

AGENCY AND ENGAGEMENT

College-Based Civic Platform (NSS / NCC / Student Union)

WHAT THIS INSTITUTION IS

This is not a separate building, it is a set of platforms that exist inside colleges. The National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), student unions, and MY Bharat volunteering cells are the main civic and leadership platforms for college-going youth. NSS is a 100% Central Sector Scheme since 01.04.2016 (Centrally Sponsored upto 2015-16). NSS operates at both college/university and +2 (Senior Secondary) school level; at +2 level, the NSS Cell sits in the State Directorate of Senior Secondary Education. NCC operates under the Ministry of Defence. MY Bharat was established in October 2023 as an autonomous body; MY Bharat (formerly Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)) functions were formally integrated into the MY Bharat framework from May 2025, and now serves as the operational backbone for many youth volunteering schemes. Many colleges register as MY Bharat activity centres, and existing NSS/NCC units are increasingly linked to the portal for digital tracking and certificates; on MY Bharat, NSS Programme Officers typically serve as the institutional verifier for student registrations and event participation from their college. These should be checked during college visits, not as a separate trip.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you are in college, NSS gives you community service experience, NCC gives you military training and a certificate valued in government hiring, and MY Bharat connects you to volunteering opportunities with digital certificates. These are the main structured platforms for civic engagement available to you.



GOVERNANCE

LAW / POLICY	SCOPE
NSS Guidelines (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)	100% Central Sector Scheme since 2016-17; community service programme
NCC Act, 1948 (amended)	Military training for youth under Ministry of Defence
Lyngdoh Committee Recommendations, 2006	UGC-adopted framework for democratic student union elections
MY Bharat Notification, 2023	Autonomous youth engagement body; NYKS integrated May 2025

- **NSS:** MoYAS → Directorate of NSS (Delhi) → 15 Regional Directorates (field offices headed by Regional Directors) → State NSS Cell headed by State NSS Officer (SNO), located in a designated department of the State Government → University NSS Cell with a Programme Coordinator (PC) → College/Institution NSS unit run by a Programme Officer (faculty). In states with large multi-district universities, Programme Coordinators may be supported by District Coordinators. Each unit: normally 100 volunteers. **Self-Financing Units (SFUs):** any institution meeting NSS eligibility may set up an NSS unit at its own cost (nominal fees, CSR or other legitimate sources); SFUs are eligible for the same camps, awards and recognitions as funded units. **College NSS Advisory Committee** (Principal as chair; Programme Officer as Member Secretary; faculty + student representatives; reviews camp plans and volunteer activities) per NSS Manual.
- **NCC:** Ministry of Defence → NCC Directorates → Group HQ → College NCC unit. Associate NCC Officer (ANO, faculty member) manages the unit. Internal hierarchy of cadets: Senior Under Officer → Under Officer → Junior Under Officer → Cadet.
- **Student Union:** Elected or nominated student body, governed by a college-level constitution or student-handbook rules. States adopting the Lyngdoh Committee model appoint a Returning Officer for elections with prescribed age limits, expense caps, and conduct rules.
- **MY Bharat:** mybharat.gov.in. Many colleges register as MY Bharat activity centres; the host institution typically appoints a campus coordinator linking it to the district MY Bharat (formerly NYK) office.
- **Funding:** NSS is fully central-funded; per-volunteer support (per the NSS organisation page, Feb 2025) is approximately Rs 400/year for regular activities, with an additional ~Rs 700/volunteer once in two years for the Special Camping Programme. NCC: Defence budget. Student unions: small college allocation. MY Bharat: largely unfunded at college level.



KEY POSITIONS

POSITION	RESPONSIBILITY
NSS Programme Coordinator (PC)	Faculty member at university level coordinating all NSS units across affiliated colleges; reports to State NSS Officer. For +2 level, the PC sits in the State Directorate of Senior Secondary Education (or equivalent); the post is full-time where +2 NSS volunteer strength exceeds 10,000, otherwise part-time
NSS Programme Officer	Faculty member coordinating community service, camps, and awareness drives at the unit level
NCC Associate NCC Officer (ANO)	Faculty member managing the NCC unit; weekly parades and certificate exams
Student Union President / Secretary	Elected or nominated student leaders representing student interests
Dean of Student Welfare	Faculty member overseeing all extracurricular and student welfare activities

MANDATED SERVICES

- **NSS:** 120 hours of community service per year per volunteer; one 7-day special camp per year in a village or urban area. Activity areas: Education, Health, Family Welfare and Nutrition, Environment Conservation, Improving Status of Women, Production-oriented programmes, and Relief & Rehabilitation during natural calamities
- **NCC:** military training, discipline, national integration; weekly parades, annual training camps, and 'B' / 'C' certificate exams with preference in armed forces and government hiring
- **Student Union:** represent student interests, organise cultural and sports events, interface with administration on grievances
- **MY Bharat:** volunteering opportunities (blood donation, tree planting, Digital India campaigns) with digital certificates. MY Bharat additionally runs structured Experiential Learning Programmes (ELPs), short attachments to industry, government and NGOs of varying duration (typically 15 to 30 days, 120 to 360 hours), with digital certificates issued via the portal

LINKED SCHEMES

- **NSS (Central Sector Scheme)** – camp expenses, volunteer insurance, national and state awards
- **NCC** – uniforms, camp expenses, training equipment, certificate exams with hiring preferences
- **MY Bharat** – digital volunteering platform, certificates, and national camps for youth aged 15-29

HOW TO LOCATE

Portal: mybharat.gov.in – registered activity centres and events by district; nss.gov.in/en/nss-directories-view – state-wise PDF directories of all NSS units organised by Regional Directorate

Also: Visit any government degree college, polytechnic, or university in the district and ask about NSS, NCC, and the student union



KEY FACILITIES

NSS uses a small office room and college spaces for activities. NCC needs a parade ground (often the college playground) and a store for uniforms and equipment. Student unions may or may not have a designated office room. No dedicated infrastructure is required beyond what the college provides.

WHAT A FUNCTIONING COLLEGE CIVIC PLATFORM LOOKS LIKE

- The college has an active NSS unit with a special camp conducted in the last year and documented volunteer participation
- An NCC unit is operational with enrolled cadets and weekly parades happening
- Student union elections have been held in the last 2 years, or a nominated council exists and is accessible
- Students are registered on MY Bharat and aware of the platform
- A Dean of Student Welfare is accessible to students during college hours

E. Baseline Enabling Infrastructure

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

During service delivery. The first point of contact is the NSS Programme Officer (NSS), Associate NCC Officer (NCC), or Student Union President / Dean of Student Welfare (unions / MY Bharat). The college Principal is the internal escalation.

After service. Escalation is to the State NSS Cell, NCC Directorate / Group HQ, UGC (for student-union and Lyngdoh-compliance matters), and NYKS / MY Bharat autonomous body.

External. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports runs Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) (pgportal.gov.in). NSS-specific complaints go to nss.gov.in. NCC Directorate has a dedicated grievance channel. MY Bharat grievances route through mybharat.gov.in. UGC handles student-union electoral (Lyngdoh) complaints at ugc.gov.in. The National Anti-Ragging Helpline (1800-180-5522) has jurisdiction on ragging matters in NSS/NCC camps.
