

NCC Report 2018-19

The core values of the National Cadet Corps include being a responsive, learning and continuously evolving organisation. Cadets are trained to be disciplined, hardworking and to provide service to the nation. The NCC Wing at St. Francis College for Women has truly imbibed these values and has completed yet another year of excellence and accomplishments, including a lot of first of its kind activities that are indeed commendable. The year 2018-19 began over the summer with third year cadets attending two prestigious camps; Sergeant Angel Vinod was selected to attend the SSB Training Capsule at NCC Officers Training Academy, Gwalior which was a rigorous orientation towards the selection procedure for the Indian Army. She was one among 4 cadets to be presented with a Letter of Recommendation. Cadets K. Lohitha and Cadet B. Prathisha participated in the Advanced Leadership Camp (ALC) held at IIT, Kharagpur in West Bengal. Cadet B. Prathisha was adjudged as the Best Cadet and the state team also bagged various medals in sports and cultural. They also had the opportunity to visit the Kalaikunda Air Force Station, interact with the elite Garud commandos of the Indian Air Force (Special Forces) and meet Mohana Singh, one of India's first female combat fighter pilots. Alongside this, the Thal Sainik Camp (TSC) had begun its rigorous selection process, where Cadet Charitha from the second year bagged the Silver Medal in the Inter Unit Competition TSC - Inter Directorate Shooting Competition.

The month of June began with the selection process for the first year students to be inducted into the NCC. A revamped selection procedure now includes a physical test, a Group Discussion and drill. The second and third year cadets then collectively participated in the Annual Training Camp (ATC) - III, where Cadet K. Lohitha was selected as the Camp Senior and awarded the rank of Senior Under Officer. Our college also won several prizes in athletic and cultural competitions. This camp was followed by a first-of-its-kind Inter College Championship (ICC) instituted by our Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Chandrashekhar Rao. Cadets competed in a competition similar to the selection procedure they would have to endure to be selected for the prestigious Republic Day Camp, Delhi (RDC). They participated in Drill, Group Song, Group Dance, Flag Area, NIAP and the Best Cadet competition. The NCC Wing of St. Francis College for Women bagged the first prize in Drill, Group Song, Group Dance, NIAP as well as the Best Cadet and Overall Best Cadet Competition and the second prize in Flag Area. We were also awarded the Overall Championship Trophy for the year 2018-2019.

Throughout the year, Army Wing cadets took part in the selection process for RDC, Delhi. Cadet Sriya Reddy was selected in drill and was further selected from AP&T for the Guard of Honour given to all dignitaries of the state. She has also been selected for the prestigious Youth Exchange Programme and will soon represent India internationally. Cadets Aditi Nag and Cadet T M Praneetha were selected for cultural at RDC, Delhi and took part in Group Dance, Group Song, NIAP, etc. Cadet T M Praneetha was also selected for the Prime Minister's Rally.

This year saw another important induction: the first Naval Wing of NCC was raised in the year 2018 with three cadets who joined the 1 Telangana Naval Unit as

Naval cadets. In addition, Cadet Vidhi and Cadet Gloria from Air Wing were selected for the prestigious Vayu Sainik Camp (VSC) where Cadet Vidhi bagged the gold medal in firing and Cadet Gloria was selected for the Guard of Honour to DG NCC, Lt. General PP Malhotra. At the same time, several cadets took part in the National Integration Camp at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad which is a premier institution that trains officers for the civil services. Cadets interacted with visiting cadets from all over India and aimed to exchange culture.

Independence Day was celebrated with a march past by NCC, NSS and Sports. The Chief Guest for the day was Col Sunil Zachariah, who was stationed at the Senior Quality Assurance Establishment (SQAE), Hyderabad. The rank of Junior Under Officer (JUO) was awarded to Cadet T. Vineela, who attended RDC, Delhi in 2018 and was selected for Central Culturals at Delhi; an opportunity to present cultural at the homes of all the Chiefs of the Indian Armed Forces, the PM, the President, Defense Minister, etc. The rank of JUO was also awarded to Sergeant Angel Vinod.

For the first time, NCC Day was celebrated in college wherein cadets put on a demonstration of their life at camp, drill, punishments, camaraderie, sports, selections, obstacle course, culturals, tent pitching as well as the numerous camps and opportunities for service available for cadets to fulfill every year. The programme was presided over by the Chief Guest for the day, Subedar Major Arockia Samy Sir, who unfurled the NCC Flag in college. The demonstration included an aero-modelling presentation by the Air Wing as well as ship modelling and phonetic flag display by the Naval Wing. The differences between the three wings of NCC were also highlighted. The demonstration ended with a special drill display led by Junior Under Officer V. Sai Tulasi. It was a first of its kind display involving coordination, use of the rifle and various formations.

In addition to these activities, cadets partake in a series of social service activities. National Youth Day was celebrated with a rally, Harithaharam was conducted on the college campus and saplings were planted with the help the college Gardener, washing of statues and Swachh Bharat was conducted to clean the campus. Cadets participated in the Sightathon walk, where they escorted blind participants on a walk, followed by serving them breakfast. A traffic safety demonstration was conducted by the Traffic Police, Hyderabad for cadets. Cadet Vaishnavi, Cadet Nida and Cadet Aditi from first year also visited villages on a camp with Greenpeace. Cadets also volunteered at an arts, culture and sports competition organised for low income schools by an NGO at Pallavi International School, Gandipet. Voters Day was celebrated by taking a pledge to vote and a collaboration with GHMC and NSS saw our cadets participating in a large Swachh Pakwada in Monda Market, Secunderabad.

Another notable activity was the celebration of Surgical Strike Day. A host of activities were planned. A poster making competition was conducted, a Run for Army was carried out, a rally sensitizing the public about the day in remembrance of the Uri attacks and a talk by Col PG Vinod was held. Cadets also wrote letters to soldiers at the Line of Control, which were posted to them. We also received a letter of commendation

from the 11 Rashtriya Rifles, who are stationed at the border, who on receiving the letters, distributed them to soldiers and sent back greeting cards for a few cadets with their best wishes. Cadets had expressed their gratitude in the letters and extended encouragement, prayers and support.

Holding the ideals of Swacch Bharat up high, the NCC Wing worked everyday of college for Shubram, the new waste management project on campus. Waste was segregated and sold, while the rest was filled into a compost pit. In addition, straws and re-usable plastic plates were removed from the college canteen in order to align the college campus with the UN Sustainable Goal of Responsible Consumption and reduce the amount of waste generated all together. Cadets collected waste everyday and filled the compost pit while the dedicated ladies who cleaned the college segregated the waste they had collected every evening. A committee for Shubram was formed, helmed by our ANO, Lt. Marie Thomas, the faculty and students at Prakriti Club as well as cadets JUO Angel Vinod, JUO T. Vineela, Cadet Bhavya Mishra, Cadet Sindhu Sangam, Cadet Nida and Cadet Vaishnavi from each year of the NCC.

Republic Day was celebrated with a March Past and a special drill display. Cadets were immensely motivated by the Guest of Honour for the day, Captain Priya Semwal, stationed at MCEME, Hyderabad, who is the first wife of a martyred NCO to join the Indian Army as an officer. Her speech was moving, inspiring and energizing for the cadets. Special Recognition prizes for NCC were awarded to SUO K. Lohitha, JUO V. Sai Tulasi, JUO T. Vineela, Cadet B. Prathisha and Cadet Safa Farooqui. Also, Cadet Diana Singson was selected for the Local Republic Day Camp (LRDC) at Parade Grounds, Delhi.

The cadets at St. Francis did not stop there. After newspaper articles reported the state government was to take over Bison Polo Grounds, where NCC camps, classes, selection and all training is held, cadets initiated a postcard campaign and flooded the mail of the Chief Justice of the High Court with over 4000 postcards asking that the grounds be retained for their present purpose. They also generated support from the NCC Directorate (AP&T) for the same, which aided in a petition being filed in court on behalf of all cadets of the state of Telangana.

All year long, cadets also give the Guard of Honour to any visiting dignitaries on campus. The outgoing batch gave their last Guard on College Day. JUO Angel Vinod was presented with the Priyamvada Joysula Award for the Best Outgoing NCC Cadet. The year concluded with another first: an NCC farewell where junior cadets prepared a host of activities, senior cadets shared experiences and gratitude and a parting token was presented to each of them. Year after year, NCC is led in St. Francis College for Women continues to grow by leaps and bounds under the able leadership of ANO Lt. Marie Thomas, who is always open to ideas, encourages participation and excellence from each and every cadet for a respectable purpose.