

CNS Address at NCC RD Camp on 17 January 2018

1. Lt Gen SAHRAWAT, Director General NCC, Guests from Friendly Foreign Nations, Officers and my dear Cadets.
2. On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the National Cadet Corps, I extend my deep appreciation and warm felicitations to all ranks, civilians and cadets of NCC.
3. It is particularly delightful to speak to a young group like you for two reasons. First, I do not get such an opportunity very often and second and more importantly, you are the future of our country.
4. At the outset let me congratulate you for your outstanding turnout and an impressive Band display. As cadets of the world's largest uniformed youth organisation, your pride is more than evident. I must also congratulate you for an excellent briefing and enthralling cultural programme that celebrates our heritage and culture.
5. The National Cadet Corps truly represents what our country stands for *through celebration of our Unity in Diversity* as well as the *spirit of a Secular and United India*.
6. I was delighted to learn that some of you had the opportunity to sail onboard INS Tir and experience first-hand the excitement on the high seas. A few of you also undertook the sailing expedition from Bhavnagar to Dwarka. I am pleased to know that some keen yachtsman amongst you have been awarded *the Yachting Association of India level one certification*. The achievements notched up by you in various sporting and adventure activities through the year are indeed commendable.
7. As each of you seek your place under the sun and make your own fate, you will each contribute towards our Nation's progress. Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made through hard work and perseverance.

As Chanakya said, 'A person is great by his deeds, not by his birth'.

8. Good leaders develop through continued introspection, reflection, education, preparation and experience. Each and every one of you can be a leader, if you are willing to observe, imbibe and persevere.

9. As you step-up and take on the mantle to shape the future of our nation, remember, it is how you execute even your most common actions, that will define you and take you places.

10. The National Cadet Corps as an organisation helps you hone your life skills. NCC has consistently empowered the youth who have gone on to set standards - whether in the Services, in the Government or even in the private sector. The bonding, the camaraderie and the leadership experience which the shared rigours of NCC training provides will always hold you all in good stead.

11. To you, NCC presents a first-hand opportunity to engage in adventure as well as nation-building activities while simultaneously pursuing academic excellence.

12. I would like to tell you that, if you would like to serve our country with pride and have the opportunity to serve under water, on the surface of the seas, on land, or indeed in the air, then a career in the Armed Forces is the right choice for you. And, of course, I would particularly recommend the Indian Navy to you! The smallest, but fastest growing force with increasing capabilities and expanding footprint across the seas and oceans.

13. As leader of the proud men and women who don the white uniform, I can assure you that the Indian Navy is not just another job or career; it is a 'way of life'. The camaraderie and kinship is strong; one works shoulder to shoulder with others and learns to appreciate the importance of commitment, credibility, courage, compassion and integrity.

14. Personally, I would be delighted if some of you join my wonderful Service. *But, it is a purely personal choice*; I feel that one should follow their heart; then you wake up each morning looking forward to the next

day and your job feels like a hobby. That's how life has been for me at least.

15. I am aware, how hard all of you have worked to make yourself eligible to reach here. It is certainly not an easy task. Let me also tell you that expectations from the NCC contingent at the Republic Day Parade have been rising with each passing year. I am very sure all of you are going to work even harder to make this the best contingent of this year's parade. All the best!

16. I have no doubt that your generation will take our nation to even greater heights. Every activity that you do at NCC makes you a better person for tomorrow and a better example for others to follow. Therefore, I personally attach a lot of importance to this institution. I am confident that NCC will continue this trend and guide the Nation's youth.

17. In the end, I wish to congratulate you, once again, on your excellent performance today and wish you all the very best for the final event.

18. I look forward to seeing you at the Navy House this evening, and even more, to see some of you in the white uniform in a few years from now.

19. While you continue to pursue your dreams, do enjoy the moment, keep smiling and keep working hard.

Jai Hind!