



Defence Secretary Leads NCC's 78th Raising Day Commemoration at National War Memorial

Tri-Service NCC Girl Cadets Pay Homage at National War Memorial

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The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is set to celebrate its 78th Raising Day on November 23, 2025, with commemorative events planned across the country. As a prelude to the celebrations, a solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held at the National War Memorial, New Delhi, on November 22, 2025, where Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh and Director General NCC Lt Gen Virendra Vats laid a wreath & paid homage to the fallen heroes on behalf of the entire organisation. The observance set the tone for a nationwide celebration that highlighted the NCC's steadfast role in nation building and youth development.

Three NCC girl cadets from the Tri-Services also laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes, joining the senior leadership in honouring the nation's bravehearts. After the ceremony, the Defence Secretary, DG NCC and the gathering witnessed a band performance by NCC cadets drawn from various Delhi schools, adding a ceremonial touch to the commemoration.

From its establishment in 1948 with just 20,000 cadets, the NCC has grown into the world's largest uniformed youth organisation with 20 lakh cadets, including an increase of 6 lakh cadets between 2014 and 2025. Today, its footprint extends to 713 out of India's 780 districts, making it one of the most widely represented youth institutions in the country.

Across states and union territories, cadets commemorated the day through a series of public-service initiatives like blood donation drives, tree plantation activities, 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaigns and anti-drug awareness programmes under Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan. These efforts demonstrated the organisation's continued focus on community engagement, environmental protection and social responsibility.

Addressing the gathering, the Defence Secretary applauded the NCC's contributions in multiple spheres. He highlighted flagship initiatives such as Apda Mitra disaster-response training, the NCC Mt. Everest expedition and the inclusion of Drone & Cyber training in the curriculum.

As the NCC observes its 77th anniversary, it continues to evolve as a vibrant and future-ready organisation, preparing disciplined, socially aware and technologically skilled youth committed to strengthening a Viksit Bharat.

SR/KB

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