hygiene, as detailed in recent news regarding NCC directorate's plans. While these initiatives point to a paradigm shift toward simulation-based and high-tech training, their long-term efficacy needs to be collated and studied as an ongoing development within the country's general socio-technical scenario.

Finally, this research attempt serves as a preliminary synthesis of how the NCC has been adapting to India's changing priorities especially in terms of the data of its enrolment figures across HEIs. Extrapolating enrolment trends for SD and SW cadets as a proxy for organisational health and career demand, this paper provides a macro-level overview of NCC. Future research should aim to supplement this situational data with direct psychometric evaluations of cadets to further validate the behavioural impact of NCC trainings

GENERATIVE AI DECLARATION

The author(s) confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript, and no images were manipulated using AI. The authors developed and verified all scientific content, data analysis, interpretation of results, and conclusions. The authors take full responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work presented, and no AI tool was listed as an author.

REFERENCES

- Akashvani News. 2026. Downloaded from <https://newsonair.gov.in/over-2400-ncc-cadets-to-participate-in-republic-day-camp-2026/> on 24-06-2026
- Akashvani News. 2026. Downloaded from <https://newsonair.gov.in/govt-plans-to-boost-ncc-strength-to-20-lakh-expand-role-in-national-development-and-security/> on 24-06-2026
- ANI News. 2026. Downloaded from <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/ncc-mount-deo-tibba-expedition-team-rescues-critically-injured-british-cinematographer-in-daring-high-altitude-operation20260624031035/> on 24-06-2026
- ANO Handbook (n.d.) Downloaded from https://ncc.du.ac.in/downloads/ANO%20Hand%20Book_1.pdf on 24-06-2026
- Banaras Hindu University. (n.d.). Downloaded from https://www.bhu.ac.in/site/Page/1_3283_4817_3688_National-Cadet-Corps-History on 24-06-2026
- Deccan Herald, 2026. Downloaded from <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/ncc-plans-to-train-1-lakh-cadets-as-first-responders-for-natural-disasters-3850273> on 24-06-2026.
- Directorate of NCC, 2026. Downloaded from <https://ncc.delhi.gov.in/ncc/genesis-ncc> on 24-06-2026
- ET Online. Downloaded from <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/ncc-day-2025-from-20k-cadets-to-the-worlds-biggest-uniformed-youth-organization-national-cadet-corps-celebrates-78th-raising-day-today/born-in-1948-the-founding-story-of-ncc/slideshow/125515512.cms?from=mdr> on 24-06-2026
- Geetha, J. and Sarkar, R. 2025. National Cadet Corps (NCC) and its role in national human capital development. *Cuestiones de Fisioterapia*, 54(2): 4837–4847..
- India Strategic 2025. Downloaded from <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/ncc-plans-to-train-1-lakh-cadets-as-first-responders-for-natural-disasters-3850273> on 24-06-2026
- Ministry of Defence, 2025. Downloaded from <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2089855®=48&lang=> on 24-06-2026
- India News Calling. 2026. Downloaded from <https://www.indianewscalling.com/news/186780-lpu-ncc-cadets-selected-to-represent-india-in-uk-and-peru-under-prestigious-youth-exchange-programme.aspx> on 24-06-2026
- Jain, S., Mor, R. and Mogra, D. 2025. Role of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in developing personality, discipline and leadership qualities in college students. *Journal of Community Mobilization and Sustainable Development*, 20(3): 888–894..
- Malhotra, J. 2026. Role of National Cadet Corps in Developing 21st Century Skills. *SSR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(3): 94-100.
- Ministry of Defence. 1965. Notification: Duties of NCC officers and cadets in 1965 war. The Gazette of India..
- National Cadet Corps. (n.d.). ANO hand book: Concept of training, organization, and incentives. Ministry of Defence, Government of India..
- Press Information Bureau, 2025. Downloaded from <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2199342®=3&lang=1> on 24-06-2026
- India News Calling, 2025. Downloaded from <https://www.indianewscalling.com/news/186780-lpu-ncc-cadets-selected-to-represent-india-in-uk-and-peru-under-prestigious-youth-exchange-programme.aspx> on 24-06-2026
- Proud NCC. 2026. NCC certificate benefits in Army Agniveer 2026 https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Pli6Ia_JYqY
- PTI. 2026. Downloaded from https://www.deccanherald.com/india/ncc-plans-to-train-1-lakh-cadets-as-first-responders-for-natural-disasters-3850273#google_vignette on 24-06-2026

Sarkar, U. and Margaj, S.M. 2015. Role of National Cadet Corps in developing soft skills among youth in India. *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, **6**(11): 1322–1325.

Sharma, K. and Hooda, M. 2026. *Developing & Validating a Tool to Measure Core Values Aimed by the NCC – An EFA Approach*(Manuscript in preparation), Department of Education, MDU Rohtak.

Sonia, 2025. Role of National Cadet Corps in Developing Leadership among Youth in India. *Inspira-Journal of Commerce, Economics & Computer Science*, **11**(2): 194-202.

The Hindu, 2025. Downloaded from 'NCC syllabus revamped with focus on tech and innovation'. *The Hindu*.. on 24-06-2026.

Annexure 1

Table 1: Year-wise enrolments of NCC in SD & SW (since inception)

SD: Senior Division (Boy Cadets). SW: Senior Wing (Girl Cadets)

Year	SD	SW	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)
1949	14275	0	14275	100	0.00
1950	21493	270	21763	98.76	1.24
1951	22898	270	23168	98.83	1.17
1952	23038	270	23308	98.84	1.16
1953	26588	420	27008	98.44	1.56
1954	29130	660	29790	97.78	2.22
1955	40887	2670	43557	93.87	6.13
1956	51424	3150	54574	94.23	5.77
1957	60386	4620	65006	92.89	7.11
1958	72423	5790	78213	92.60	7.40
1959	81755	9045	90800	90.04	9.96
1960	153278	9540	162818	94.14	5.86
1961	380811	9990	390801	97.44	2.56
1962	407667	10620	418287	97.46	2.54
1963	850700	12300	863000	98.57	1.43
1964	948700	13500	962200	98.60	1.40
1965	1054600	79400	1134000	93.00	7.00
1966	1105400	78800	1184200	93.35	6.65
1967	1145700	81000	1226700	93.40	6.60
1968	1065500	78400	1143900	93.15	6.85
1969	821200	59400	880600	93.25	6.75
1970	759100	68400	827500	91.73	8.27
1971	819600	74200	893800	91.70	8.30
1972	803400	76200	879600	91.34	8.66
1973	787600	78600	866200	90.93	9.07
1985	356720	63280	420000	84.93	15.07
1986	355505	64495	420000	84.64	15.36
1987	355200	64800	420000	84.57	15.43
1988	355200	64800	420000	84.57	15.43
1989	355200	64800	420000	84.57	15.43
1990	355200	64800	420000	84.57	15.43
1991	355200	64800	420000	84.57	15.43
1992	359140	66160	425300	84.44	15.56
1993	360880	67020	427900	84.34	15.66
1994	360880	67020	427900	84.34	15.66
1995	363830	67980	431810	84.26	15.74
1996	364613	68702	433315	84.15	15.85
1997	365131	68107	433238	84.28	15.72
1998	364921	68492	433413	84.20	15.80
1999	369771	73192	442963	83.48	16.52
2000	369996	73227	443223	83.48	16.52
2001	370096	73282	443378	83.47	16.53

2002	370146	73282	443428	83.47	16.53
2003	373189	75254	448443	83.22	16.78
2004	383475	82828	466303	82.24	17.76
2005	385825	85249	471074	81.90	18.10
2006	386279	85512	471791	81.88	18.12
2007	391774	87405	479179	81.76	18.24
2008	325690	129972	455662	71.48	28.52
2009	326917	134188	461105	70.90	29.10
2010	368276	89510	457786	80.45	19.55
2011	364844	99663	464507	78.54	21.46
2012	371764	97705	469469	79.19	20.81
2013	312429	85764	398193	78.46	21.54
2014	245162	112692	357854	68.51	31.49
2015	332758	155320	488078	68.18	31.82
2016	326366	160278	486644	67.06	32.94
2017	326060	176819	502879	64.84	35.16
2018	318411	185237	503648	63.22	36.78
2019	319162	199792	518954	61.50	38.50
2021	319519	210169	529688	60.32	39.68
2022	326264	220632	546896	59.66	40.34
2023	317902	224389	542291	58.62	41.38
2024	305925	238023	543948	56.24	43.76
2025	296050	248478	544528	54.37	45.63

**No data shared with the researcher for the years 1974 to 1984.*

*** Due to Covid-19 Pandemic, no data maintained for year 2020.*

