

Evolution of Higher Education in India

From the Planning Era to the National Education Policy 2020

A Comprehensive Revision Guide for UGC NET Aspirants & Education Students

*f*FOUNDATIONS



Focus Areas: Five-Year Plans | Key Commissions |
NEP 2020 Structural Reforms

FUTURE





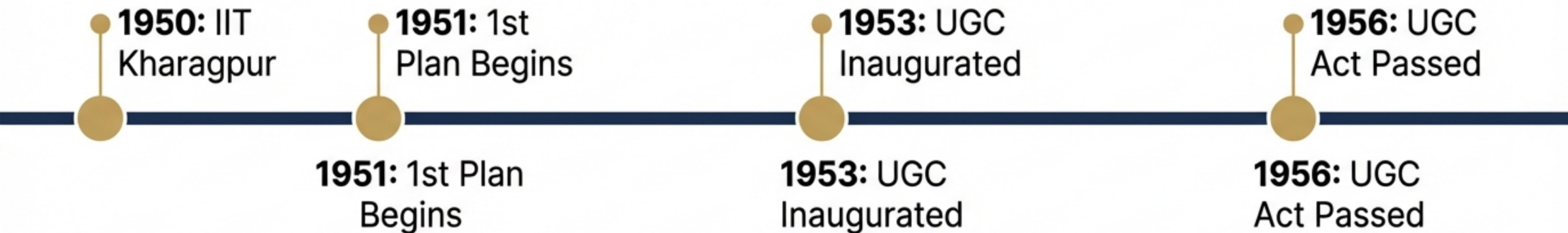
Planning Commission (1950–2014)

- **Role:** Formulated 5-Year Plans & allocated funds.
- **Approach:** Top-Down Centralized Planning.
- **Focus:** Infrastructure & Economic Growth.



NITI Aayog (Est. 2015)

- **Full Form:** National Institution for Transforming India.
- **Role:** Policy Think Tank & Advisory Body (Non-Constitutional).
- **Approach:** Bottom-Up Cooperative Federalism.
- **Strategy:** 3-Year Action Agenda | 7-Year Strategy | 15-Year Vision.



1st Five-Year Plan (1951–1956)

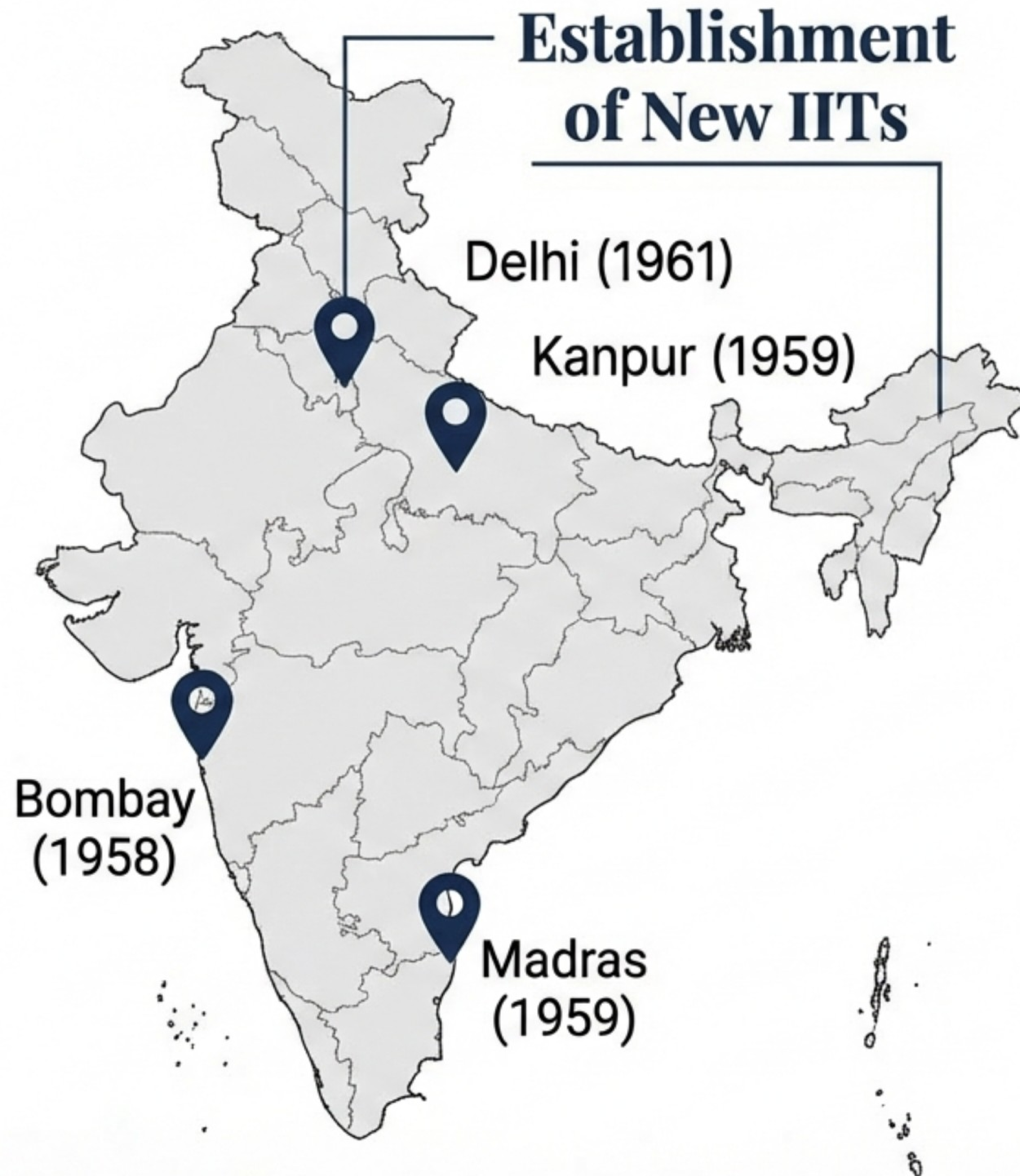


- **Focus:** Economic development & Primary Education expansion.
- **Key Milestone:** Establishment of IIT Kharagpur (1950) – The first Indian Institute of Technology.

University Grants Commission (UGC)



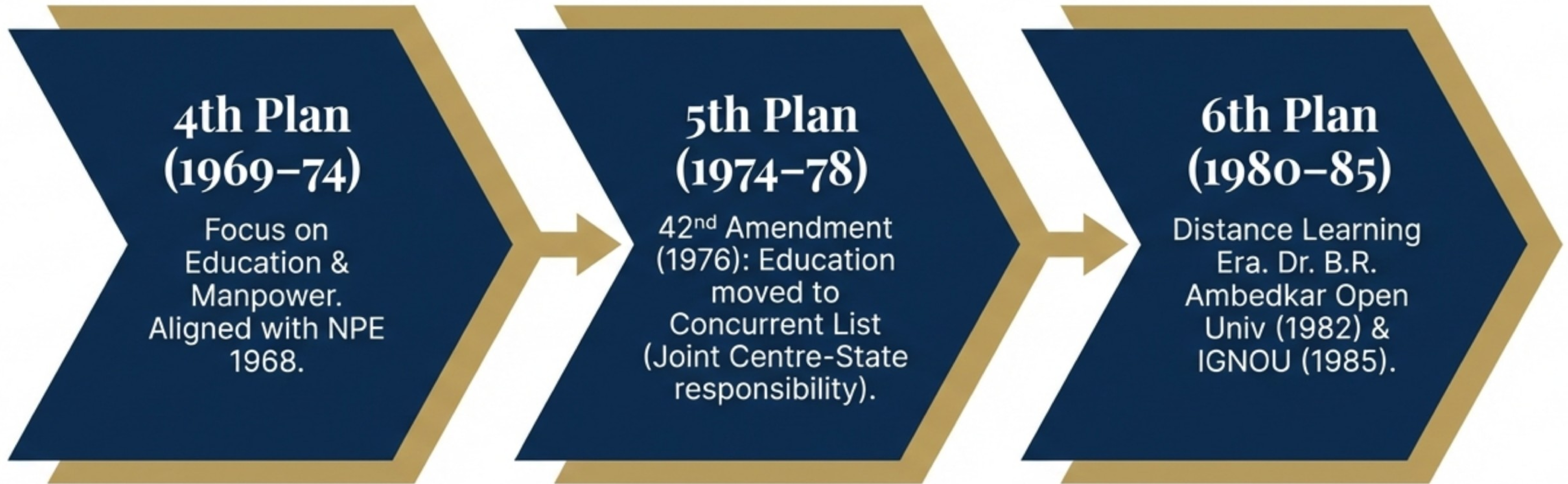
- **Function:** Standardize higher education.
- **Status:** Statutory body formed under UGC Act, 1956.



2nd & 3rd Plans: Industrial & Agrarian Growth (1956–1966)

- **2nd Plan (1956–61):** Massive industrialization focus. Establishment of 4 major IITs.
- **3rd Plan (1961–66):** Shift towards Agricultural Universities (Green Revolution context).
- **Key Context:** Appointment of the Kothari Commission (1964) during the 3rd Plan era.

Progression of Higher Education: 4th, 5th & 6th Five-Year Plans (1969–1985)



Key Shift: Democratization of education through Open Universities.

7th & 8th Plans: Modernization & Liberalization (1985–1997)

Private Participation



7th Plan 1985-90

- National Literacy Mission launched.
- Focus on infrastructure modernization.

8th Plan 1992-97

- **Impact of LPG Policy** (Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization).
- **Major Turning Point:** Opening of higher education to private sector players.
- **Initiative:** District Primary Education Programme (DPEP).

9th, 10th & 11th Plans: Access & Technology



9th Plan (1997–02)

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched. IIM Indore established.



10th Plan (2002–07)

ICT Integration.
Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
Internationalization of Ed.



NKC Impact

National Knowledge Commission (Sam Pitroda) established during 10th Plan.

11th Plan (2007–12) saw the launch of RMSA for secondary education.

12th Five-Year Plan (2012–2017): The Final Chapter

- **Theme:** Faster, Sustainable, and More Inclusive Growth.
- **Key Policy:** Right to Education (RTE) Act (2009) implementation fully integrated.
- **Strategic Funding:** Launch of RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) to fund state universities.
- **Outcome:** Plan ended in 2017, transitioning to NITI Aayog's strategy documents.



Foundations of Independence: Education Commissions.

Radhakrishnan Commission (1948)



Focus: University Education.

Outcome: Recommended establishment of the UGC. Integration of general & specialized education.

Mudaliar Commission (1952)



Focus: Secondary Education.

Outcome: Introduction of Multipurpose Schools. 3-Year Secondary / 4-Year Higher Secondary structure.

The Kothari Commission (1964–66)

The Blueprint of Modern Indian Education

Report Title:
Education and National
Development.



Standardized Structure:
10+2+3 Pattern

Investment Target:
6% of GDP (A benchmark
still relevant today)



Language Policy:
Three Language Formula
(Hindi, English, Regional)



National Policy on Education: A Timeline of Reform



Preparing for the Knowledge Economy



National Knowledge Commission (2005)

- Chairman: Sam Pitroda.
- Focus: E-governance, Libraries, Knowledge Networks.

Yashpal Committee (2009)

- Report Title: Learning Without Burden.
- Recommendation: Scrapping Deemed University status & creating a super-regulator (CHERS) - Precursor to HECI.

NEP 2020: A Vision for a Global Knowledge Superpower

NEP 2020



Drafting Committee Chair: Dr. K. Kasturirangan.

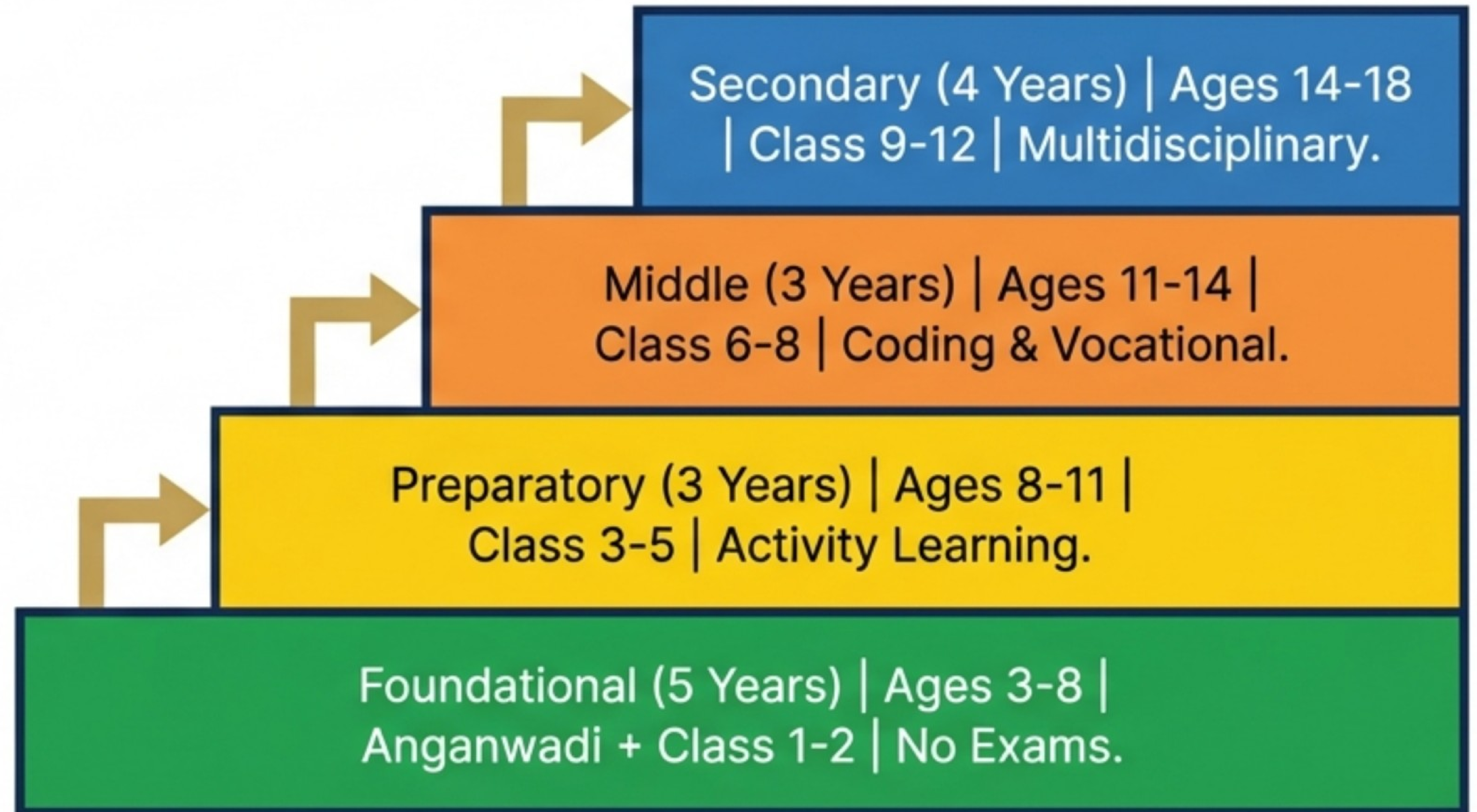
Institutional Change: Ministry of HRD renamed to Ministry of Education.

NEP 2020: Structural Transformation

Old Structure: 10+2



New Structure: 5+3+3+4



Building Strong Roots: ECCE & PARAKH



Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE)

Framework: NCPFECCE for ages 3-6.

Mission FLN: National Mission on Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (Grade 3 proficiency by 2025).

Assessment Reform: PARAKH

Full Form: Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.

Goal: Shift from Rote Learning -> Competency-Based Assessment.

Higher Education: Ambitious Quantitative Targets

50%

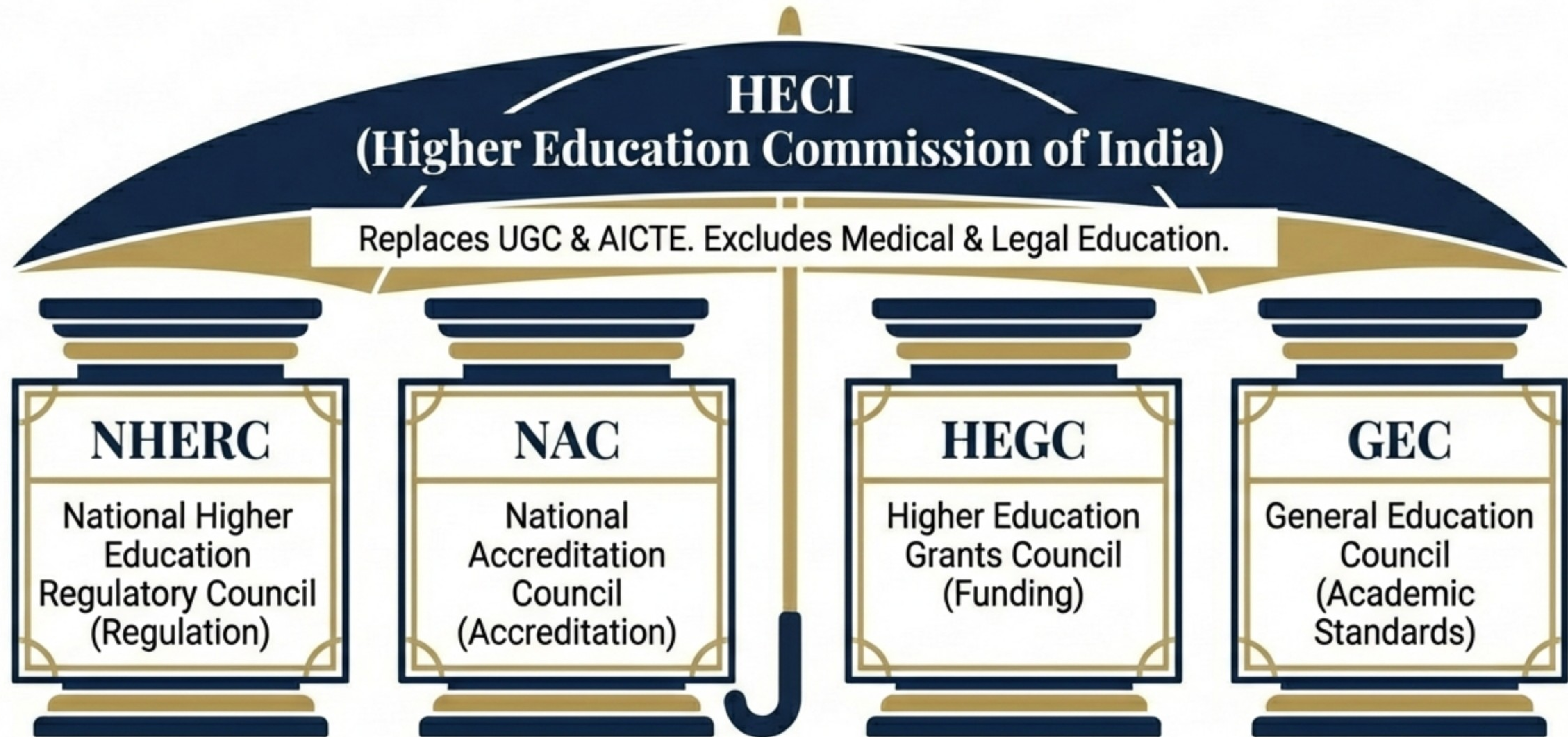
GER Target: Increase Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50% by 2035 (from ~26.3% in 2018).

Capacity Expansion: Add 3.5 crore new seats to Higher Ed Institutions.

Structural Change: All Higher Ed Institutions to become Multidisciplinary by 2040.

Language: Instruction in mother tongue/local language encouraged.

Higher Education: HECI & Its Four Pillars



Student-Centric Flexibility



Multiple Entry & Exit Options

- Exit after 1 Year → Certificate
- Exit after 2 Years → Diploma
- Exit after 3/4 Years → Degree (4th Year for Research)

Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)



- **Visual:** Icon of a digital vault.
- **Function:** Digitally stores academic credits. Allows transfer between institutions.
- **Validity:** Credits valid for 7 years.

Fostering Innovation & Research



Research



MERU

- **National Research Foundation (NRF):** To fund and mentor research across all disciplines, not just science.
- **MERUs (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities):** To be set up at par with IITs/IIMs to set global standards.
- **GDP Target:** Reiteration of public investment in education to reach 6% of GDP.

Empowering Teachers & Recruitment



- **Minimum Qualification:** 4-Year Integrated B.Ed degree by 2030.
- **Teacher Eligibility Test (TET):** Strengthened and mandatory for recruitment.
- **Framework:** National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE).
- **Focus:** Improving Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) and continuous professional development.