

ABOUT NSS IN BRIEF

After independence the [University Grants Commission](#), headed by [S. Radhakrishnan](#), recommended the introduction of voluntary [national service](#) in academic institutions. This idea was again considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) at its meeting in January, 1950; after examining the idea and the experiences of other countries in this field, the board recommended that students and teachers should devote time to voluntary manual work. In the draft [first Five-Year Plan](#) adopted by the government in 1952, the need for social and labour service by Indian students for one year was stressed. In 1958 [Jawaharlal Nehru](#), in a letter to the chief ministers, considered the idea of social service as a prerequisite for graduation. He directed the Ministry of Education to formulate a suitable scheme for the introduction of national service into academic institutions.^[1]

Launch of NSS

In May 1969, a conference of student representatives (of universities and institutions of higher education) convened by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission also unanimously agreed that a national-service scheme could be an instrument for national integration. The details were soon worked out and the Planning Commission sanctioned an outlay of Rs. five crores for the NSS during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, stipulating that the NSS be a pilot project in select institutions and universities. On 24 September, then-Union Education Minister [V.K.R.V. Rao](#) launched the NSS at 37 universities in all states. The scheme has been extended to all states and universities in the country, and also +2-level institutes in many states.

Symbol of NSS

The symbol for the NSS has been based on the giant Rath Wheel of the world famous Konark Sun Temple (The Black Pagoda) situated in Orissa, India. The wheel portrays the cycle of creation, preservation and release. It signifies the movement in life across time and space, the symbol thus stands for continuity as well as change and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social change. The eight bars in the wheel represent the 24 hours of a day. The red colour indicates that the volunteer is full of young blood that is lively, active, energetic and full of high spirit. The navy blue colour indicates the cosmos of which the NSS is tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.

Aim

The programme aims to inculcate social [welfare](#) in students, and to provide service to society without bias. NSS volunteers work to ensure that everyone who is needy gets help to enhance their [standard of living](#) and lead a life of dignity. In doing so, volunteers learn from people in villages how to lead a good life despite a scarcity of resources. It also provides help in natural and man-made disasters by providing food, clothing and first aid to the disaster victims.

Organisation

Most government and government-aided institutions (schools and colleges) have volunteer NSS units, and AQ institutions are encouraged to have NSS volunteers. A unit typically comprises 20–40 students. They are managed internally by a responsible party from the school (or college), 1

who reports to the regional NSS coordinator. Most institutions do not have a separate uniform for NSS volunteers.

Annual NSS Camps

Camps are held annually, funded by the government of India, and are usually located in a rural village or a city suburb. Volunteers may be involved in such activities as:

1. Cleaning
2. [Afforestation](#)
3. Stage shows or a procession creating awareness of such issues as social problems, education and cleanliness
4. Awareness Rallies
5. Inviting doctors for health camps

There are no predefined or pre-assigned tasks; it is left up to the volunteers to provide service in any way that is feasible. Camps typically last between a week and 10 days, although camps for shorter periods are also conducted by NSS.

Objectives behind the NSS:

- To enable the students to understand the community in which they work.
- To understand themselves in relation to their community.
- To identify the needs and problems in the community in the solution of which they can be involved.
- To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- To apply education- find practical solution to individual & community problems.
- To develop competence required for group living and sharing responsibilities.
- Gain skills in mobilising community participation.
- To acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude.
- To develop capacity to meet emergencies and national disasters
- To practice national integration.

NSS Charter:

The NSS at Kits provides each student with a significant context in which He/She can arrive at a deeper understanding of social reality in India today. The NSS encourages the meaning of the life through service.

NSS Motto:

The motto or watchword of the National Service Scheme is 'NOT ME BUT YOU'. This reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for selfless service and appreciation of the other person's point of view and also to show consideration for fellow human beings. It underlines that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society on the whole. Therefore, it should be the aim of the NSS to demonstrate this motto in its day-to-day programme.

NSS Day:

NSS was formally launched on 24th September, 1969, the birth centenary year of the Father of the Nation. Therefore, 24 September is celebrated every year as NSS Day with appropriate programmes and activities.

NSS Logo:

The symbol of the National Service Scheme is based on the 'Rath' wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Orissa. These giant wheels of the Sun Temple portray the cycle of creation, preservation and release, and signify the movement in life across time and space. The design of the symbol, a simplified form of the Sun-chariot wheel primarily depicts movement. The wheel signifies the progressive cycle of life. It stands for continuity as well as change and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social transformation and upliftment.

NSS Badge:

The NSS symbol is embossed on the NSS badge. The NSS volunteers wear it while undertaking any programme of community service. The Konark wheel in the symbol has eight bars which represent the 24 hours of the day. Hence, the badge reminds the wearer to be in readiness for service of the nation round the clock i.e. for 24 hours. The Red colour in the badge indicates that the NSS volunteers are full of bold i.e. lively, active energetic and full of high spirit. The navy blue colour indicates the cosmos of which the NSS is a tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.

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