National Service Scheme

❖ Origins and Evolution of the NSS

The concept of national service in India evolved through decades of planning, committee recommendations, and visionary leadership before taking its final shape in 1969.

Year / Period	Milestone & Key Figures	Description
Post-Independence	**Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Commission**	Recommended introducing voluntary national service across academic institutions.
1952	**First Five-Year Plan**	Stressed the need for students to dedicate one year to social and labour service.
1958	**Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**	Wrote to chief ministers considering social service as a prerequisite for graduation.
1959	**C.D. Deshmukh Committee**	Appointed to draft a concrete pilot project (initially proposed 9 months to a year of service).
1964–1966	**D.S. Kothari Education Commission**	Recommended associating students at every stage of education with social service.

Year / Period	Milestone & Key Figures	Description
September 1969	**Official Launch**	Launched on **24 September 1969** by then-Union Education Minister V.K.R.V. Rao across 37 universities.

❖ Core Identity: Motto, Symbol, and Badge

1. The Motto: *"NOT ME, BUT YOU"*

- **Essence:** Reflects democratic living, selfless service, and appreciation for fellow human beings.
- **Philosophy:** Highlights that an individual's welfare is inextricably linked to the welfare of society as a whole.

2. The Symbol

- **Inspiration:** Based on the giant **Rath Wheel of the Konark Sun Temple** (Odisha).
- **Meaning:** The wheel symbolizes the cycle of creation, preservation, and release—representing movement across time and space, continuity, and the continuous striving for social change.

3. The Badge

- **The 8 Bars:** Represent the **24 hours of a day**, signifying round-the-clock readiness for service.
- **Red Colour:** Signifies that NSS volunteers are full of young blood that is lively, active, energetic, and high-spirited.
- **Navy Blue Colour:** Represents the cosmos, signifying that the volunteer is a tiny part of the universe ready to contribute to humankind.

❖ Aims and Objectives

Primary Aim

To foster social consciousness, civic responsibility, and selfless service without bias. Volunteers help needy communities elevate their standard of living, learn resourcefulness from rural communities, and provide critical assistance during natural and man-made disasters.

Key Objectives

- **Community Connection:** Understand the community and one's place within it.
- **Problem Solving:** Identify community needs, involve locals, and apply practical knowledge to solve problems.
- **Leadership & Teamwork:** Develop competence in group living, shared responsibilities, community mobilization, leadership qualities, and democratic attitudes.
- **Crisis Management:** Build the capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and natural disasters.
- **National Unity:** Practice national integration, social harmony, and civic responsibility.

❖ NSS in the Present Scenario

- **Administrative Body:** Operates under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India**.
- **Scale & Reach:** Spreads across hundreds of universities, senior secondary councils, and vocational institutions nationwide, engaging millions of student volunteers.
- **Legacy:** Since its inception, tens of millions of students have benefited from transformative NSS community engagement activities.

Useful Links:

- https://nss.gov.in/en/uttar-pradesh-0
- https://nss.gov.in/