

Higher Education in India

From Vedic Roots to NEP 2020

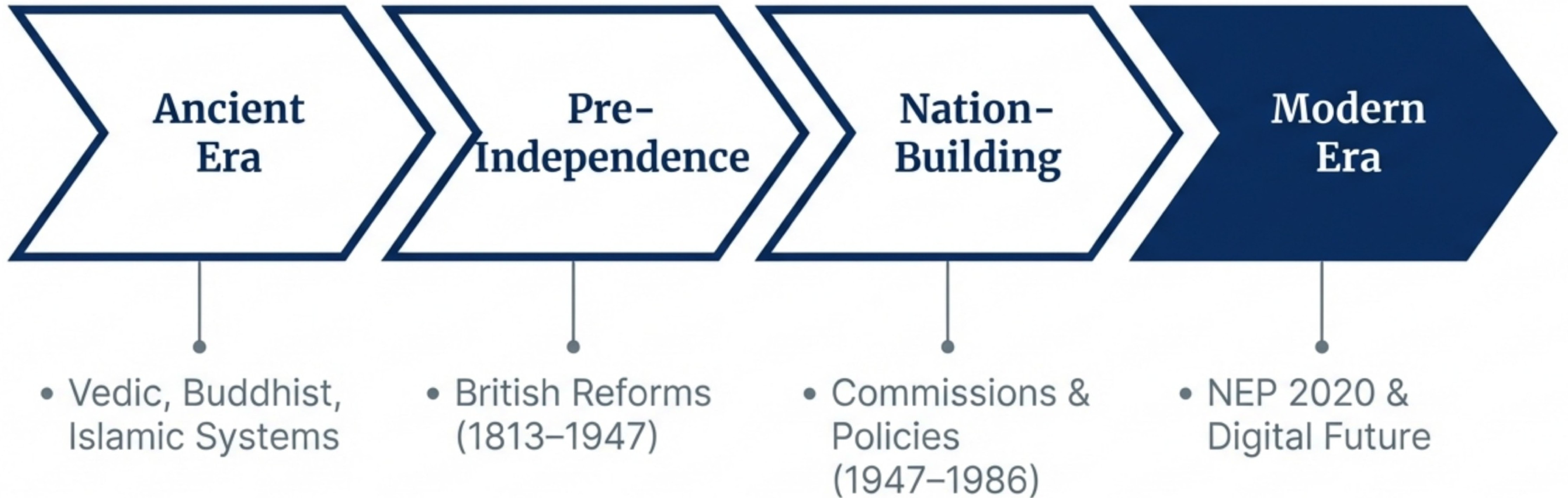


Target Audience: UGC
NET/JRF Aspirants

Scope: Ancient Systems
to Digital Era

Key Focus: Policies,
Commissions & Reforms

Chronological Roadmap



The Vedic System: Gurukuls

Para Vidya

Higher Knowledge. Spiritual wisdom, knowledge of the Self/Absolute.

Apara Vidya

Lower Knowledge. Secular sciences, grammar, astrology, mathematics.

Core Features



Method: Oral Tradition (Sruti) & Memorization



Ceremony: Upanayana (Initiation Rite)



Curriculum: 4 Vedas (Rig, Sama, Yajur, Atharva) & 6 Vedangas



Structure: Residential Gurukul System

Heterodox & Medieval Systems

Buddhist Education



Institution: Viharas (Monasteries) rather than private homes.

Language: Pali (Language of the masses).

Ceremonies: Pabbajja (Admission at age 8) -> Upasampada (Monkhood at age 20).

Values: Equality (No caste system), Four Noble Truths.

Islamic Education

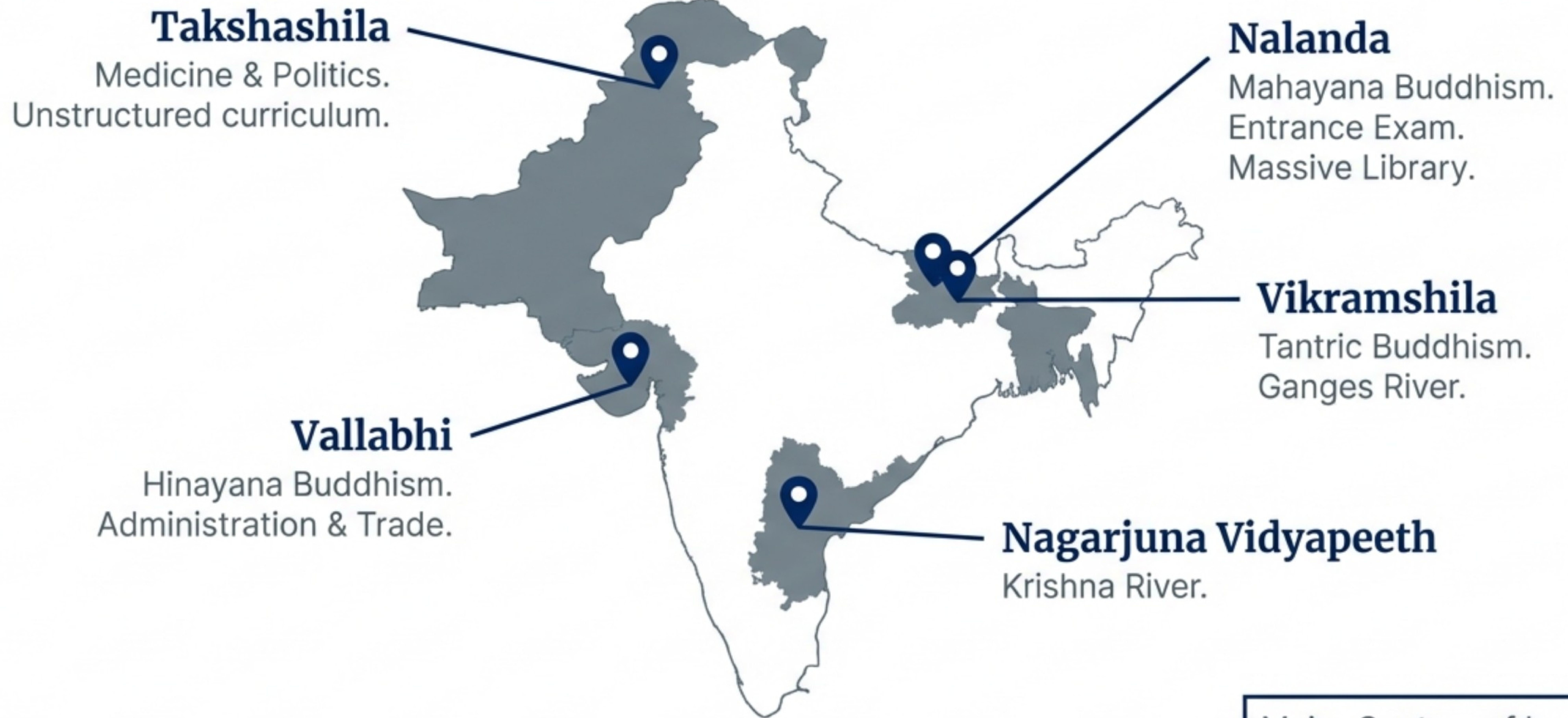


Institution: Maktab (Primary) & Madrasa (Higher Learning).

Ritual: Bismillah Ceremony (Initiation at 4 years, 4 months, 4 days).

Focus: Preservation of knowledge, Theology, Logic, Law.

Ancient Universities: The Ivy League of Antiquity



Major Centers of Learning

Deep Dive: Takshashila & Nalanda

Takshashila (Taxila)

- Location: Rawalpindi (Modern Pakistan).
- Key Scholars: Chanakya (Arthashastra), Charaka (Medicine), Panini (Grammar).
- Feature: No organized syllabus or exams. Teacher autonomy.
- Specialization: Medicine, Archery, Statecraft.

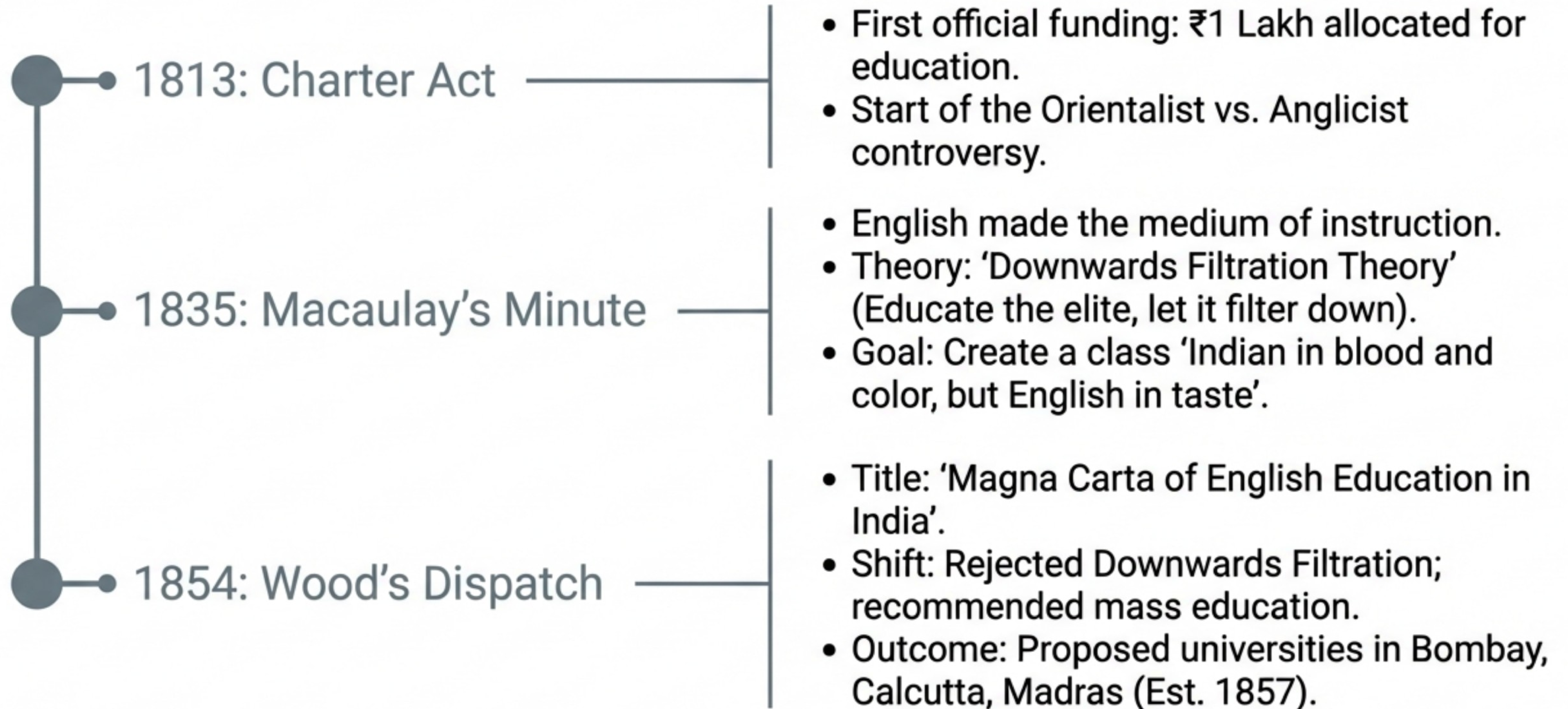
Nalanda

- Location: Rajgir, Bihar.
- Founders: Gupta Dynasty (Kumaragupta I).
- Library: Dharmaganja (Mountain of Truth) - 3 buildings: Ratnasagar, Ratnodadhi, Ratnaranjaka.
- Admissions: Extremely tough entrance test by 'DwarPandit' (Gatekeeper). Only 20% passed.
- Specialization: Mahayana Buddhism.

Other Major Ancient Centers

Vikramshila • Location: Antichak, Bihar (Banks of Ganges). • Founder: King Dharmapala (Pala Dynasty). • Focus: Vajrayana (Tantric) Buddhism.	Vallabhi • Location: Saurashtra, Gujarat. • Focus: Hinayana Buddhism & Secular Administration. • Status: Rival to Nalanda; known for high employability.
Mithila & Nadia • Focus: Brahminical Logic (Nyaya Shastra) & Sanskrit. • Key Scholar: Gangesa Upadhyaya (Mithila).	Odantapuri • Location: Bihar. • Significance: Model for Tibetan Monasteries. • Founder: Pala Dynasty.

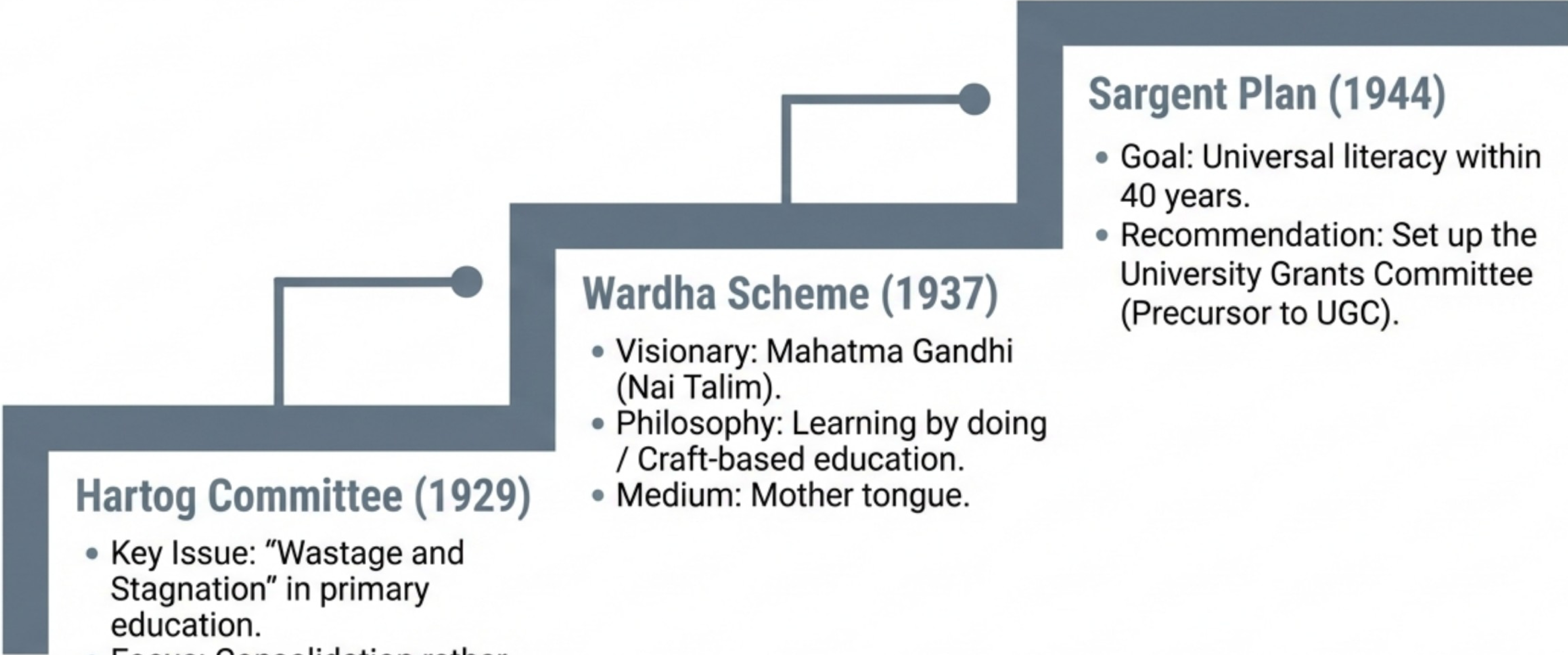
British Era: The Foundations (1813–1854)



Pre-Independence Commissions (1882-1917)

Hunter Commission (1882) • Chairman: W.W. Hunter. • Focus: Segregation of Primary and Higher Education. • Policy: Encouraged private enterprise in education.	Indian Universities Commission (1902) • Context: Lord Curzon (Raleigh Commission). • Focus: Quality control and research. • Outcome: Indian Universities Act 1904 (Increased govt control).
	Sadler Commission (1917) • Also known as: Calcutta University Commission. • Key Reform: Separated Intermediate (12th) from Degree college. • Structure: Proposed the 10+2+3 foundation.

Final Pre-Independence Reforms (1929-1944)



Hartog Committee (1929)

- Key Issue: "Wastage and Stagnation" in primary education.
- Focus: Consolidation rather than expansion.

Wardha Scheme (1937)

- Visionary: Mahatma Gandhi (Nai Talim).
- Philosophy: Learning by doing / Craft-based education.
- Medium: Mother tongue.

Sargent Plan (1944)

- Goal: Universal literacy within 40 years.
- Recommendation: Set up the University Grants Committee (Precursor to UGC).

Radhakrishnan Commission (1948-49)

First post-independence commission.

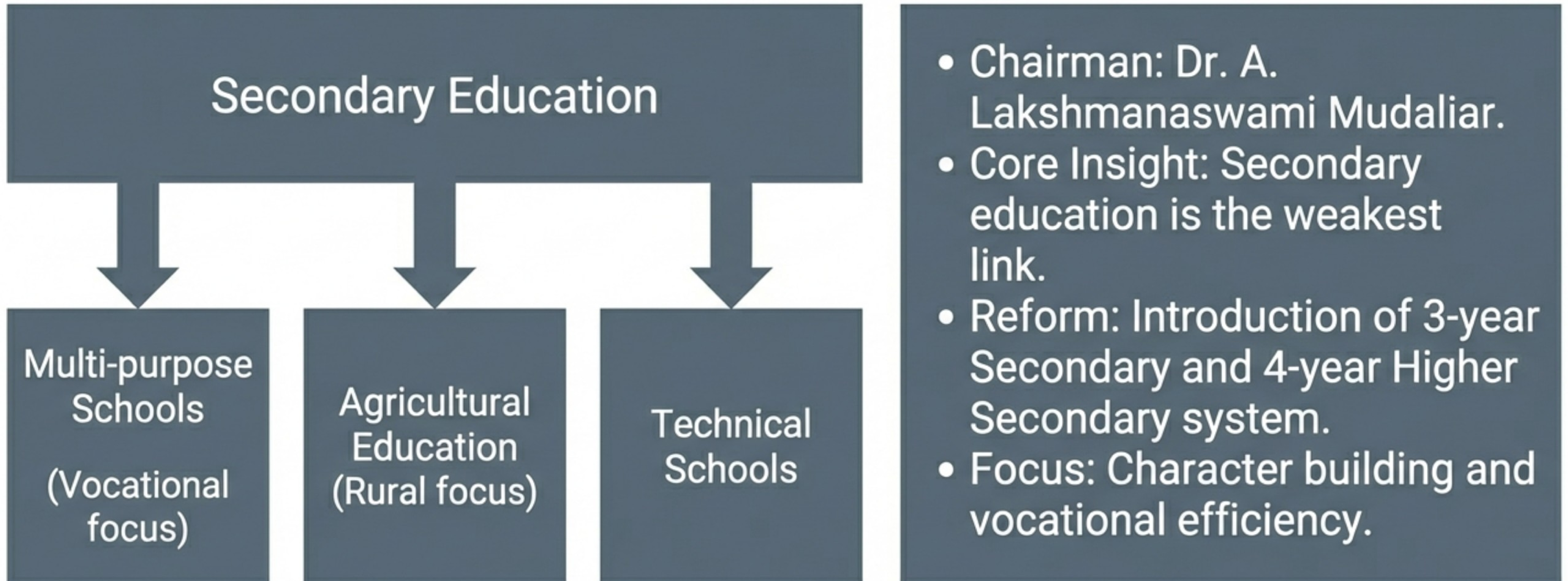


Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

- Mandate: University Education Commission.
- Key Recommendation: Integration of secondary and higher education.
- Major Outcome: Establishment of the University Grants Commission (UGC) by Act of Parliament.
- Philosophy: Universities should be centers for rural development and civilization building.
- Curriculum: Introduction of General Education alongside specialized subjects.

Mudaliar Commission (1952-53)

The Secondary Education Commission



Kothari Commission (1964-66)

Education and National Development

- Chairman: Dr. D.S. Kothari.
- Scope: Comprehensive (Primary to University).

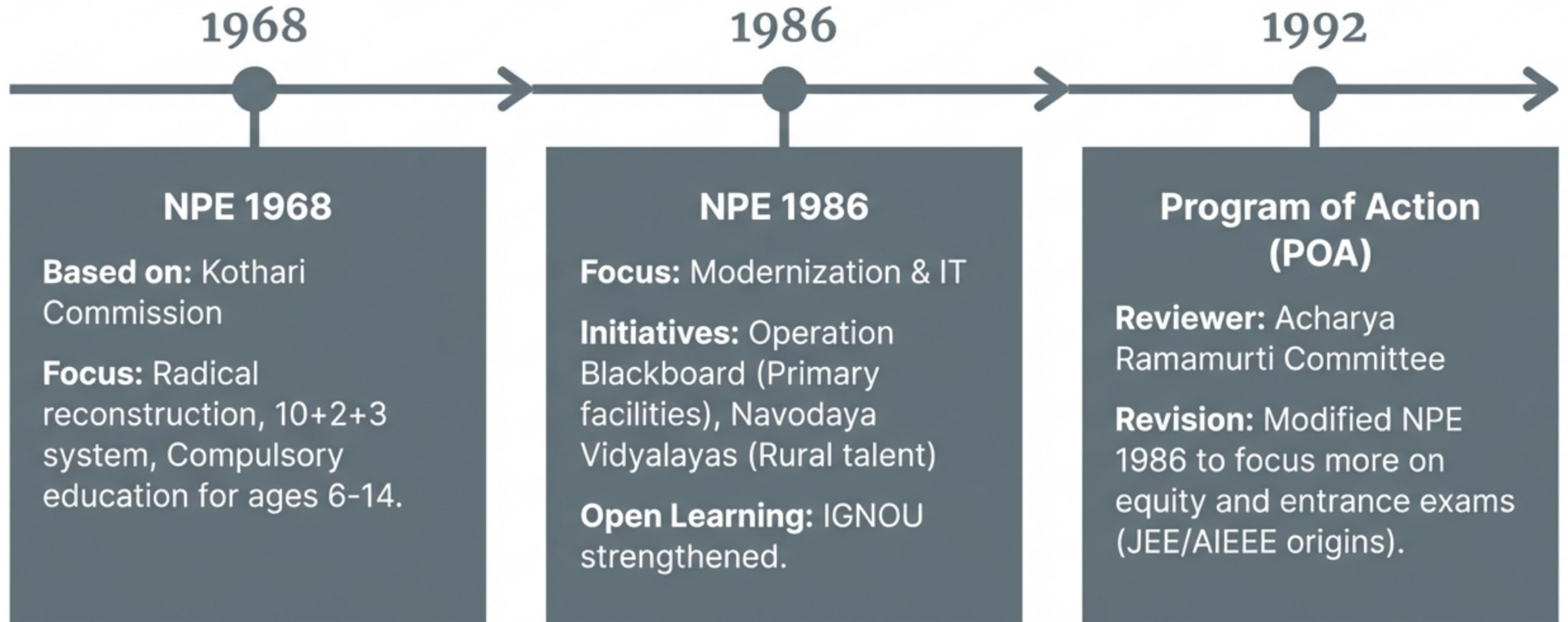
6%

- Structure: Standardized the 10+2+3 pattern across India.
- Three Language Formula: Hindi, English, Regional Language.

- Recommendation: Common School System & Neighborhood Schools.

“The destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms.”

National Policies on Education (NPE)



The Knowledge Commissions

National Knowledge Commission (2005)

- **Chairman:** Sam Pitroda.
- **Goal:** India as a Knowledge Economy. Target 1500 Universities.



Yashpal Committee (2009)

- **Report Title:** "Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education".
- **Key Idea:** Scrap regulatory fragmentation (UGC/AICTE) for one super-regulator (NCHER).
- **Philosophy:** Deemed Universities should be regulated strictly.

NEP 2020: Structural Paradigm Shift

Previous Structure: 10 + 2

- Rote learning focus.
- Rigid streams (Science vs Arts).



New Structure: 5 + 3 + 3 + 4

5 Years: Foundational (Ages 3-8).

3 Years: Preparatory (Ages 8-11).

3 Years: Middle (Ages 11-14).

4 Years: Secondary (Ages 14-18).

Stages: Foundational (Ages 3-8). Particples,
Secondary (Ages 14-18).

Key Philosophy: Holistic, Multidisciplinary, No rigid separation of streams.

NEP 2020: Higher Education Reforms

Multiple Entry & Exit

- 1 Year: Certificate
- 2 Years: Diploma
- 3 Years: Bachelor's Degree
- 4 Years: Bachelor's with Research

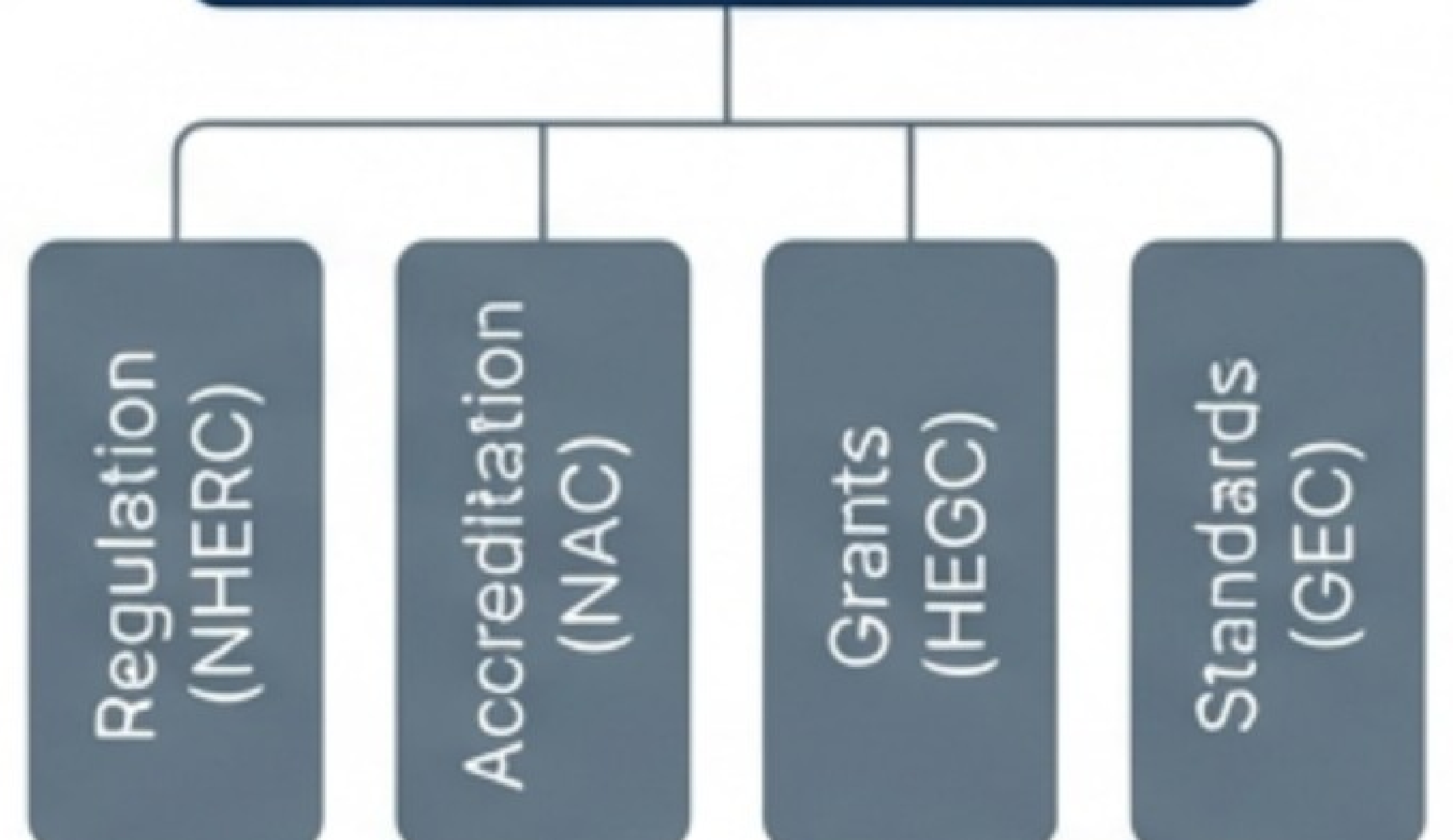
Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)



- Digital repository of credits.
- Allows seamless transfer between institutions.

Regulatory Overhaul

HECI:
Higher Education
Commission of India
(Single Umbrella Body)



Digital Initiatives in Higher Education

SWAYAM

- Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.
- Platform: MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).
- 4 Quadrants: Video, E-Content, Assessment, Discussion.



Swayam Prabha

- Network: 40 DTH Channels devoted to telecasting high-quality educational programs.
- Satellite: GSAT-15.
- 24/7 Content for students without internet.



NAD (National Academic Depository)

- 24x7 online storehouse of all academic awards (degrees, marksheets).
- Ensures authenticity and safe storage.



Regulatory Bodies & Research Councils

The Regulators (Pre-NEP context)

- UGC (University Grants Commission): Funding and Standards (Est 1956).
- AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education): Technical Edu (Est 1945/1987).
- NCTE: Teacher Education.
- BCI/MCI: Law/Medical.

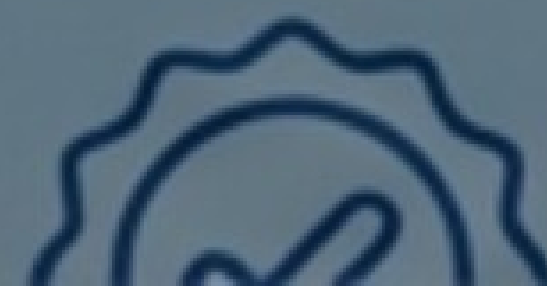
Research Councils

- ICSSR: Indian Council of Social Science Research.
- ICPR: Indian Council of Philosophical Research.
- ICHR: Indian Council of Historical Research.
- CSIR: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

Quality Assurance: Accreditation & Ranking

NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council)

- HQ: Bengaluru.
- Function: Grades institutions (A++, A+, B, etc.).
- Motto: Excellence, Credibility, Relevance.



NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework)

- Launched: 2015 by MoE.
- Parameters (5): Teaching/Learning, Research, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach/Inclusivity, Perception.
- Importance: The official annual ranking of Indian HEIs.

