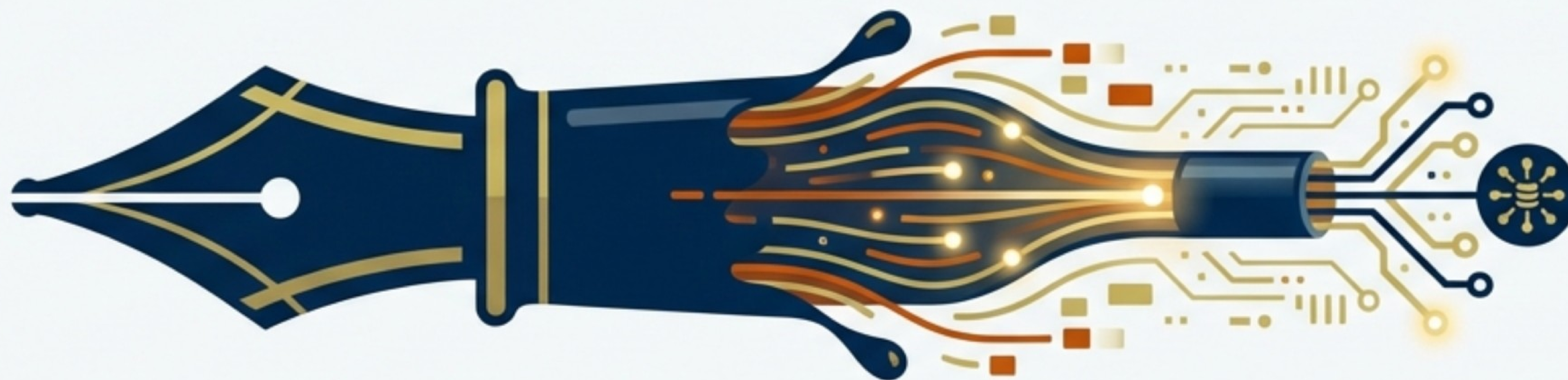




Post-Independence Higher Education: An Evolutionary Journey

A Comprehensive Guide to Committees, Policies, and Constitutional Amendments for UGC NET

The Foundation

Kothari Commission (1964)
NPE 1968

The Structure

Concurrent List (1976)
NPE 1986

The Reform

Knowledge Commission (2005)
Yash Pal Committee (2009)

The Critical Timeline (1964–2009)



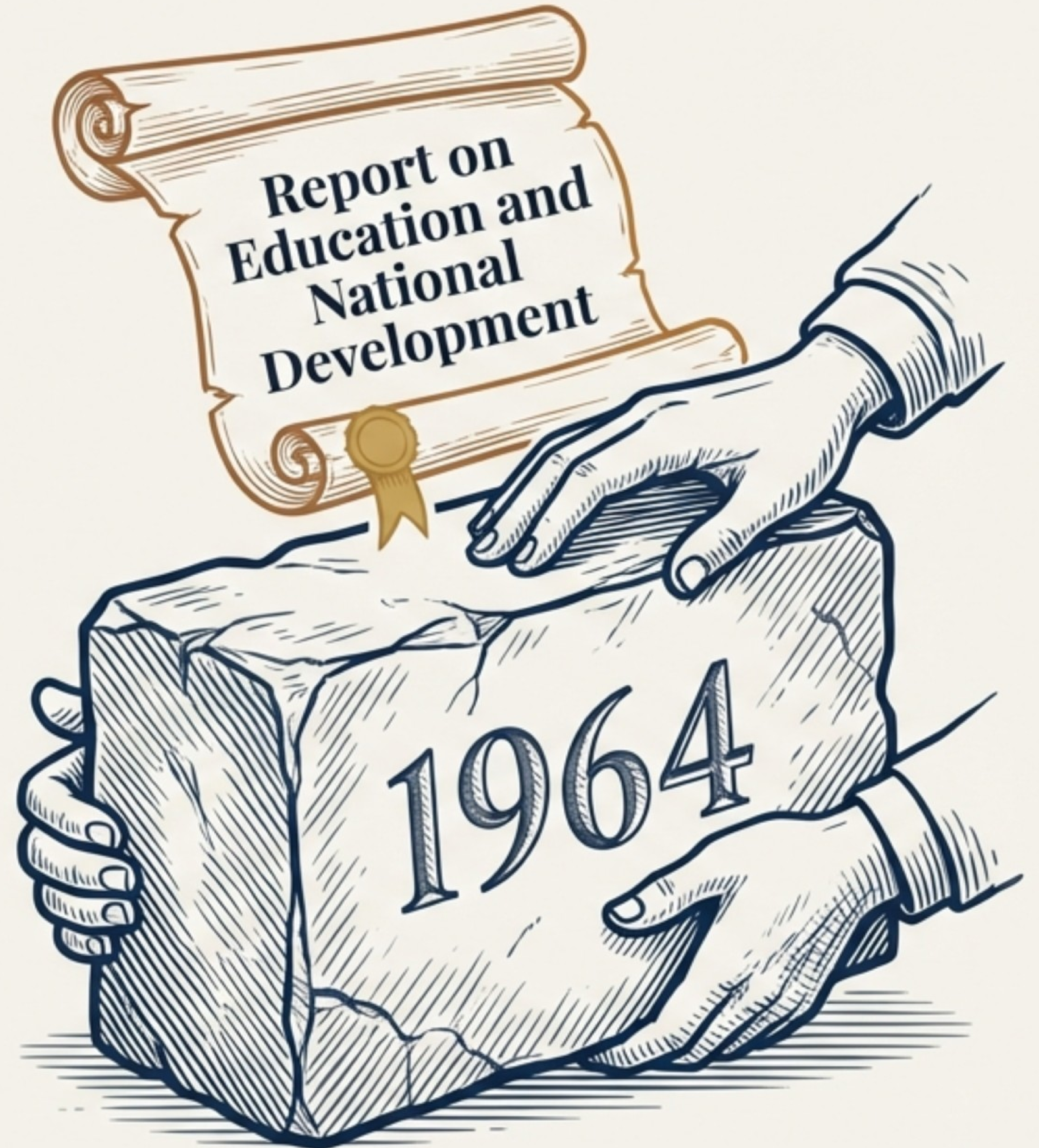
Evolutionary Phases:

1. Foundational (60s)
2. Structural (70s-80s)
3. Quality & Regulation (90s-2000s).

Kothari Commission (1964-66)

The Bedrock of Indian Education

- **Chairperson:** Dr. D.S. Kothari
- **Scope:** The first comprehensive commission covering all levels of education (Primary to Higher).
- **Significance:** Considered the 'blueprint' for the modern Indian education system.
- **Outcome:** Recommendations formed the basis for the First National Policy on Education (1968).



Kothari's Core Recommendations



Structural Pattern

Proposed the uniform **10+2+3** educational structure (10 School + 2 Junior College + 3 Degree).



Three-Language Formula

Recommended teaching Hindi, English, and a regional language to foster national integration.



Investment Goal

Recommended spending **6% of GDP** on education to ensure quality and reach.



Value Education

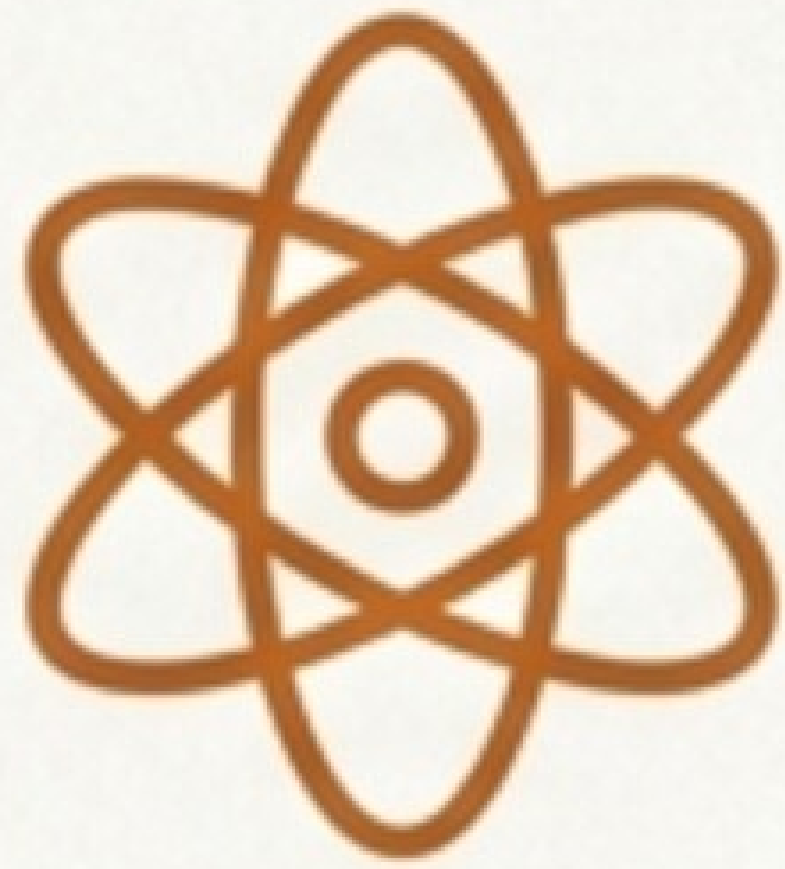
Emphasized moral education and social responsibility alongside academics.

National Policy on Education (NPE) 1968

- **Prime Minister:** Indira Gandhi
- **Status:** India's **First** National Policy on Education.
- **Basis:** Directly implemented the recommendations of the Kothari Commission.
- **Core Philosophy:**
 1. **National Progress:** Education as a driver for economic growth.
 2. **Common Citizenship:** Promoting national integration through a standardized curriculum.

Exam Tip: This policy marked the transition from 'Commission Recommendations' to 'Official Law'.

NPE 1968: Key Focus Areas



Science & Technology

Identified as the critical need of the hour for national development and self-reliance.



Education & Life

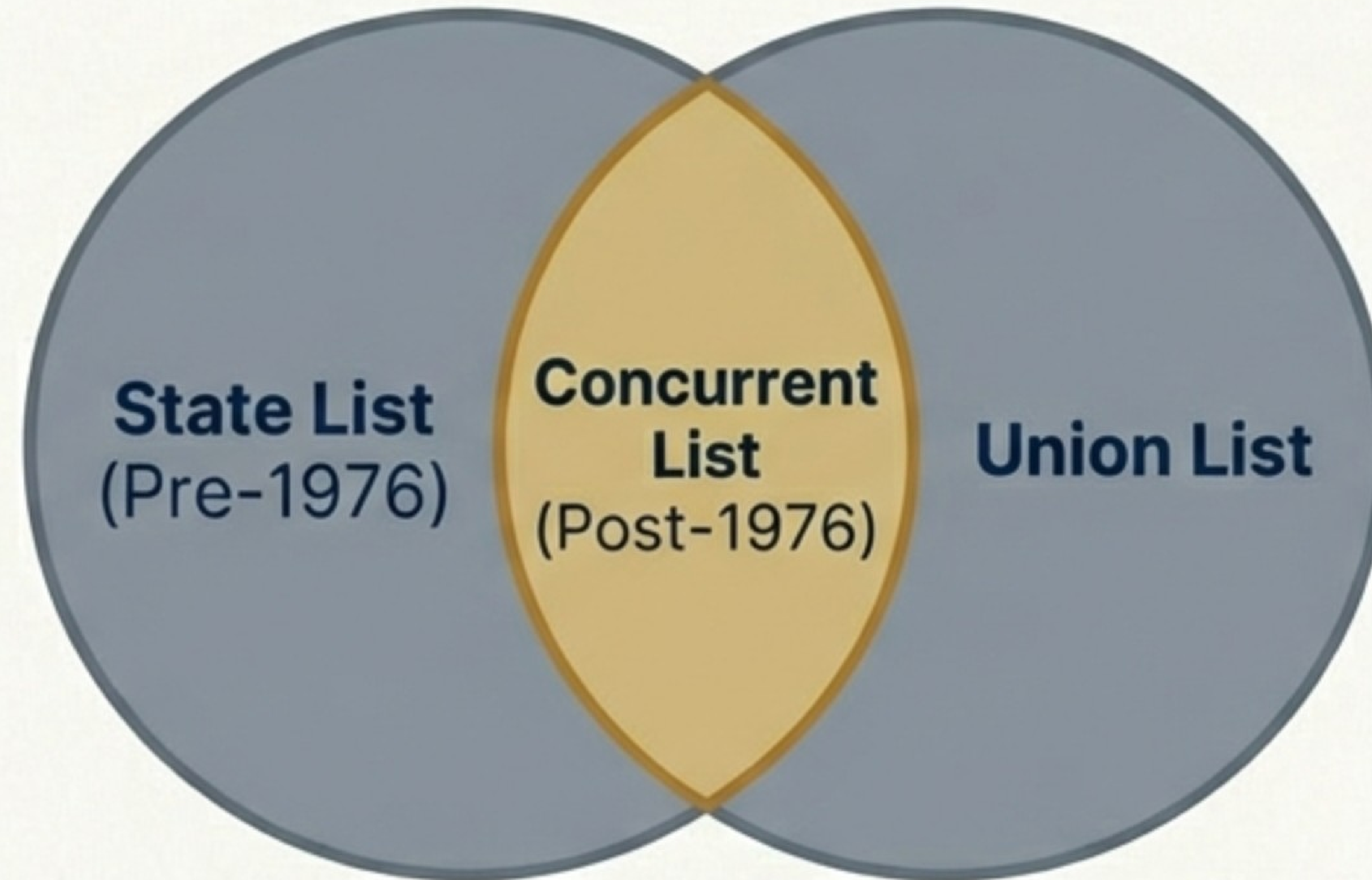
Stressed a close relationship between education and the daily life of the people.



Moral Values

Cultivation of moral and social values to create responsible citizens.

1976: The Constitutional Shift



- **Event:** 42nd Constitutional Amendment (Known as the 'Mini Constitution').
- **Action:** Moved Education from the State List to the **Concurrent List**.
- **Entry No: 25** (7th Schedule).
- **Impact:** Both Center and State Governments became jointly responsible for education policy and funding.

Deep Dive: Why the Concurrent List Matters

Before 1976

- **Center's Role:** Limited to maintaining standards.
- **State's Role:** Full operational and funding control.
- **Result:** Disparity in quality across states.

After 1976

- **Center's Role:** Can legislate and fund directly.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Enables uniform national policies.
- **Result:** Center can intervene to bridge gaps (e.g., Central Grants).

This shift allowed for the creation of unified policies like NPE 1986.

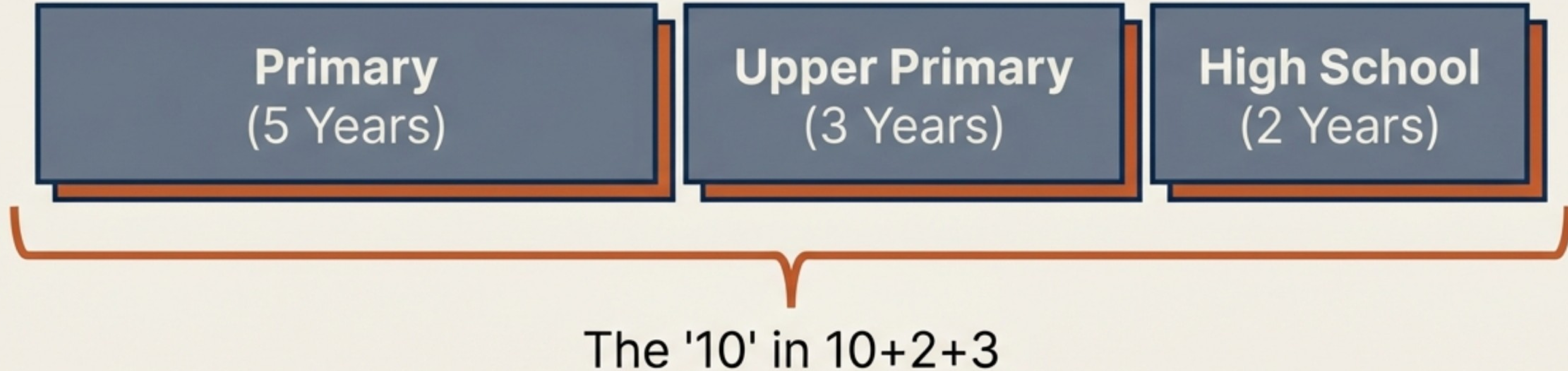
National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986



Preparing for the
21st Century.

- **Era:** Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- **Precursor:** 'Challenge of Education' (1985) – A policy perspective document that reviewed the failures of the past system.
- **Objective:** A massive modernization drive to prepare India for the technological age.
- **Key Change:** Fully operationalized the 10+2+3 structure nationwide.

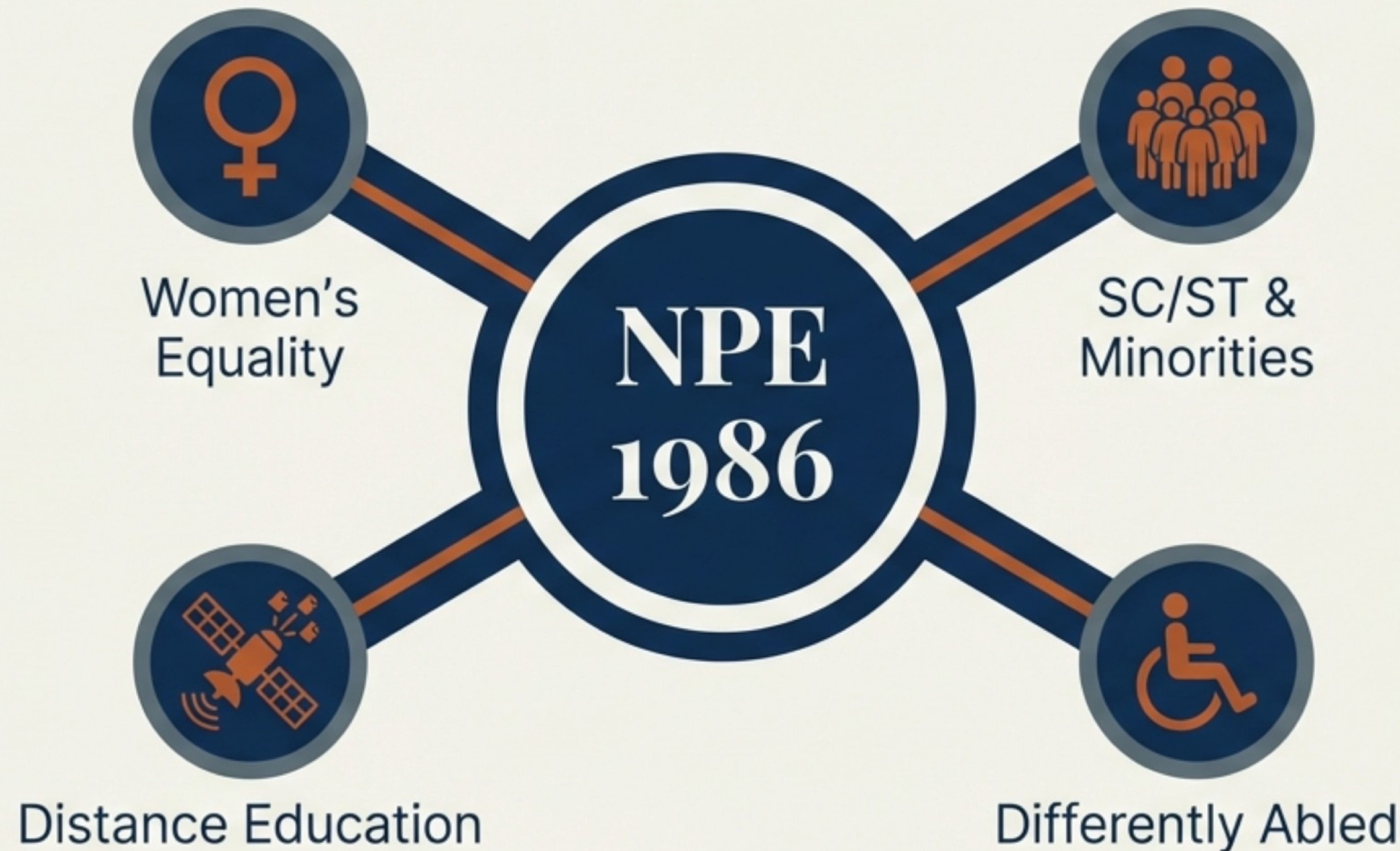
NPE 1986: Structural Breakdown



- **De-linking Degrees:** Proposed de-linking university degrees from jobs to reduce pressure on higher education.
- **Holistic Focus:** Introduction of **Yoga** and **Physical Education** as core parts of the curriculum.
- **Innovation:** Launch of 'Operation Blackboard' to improve primary school infrastructure.

NPE 1986: The 'Comprehensive' Policy

24 Chapters Covering All Aspects of Education



Often called 'Sarva Guna Sampann' (All-encompassing). If an exam question asks about a specific social inclusion initiative and you are unsure, NPE 1986 is statistically the safest answer.

Reviewing the Policy (1990)



Acharya Ramamurti Committee (1990)

- **Mandate:** To review the implementation of NPE 1986.
- **Findings:** Criticized the lack of practical execution.
- **Recommendation:** demanded concrete programs for marginalized groups (SC/ST/Women) rather than just policy statements.
- **Legacy:** Paved the way for the Program of Action.

Program of Action (POA) 1992

Executing the Policy Revisions



Implementation

Committee: Janardhan Reddy Committee.

Role: Operationalized the revisions suggested by the Ramamurti review.

Clarification: POA 1992 is *not* a new policy. It is the detailed execution manual for NPE 1986.

Key Outcome: Solidified the focus on professional and technical education.

Gnanam Committee (1993)

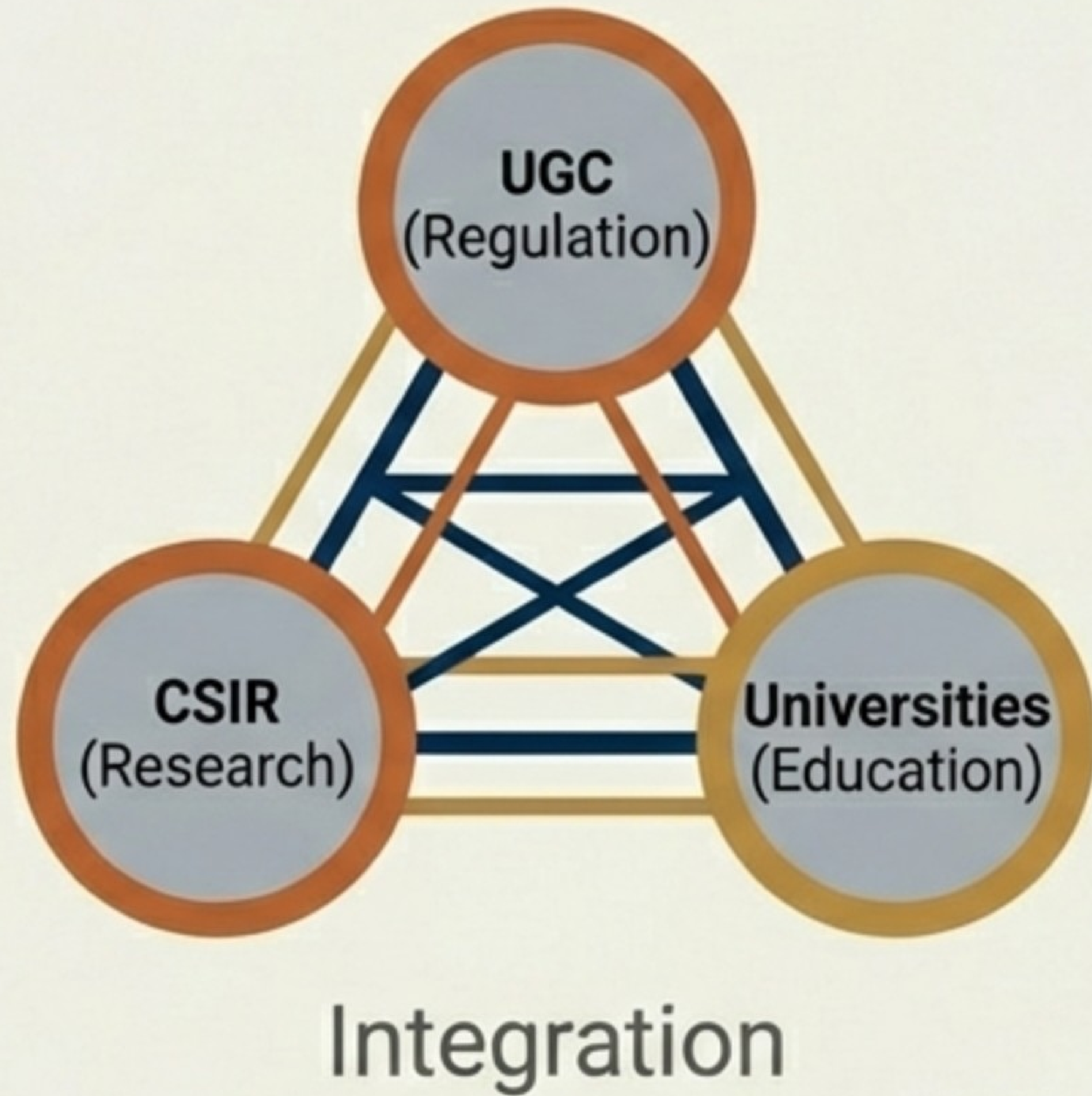
Focus on Quality Assurance



-
- **Context:** The early 90s saw a rapid rise in private institutions.
 - **Primary Issue:** Unchecked growth of 'Deemed Universities' leading to quality dilution.
 - **Mandate:** Ensure academic excellence and regulate university management.
 - **Reforms:**
 1. Stricter norms for Deemed University status.
 2. Advocated for flexibility and autonomy.

The Digital Turn: Vidya Vahini (1998)

Building a Digital Backbone for Higher Education



- **Era:** Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Goal:** Create a digital backbone for Higher Education.
- **Function:** Facilitate rapid information sharing and research collaboration.
- **Significance:** One of the earliest attempts to integrate IT into the national education grid.

National Knowledge Commission (NKC) 2005

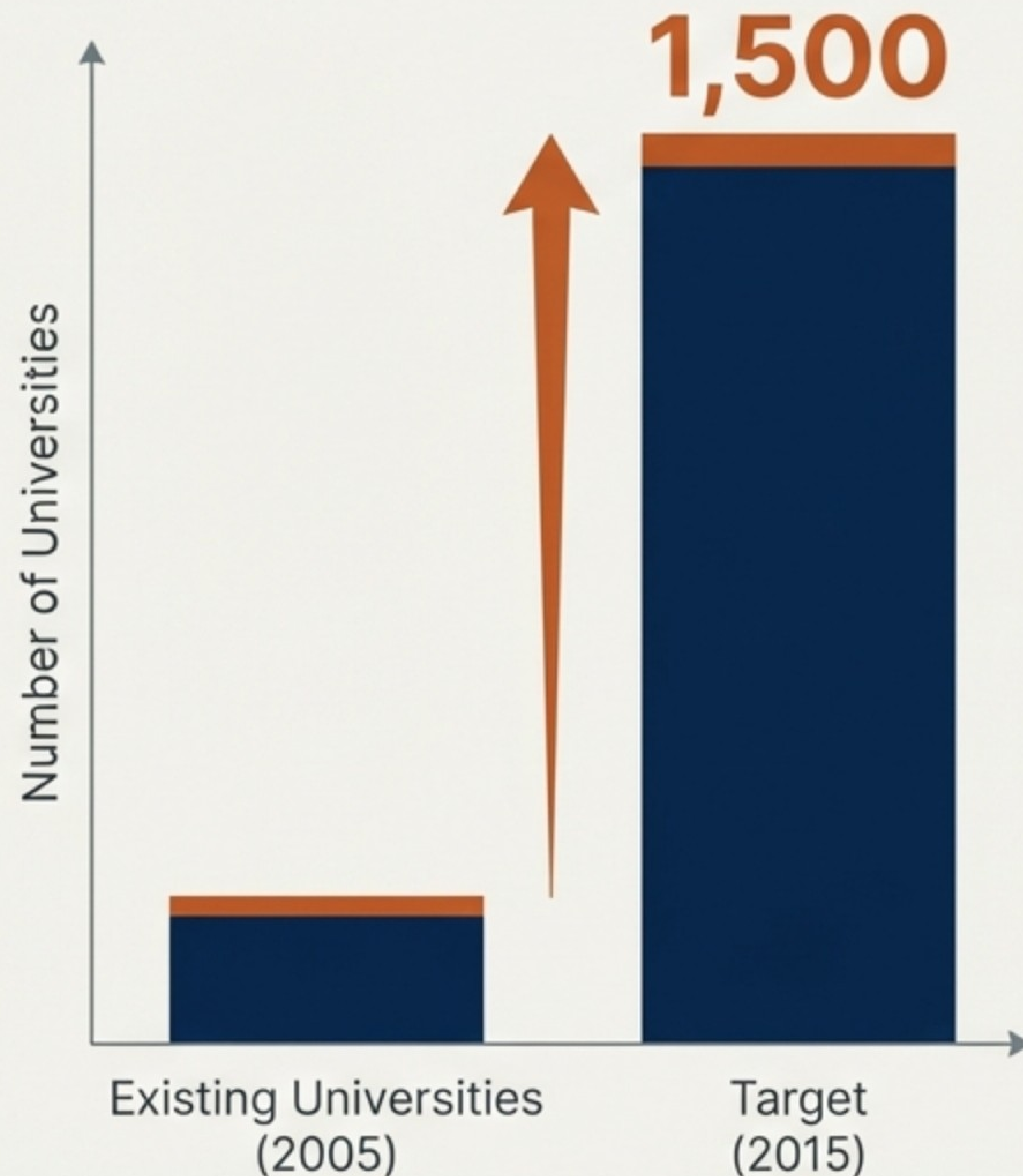
Integration with the Global Knowledge Economy



-
- **Chairperson:** Sam Pitroda.
 - **Philosophy:** Integration with the global knowledge economy.
 - **Key Recommendations:**
 1. **Foreign Universities:** Recommended allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
 2. **National Knowledge Network (NKN):** A high-speed digital network connecting all knowledge institutions.
 3. **Affiliation:** Reduce the burden of affiliated colleges on universities.

NKC: The Expansion Ambition

Increasing India's Higher Education Footprint



- **The Target:** NKC proposed increasing the number of universities to **1,500 by 2015**.
- **Rationale:** India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) was too low compared to global standards.
- **Outcome:** While the specific number wasn't met by 2015, it triggered a massive wave of new Central and State universities.
- **Critique:** Critics argued this focused on quantity over quality.

Exam Alert: The Two Yash Pal Committees

1993 Report



'Learning Without Burden'

Focus: School Education.
Critiqued heavy school bags
and rote learning.

2009 Report



'Renovation & Rejuvenation'

Focus: Higher Education.
Proposed restructuring the entire
university regulatory system.

Yash Pal (2009): The Super Regulator



- **Proposal:** Scrap fragmented regulators (UGC, AICTE).
- **Vision:** Create a single, overarching body (NCHER) to eliminate silos.
- **Philosophy:** Education is a seamless continuum; technical and general education should not be separated.

Yash Pal on Deemed Universities



The Ultimatum: Deemed Universities must either demonstrate quality to become **Full Universities** or be closed down.

- **Issue:** 'Deemed' status was being commercialized and misused.
- **Research Mandate:** No university should be a 'teaching shop'. Research must be compulsory in all higher education institutions.