



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (centre) at the NCC Rally in Rajpath, on Republic Day.

By **Mail Today Bureau**  
in New Delhi

**T**HE Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi reviewed a ceremonial parade by the NCC (National Cadet Corps) held at the Cariappa Parade Ground Delhi Cantonment on January 28. Around 112 cadets from foreign countries participated under the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) and they also marched with their Indian counterparts.

The NCC Rally had evolved into its present form from 1954 and since then all prime ministers have presided over the event. More than 2,000 cadets participated in the rally this year, which is a satisfactory culmination of the month-long NCC Republic Day Camp 2019.

The smart march-past by the cadets from all of the NCC Directorates, included a horse mounted column and NCC bands, marching in tune. A number of tableaux featuring the Army, Naval, and Air Forces were displayed. Sports and Adventure, Environmental, Social Service,

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi complimented the NCC cadets for their service towards nation-building**

# PM lauds selfless NCC

and community development activities were displayed as well. All of these tableaux showcased multifarious activities by the cadets.

The Prime Minister then gave medals and trophies to all the meritorious cadets and the best Directorate. The Prime Minister's Banner was then presented to the Karnataka and Goa Directorate.

In his address to the cadets, the Prime Minister exhorted them to undertake sustained hard work in pursuance of their aims. He went on to laud their efforts in several crucial initiatives, such as *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and digital transactions, espe-

cially their contribution towards the relief and rescue efforts during the Kerala floods. Modi also complimented the NCC for their service towards nation-building. He stressed on NCC's value, stating, "India is a supporter of peace, but the country will not hesitate to take any steps required for national security."

The Rally was attended by a number of dignitaries and eminent guests, including minister of defence Nirmala Sitharaman, chief of naval staff admiral Sunil Lanba, air chief marshal BS Dhanoa, and the Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen D Anbu. The various head of departments of NCC foreign delegations and other important civil and military dignitaries were also present on the occasion.