

National Cadet Corps

August 17, 2020

The Defence Minister has approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps for a major **expansion scheme** to meet the aspirations of youth in all the border and coastal districts. A total of **one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC**. One-third of the cadets would be girl cadets. More than 1000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.

Expansion of NCC

As part of the expansion plan, a total of 83 NCC units will be upgraded (Army 53, Navy 20, Air Force 10), to impart NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas. **The Army will provide training and administrative support to the NCC units located in the border areas, Navy shall provide support to NCC units in the coastal areas and similarly Air Force will provide support to the NCC units located close to the Air Force stations.** This will not only provide exposure to the youth of the border and coastal areas to military training and disciplined way of life but will also motivate them to join the armed forces. The NCC expansion plan will be implemented in partnership with the States.

The aims of the NCC laid out in 1988 have stood the test of time and continue to meet the requirements expected of it in the current socio-economic scenario of the country. The NCC aims at **developing character, comradeship, discipline, a secular outlook, the spirit of adventure and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.** Further, it aims at creating a pool of organized, trained and motivated youth with leadership qualities in all walks of life, who will serve the Nation regardless of which career they choose. Needless to say, the NCC also provides an environment conducive to

motivating young Indians to join the armed forces.

The **Kashmir War of 1948** taught a very important lesson to India, that freedom needs to be protected by strong armed forces. Its immediate manifestation was that the **recommendations of Kunzuru committee were placed before the Constituent Assembly (Legislature) on 13 Mar 1948**. A draft Bill was sent to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on 19 Mar 1948, which evoked great interest and enthusiasm amongst all members. After due deliberations and amendments, the Bill was passed by the Assembly on 08 Apr 1948. The Central Govt accepted the opinion of the Provincial Govts and the Standing Committee's recommendations for the formation of a Cadet Corps which was to be named as "National Cadet Corps", as recommended by the Kunzru Committee.

The first step in the process of raising of the NCC was **setting up of the NCC Secretariat now called Headquarters Directorate General NCC**. In fact, even before the NCC Bill was passed by the Constituent Assembly (Legislative), the Ministry of Defence had set up the nucleus of the NCC Secretariat, with Col (later retired as Chief of Army Staff) Gopal Gurunath Bewoor as first Director of the NCC. He took over as Director of NCC on 31 Mar 1948.