

Higher Education in India



A Comprehensive Chronological Evolution
(1813 – Present)

From Colonial Foundations to
the Knowledge Economy



Phase 1: Pre-Independence

- The Colonial Agenda: Administration & Control
- Key Arc: Charter Act (1813) → Sargent Report (1944)
- Focus: Introduction of English, 'Down Filtration'

1947:
Independence

Phase 2: Post-Independence

- The National Agenda: Nation Building & Expansion
- Key Arc: Radhakrishnan (1948) → NEP (2020)
- Focus: Democratization, Science, & Research

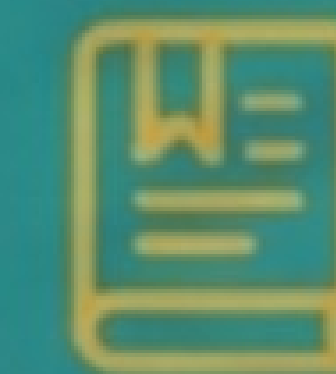
💡 Pro Tip

The Shift: The British wanted clerks; Independent India wanted citizens.

1813: The Charter Act



- **The Awakening:** First official British allocation for education.
- **Budget:** ₹1 Lakh per annum (for scientific knowledge).
- **Missionaries:** Granted official permission to spread education and Christianity.



Mnemonic:

Think of '13' as a 'Chaata' (Slap). The year the British slapped the system awake.

1823: Elphinstone & The General Committee

1813  10-Year Gap  1823

Elphinstone Report (1823)

- Recommended appointing District Examination Officers.
- Emphasized teacher training & school supervision.

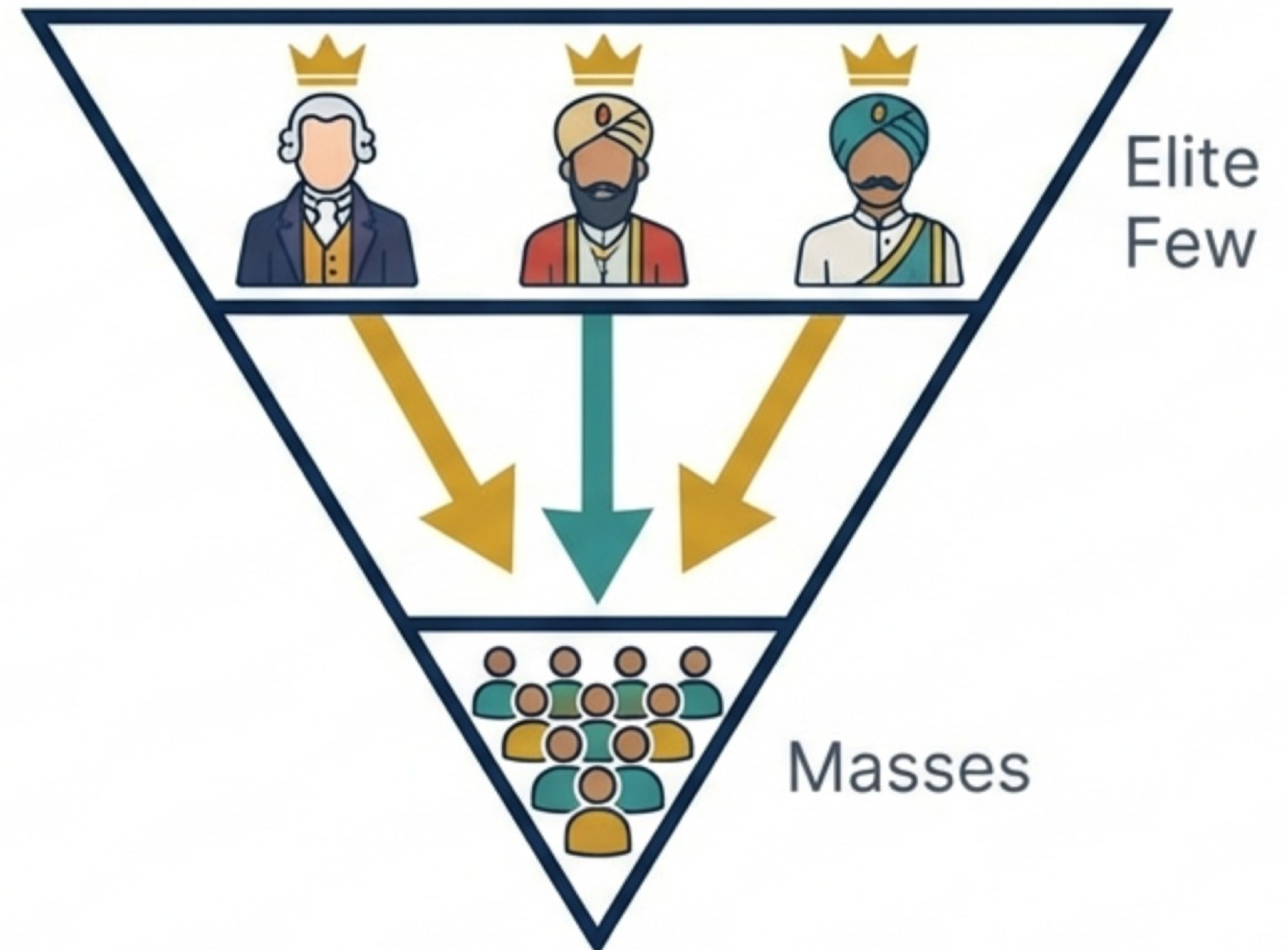
General Committee of Public Instruction (1823)

- Established to manage education grants.
- Result: Triggered the “Orientalist vs. Anglicist” Debate (Traditional vs. Western learning).

1835: Macaulay's Minute

- **The Verdict:** Resolved the dispute in favor of English Education.
- **The Goal:** To create a class “Indian in blood and color, but English in taste”.
- **Policy Shift:** English became the court language; Persian abolished.
- **Intent:** Educate the few to influence the many.

Downward Filtration Theory



1854: Wood's Despatch

The Magna Carta of English Education in India

- **Foundation:** Laid the structure for the modern university system.
- **Hierarchy:** Systematized education from Primary → University.
- **Key Reforms:** Promoted female education, teacher training, and vocational skills.
- **Grants-in-Aid:** Recommended government funding for private schools.



Bombay

Calcutta

Madras

1857

1882: The Hunter Commission

- **Objective:** To evaluate the implementation of Wood's Despatch (1854).
- **The Great Split:** Segregated Primary Education (District Boards) from Higher Education.
- **Secondary Stream Division:**
 - Stream A: Literary (University Preparation)
 - Stream B: Vocational (Career & Employment)
- **Recommendation:** Transfer control of primary education to District and Municipal Boards.



1902: Indian Universities Commission

The Era of Lord Curzon

- **Context:** Raleigh Commission (1902) lead to Indian Universities Act (1904).
- **Focus:** Quality Control over Expansion.
- **Restrictions:** Tightened government control over universities.
- **Regulation:** Limited Senate size (50-100 members) and imposed stricter affiliation rules for private colleges.
- **Critique:** Seen by nationalists as a move to curb political autonomy.



1905–1913: The Nationalist Response

- **1905:** National Council of Education
 - Set up by Swadeshi leaders (e.g., Jadavpur University, Shantiniketan).
 - Reaction to the Partition of Bengal.
- **1913:** Resolution on Education Policy
 - Recognized the burden on existing universities.
 - Recommendation: Establish a university in each province to manage the load.



1917: Sadler Commission

Calcutta University Commission

- **Core Philosophy:** “To improve the university, you must first improve the secondary school.”
- **Structural Change:** Precursor to the 10+2+3 system.
- **Innovation:** Separated ‘Intermediate’ (+2 stage) from the University.
- **Outcome:** Creation of Boards of Secondary Education.
- **Chairman:** Dr. Michael Sadler.



1929 & 1934: Quality vs. Unemployment

- **Hartog Committee (1929)**

- **Concern:** Rapid expansion was diluting standards.
- **Focus:** Prioritize 'Consolidation and Quality' over quantity.



- **Sapru Committee (1934)**

- **Context:** Focused on unemployment in UP.
- **Finding:** Education was too exam-centric and degree-focused.
- **Recommendation:** Introduce vocational streams.

1937: Two Visions of Vocational Ed



Abbot-Wood Report

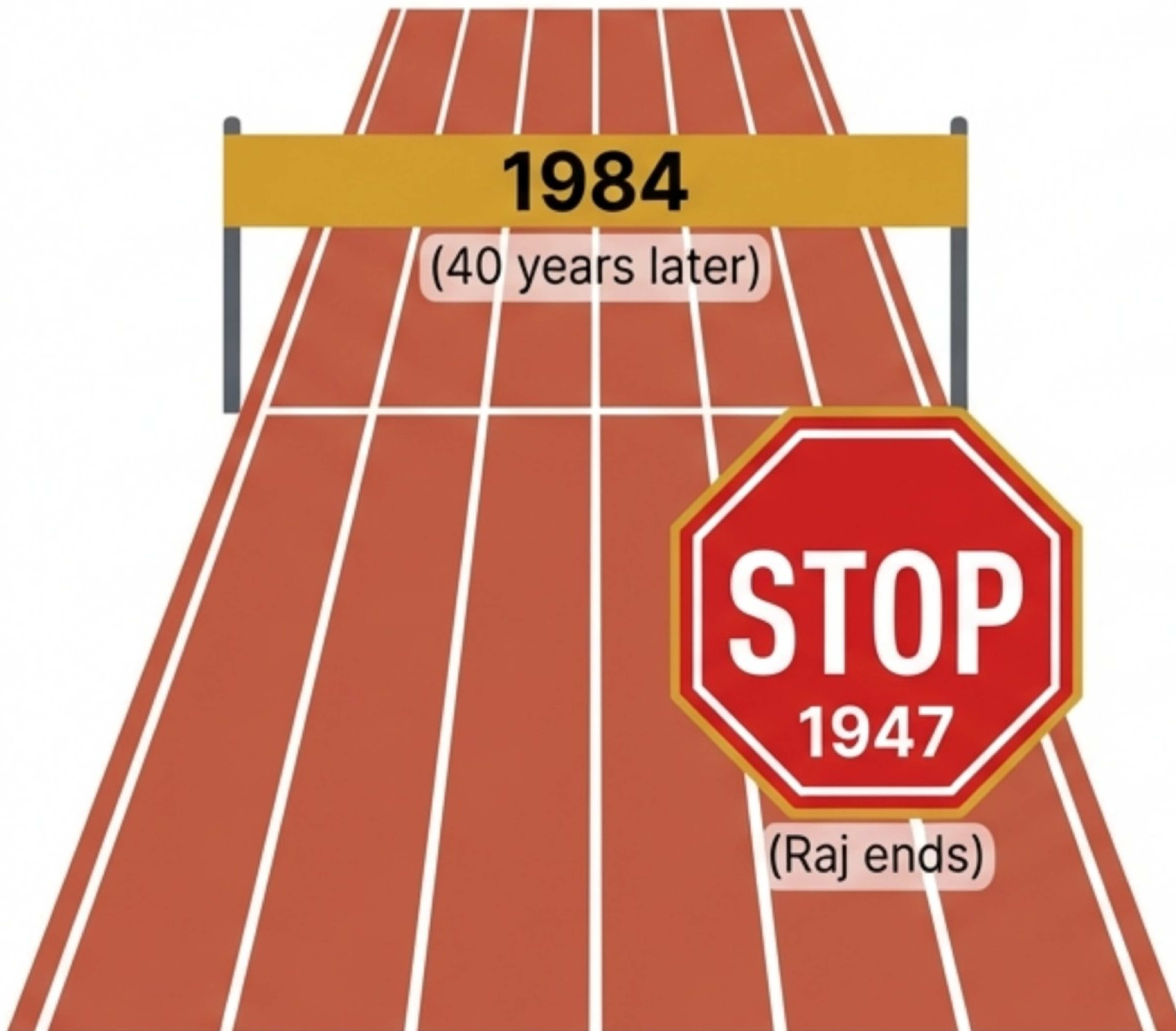
- British approach.
- Recommended formal vocational training.
- Result: Network of polytechnics.



Wardha Scheme (Nai Talim)

- Gandhian approach.
- 'Learning by doing' through handicrafts.
- Free, compulsory education (ages 7-14) in mother tongue.

1944: The Sargent Report



- **The Ambition:** Raise Indian education standards to match England's level.
- **Timeframe:** A 40-year plan (Targeting 1984).
- **Scope:** Comprehensive (Pre-primary to University).
- **The Irony:** The British Raj ended just 3 years later, rendering the timeline moot.
- **Legacy:** First attempt at a comprehensive national system.

Post-Independence: The Institutional Pillars



AICTE

- Est. 1945 (Pre-Independence)
- Statutory: 1987
- Focus: Technical Education



UGC

- Est. 1953
- Statutory: 1956
- Focus: Universities & Standards



NCERT

- Est. 1961
- Focus: School Curriculum & Research

1948: Radhakrishnan Commission

University Education Commission

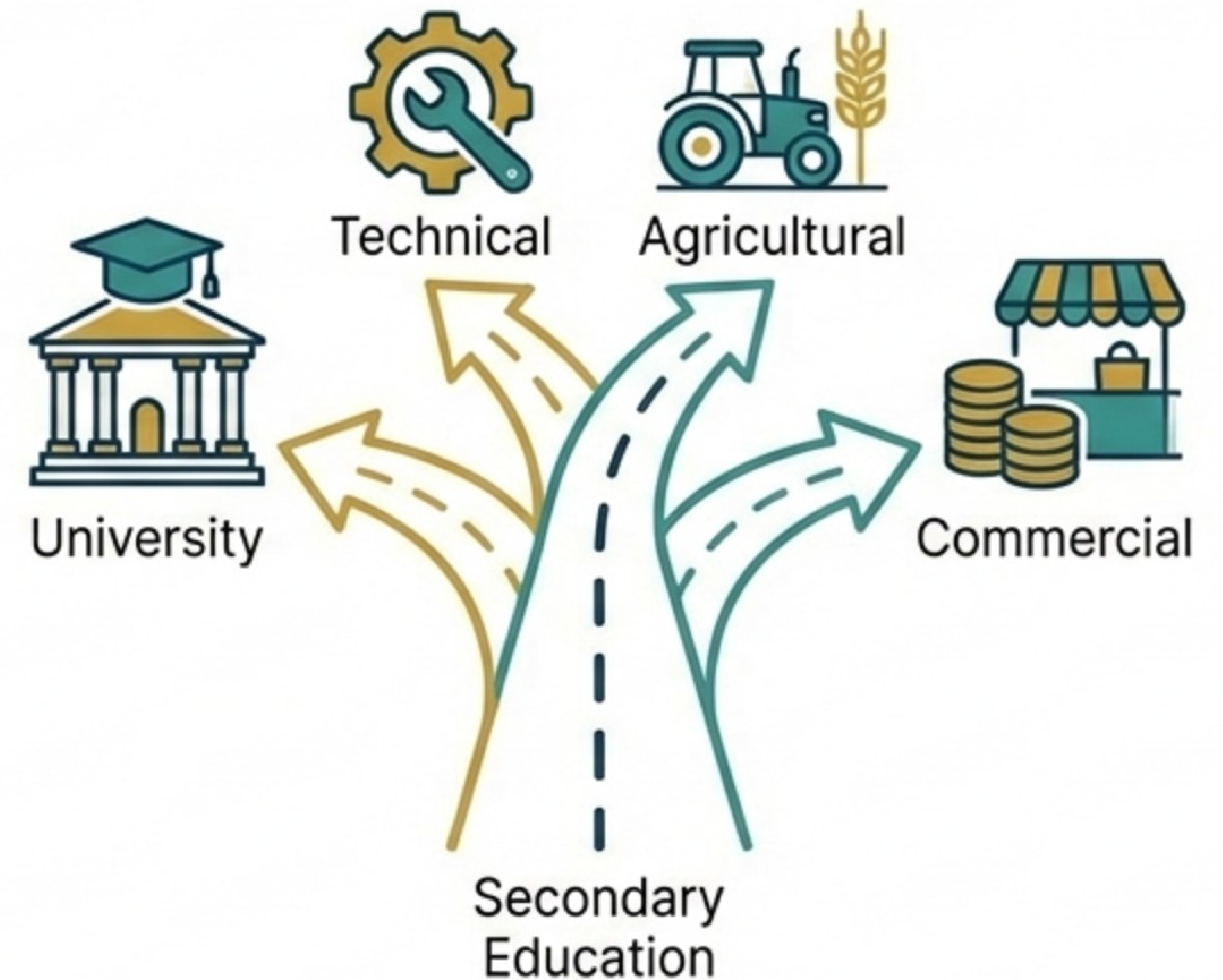
- **First** commission of Independent India.
- **Key Legacy:** Recommended the establishment of the UGC.
- **Vision:** Emphasized 'Rural Universities' to bridge the urban-rural divide.
- **Curriculum:** Focus on value education and general education.



1952: Mudaliar Commission

Secondary Education Commission

- **Chair:** Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.
- **The Diagnosis:** Secondary education was the 'weakest link'.
- **The Solution:** Introduction of 'Multi-purpose Schools'.
- **Diversification:** Offer diverse streams to prepare students for life, not just degrees.

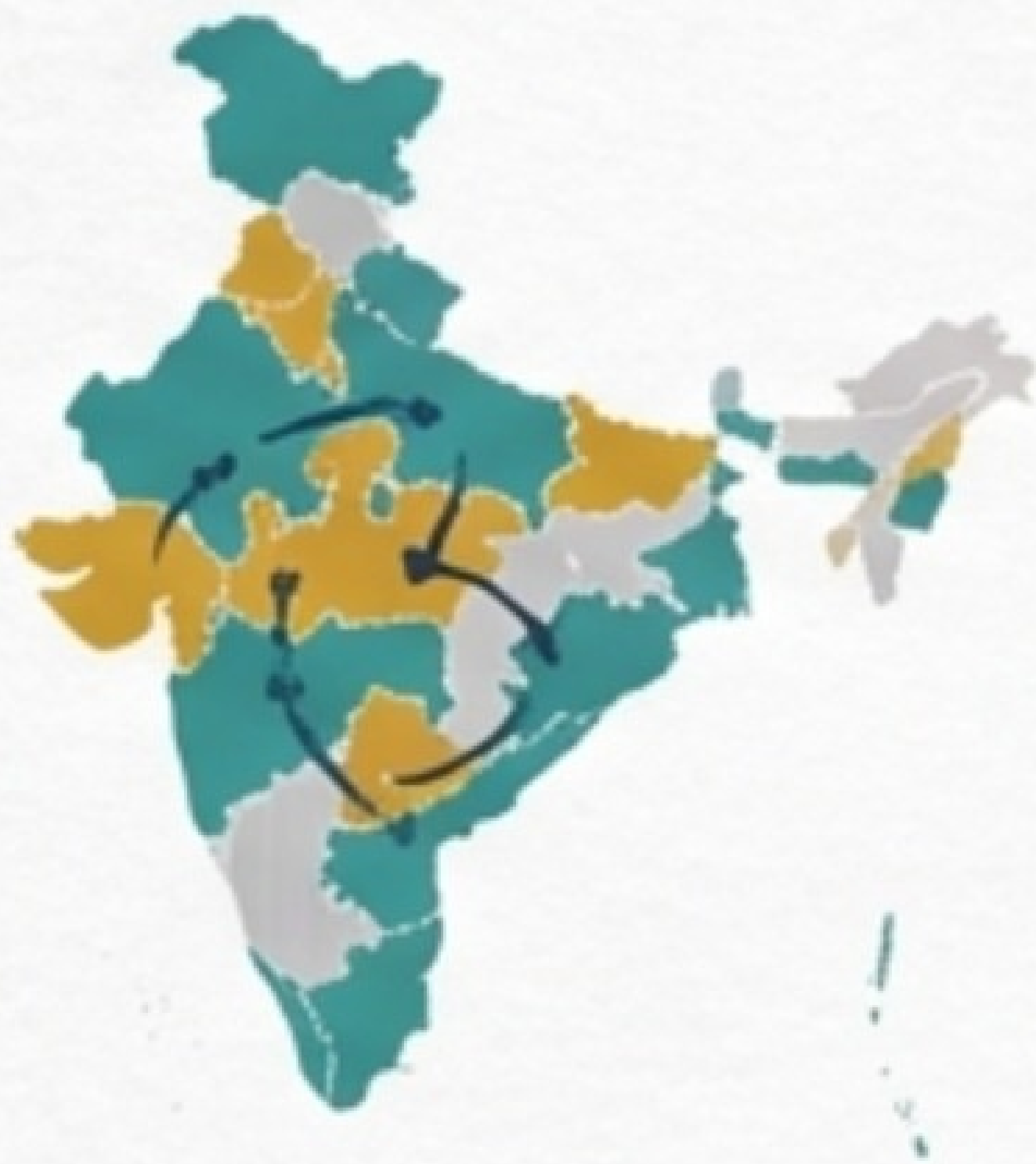


1958–1962: Bridging Social Gaps



Women's Education

- Durga Bai Deshmukh Comm. (1958): Highlighted funding disparity.
- Hansa Mehta Comm. (1962): Advocated for gender parity in curriculum.



National Integration

- Sampurnanand Committee (1961): Focused on 'Emotional Integration'.
- Goal: Use education to unify diverse linguistic and regional groups.

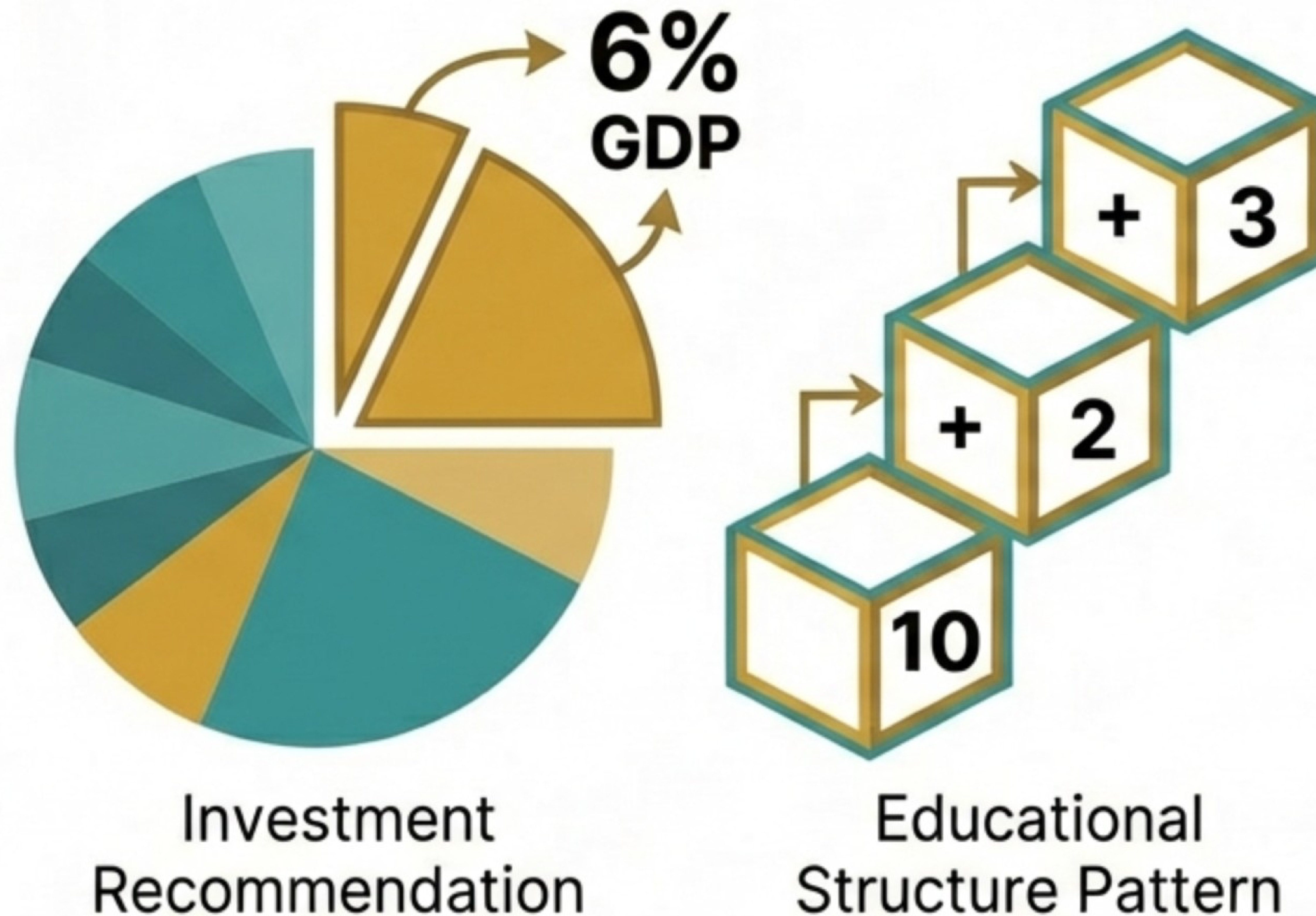
1964-66: The Kothari Commission

The Blueprint of Indian Education

- **Scope:** The most comprehensive commission in Indian history.
- **Leadership:** D.S. Kothari (UGC Chairman).
- **Approach:** 'Education for National Development'.
- **Unique Feature:** International collaboration (Experts from 5 nations).
- **Study Hack:** Remember 'FAR J' (France, America, Russia, Japan) + UK.



Kothari Recommendations



- **Structure:** Standardized the 10+2+3 pattern across India.
- **Investment:** Recommended spending 6% of GDP on education.
- **Language:** Three-Language Formula (Hindi, English, Regional).
- **Equity:** 'Neighborhood Schools' (Common School System).

1968 Policy & 1976 Amendment

- **NPE 1968:** First National Policy based on Kothari recommendations.
 - **Limitation:** Lacked funding and implementation strategy.
- **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976):**
 - **Action:** Moved Education to the Concurrent List.
 - **Impact:** Education became a joint responsibility of Center + State.
 - **Result:** Central government gained power to set national standards.

