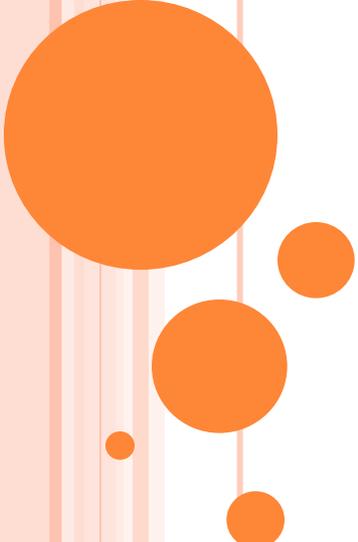


B.ED. (SEM. IV)

**TITLE OF PAPER: CONTEMPORARY INDIA
AND EDUCATION**

TOPIC: NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

COMMISSION: AN OVERVIEW



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NKC: AN INTRODUCTION

- ✓ The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13th June 2005 as a **high level advisory body** to the Prime Minister of India under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sam Pitroda.
- ✓ The Commission was set up to prepare a blueprint for reforms of knowledge related institutions and infrastructure which would enable India to meet the challenges of the future.
- ✓ The commission was given a time-frame of three years from 2nd October 2005 to 2nd October 2008, later extended to 31st March 2009.



THE VISION OF NKC

The vision for the National Knowledge Commission was articulated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, in the following words:

“The time has come to create a second wave of institution building, and of excellence in the fields of education, research and capacity building”.



OBJECTIVES

The overarching aim of NKC was *to enable the development of a vibrant knowledge based society*. In order to realise the above, the NKC sought to develop appropriate institutional frameworks to:

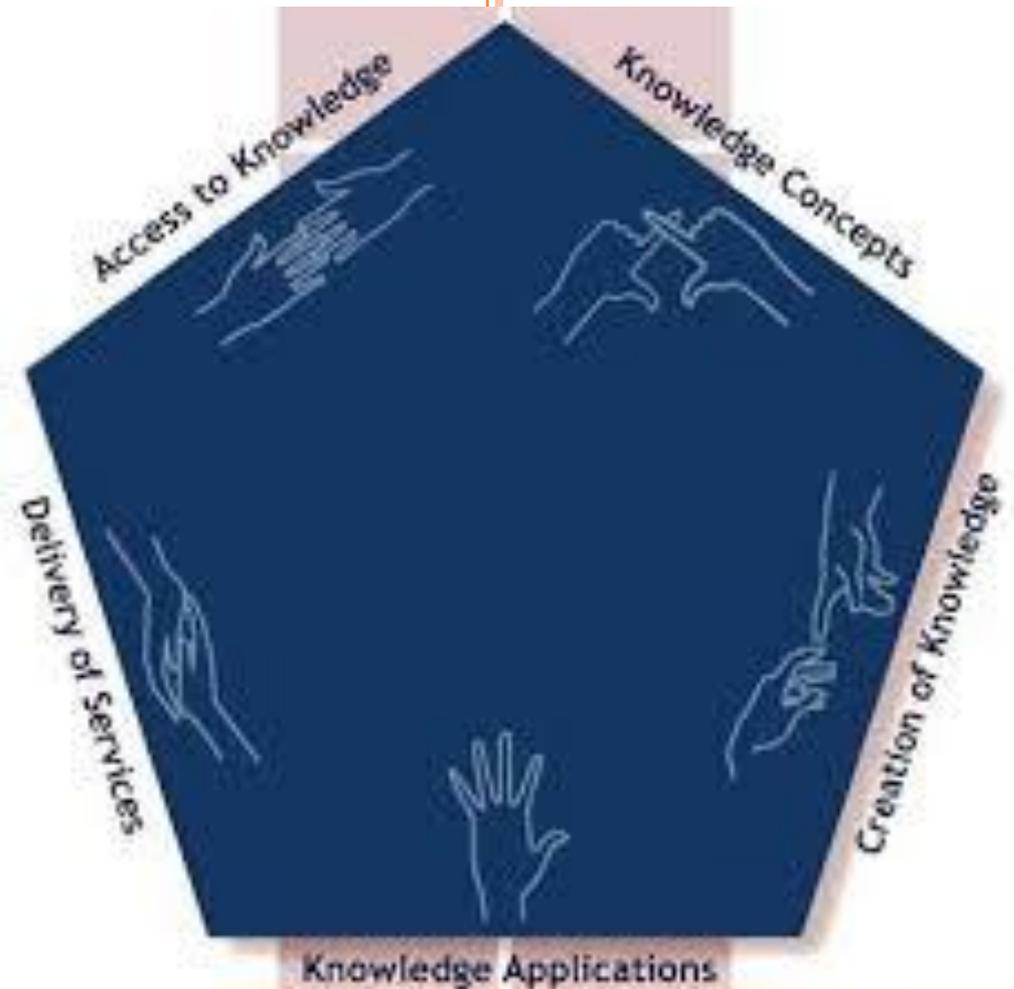
- strengthen the education system, promote domestic research and innovation, facilitate knowledge application in sectors like health, agriculture, and industry.
- leverage information and communication technologies to enhance governance and improve connectivity.
- devise mechanisms for exchange and interaction between knowledge systems in the global arena.

METHODOLOGY

- Identification of key focus areas
 - Identification of stakeholders and understanding major issues
 - Constitution of working groups and consultations with concerned experts and stakeholders
 - Discussion in NKC to finalise recommendations
 - Letter to the Prime Minister containing key recommendations
 - Dissemination of key recommendations to the state governments, civil society and other stakeholders
 - Initiating the implementation of recommendations under the aegis of the PMO
 - Coordination and follow up of implementation of proposals
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KNOWLEDGE PENTAGON

1. Access to Knowledge
2. Knowledge Concepts
3. Creation of Knowledge
4. Knowledge Applications
5. Delivery of Services



REPORT OF THE NKC

NKC has submitted recommendations on 27 focus areas in the form of letters to the Prime Minister. The recommendations have been disseminated widely in three compilations:

- ‘Report to the Nation 2006’
- ‘Report to the Nation 2007’
- ‘Towards a Knowledge Society’ – Report to the Nation 2006-2009



**IMPORTANT
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF
NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE
COMMISSION**



ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Right to Education:

- A central legislation needs to be effected along the lines of the Panchayati Raj Act affirming the Right to Education within a specified time period.
- Bulk of the financial requirements for implementing RTE must borne by the central government
- The central legislation should lay down the norms and standards of quality in school education to make it more effective and the responsibility of the governments at different levels must be recognised and made justifiable.



Language: Considering the importance of English in higher education, employment possibilities and social opportunities NKC recommended that

- Teaching of English as a language should be introduced, along with first language of the child, starting from Class 1.
- School teachers all over the country should be trained to improve their proficiency in English through vacation training programmes or other short term courses.

Translation: Recognising the role of translation in making knowledge available to different linguistic groups, NKC recommends that



- Translation should be developed as an industry and generate employment .
- Set up a **National Translation Mission** (NTM) with a focus on promoting translation activities across the country. NTM should undertake activities such as setting up a storehouse of information on all aspects of translation, providing quality training and education for translators, and creating and maintaining various tools for translation.

Libraries: NKC admits that public libraries have an important role in the dissemination of knowledge and provide an important foundation for the knowledge economy. To revamp the Library and Information Services (LIS) NKC *inter alia* recommends the:



- setting up of a National Commission on Libraries which would streamline all development initiatives in the sector;
- creation of a model library charter;
- encourage public-Private partnership in LIS development

National Knowledge Network:

In order to build quality research institutions and to create the pool of highly trained individuals NKC recommends the setting up of a National Knowledge Network digitally connecting all knowledge institutions in various fields throughout the country, through an electronic digital broadband network.



Health Information Network:

- ✓ Country needs to develop a web based network, connecting all health care establishments in both private and public sectors.
- ✓ Establishment of national standards for clinical terminology and health informatics is required.
- ✓ A common Electronic Health Record (EHR) based on open source solutions needs to be created and disseminated.

Portals:

In order to increase openness and enhance accessibility , creation of national web based portals on certain key sectors such as water, energy, environment, teachers, biodiversity, health, agriculture, employment and citizens' rights is proposed.



KNOWLEDGE CONCEPTS

School Education:

- ✓ Encourage decentralization, local autonomy in management of schools and flexibility in disbursal of funds in the school system.
 - ✓ Improvement in school infrastructure and revamping school inspection with a greater role for local stakeholders.
 - ✓ ICT should be made available to teachers, students and administration.
 - ✓ Bring reforms in the curriculum and examination systems by moving away from rote learning to a critical understanding of concepts.
 - ✓ Dignity of school teachers should be restored as a professional. Teachers should not be allowed to perform non teaching official duties.
 - ✓ Ensure special interventions for extending the access of educationally deprived classes of students to education
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Vocational Education and Training (VET):

- Focus on increasing the flexibility of VET within the mainstream education system.
 - Expand the capacity of VET through innovative delivery models including robust public private partnerships.
 - Since only 7% of the country's labour force is in the organised sector, enhancing training options for the unorganised and informal sector is vital. Systematic efforts need to be made to impart the skills required by the unorganised sector. These should be formally introduced in the curricula and practical training courses. The government should act as facilitator and provide financial support.
 - A robust regulatory and accreditation framework along with proper certification of vocational education and training needs to be developed.
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Higher Education: In higher education, NKC focuses on three key aspects- expansion, excellence and inclusion.

- ✓ To achieve the gross enrolment ration of at least 15% , NKC recommends creation of about 1500 universities by 2015. the focus should be on new universities but some clusters of affiliated colleges should become universities.
- ✓ Existing universities should be reformed through revision of curricula at least once in three years, supplementing annual examination with internal assessment, transition to a course credit system, attract talented faculty by improving working conditions and incentives.
- ✓ The UGC would focus on disbursement of grants and maintaining public institutions of higher learning.



- ✓ **An Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE)** should be formed by an Act of Parliament. The regulatory function of the AICTE, MCI, and BCI would be performed by IRAHE.
 - ✓ The IRAHE shall have the power to set and monitor standards, accord degree-granting power to institutions of higher education, license accreditation agencies, and settle disputes. Same norms shall apply to all institutions irrespective of whether they are public or private, domestic or international.
 - ✓ Present regime of regulation in all **professional education** streams including medical, legal , management and engineering education, should be replaced by subgroups on different streams under the proposed independent regulator.
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- Set up four autonomous, well networked **Centres for Advanced Legal Studies and Research (CALSAR)** in each region to carry out cutting edge research on various aspects of law and serve as a think-tank for advising the government in national and international fora.
- **More talented students in science and mathematics:** To rejuvenate science and research in the country NKC recommended launching a massive science outreach programme, upgrading the available infrastructure, revitalising the teaching profession and revamping teacher education at all levels.
- **More Quality PhDs.:** NKC recommended massive investment in education and research at all levels, together with renovation and reform of the university system and fostering of a global outlook in research. Steps to be taken to rejuvenate the doctoral programmes across disciplines and develop vigorous industry-academia interaction. To create required research ecosystem in the country National Research Mission should be set up.



- Attract NRI/PIO scientists by providing attractive opportunities in the country.
- Formalise collaboration with foreign institutions and researchers
- Formulate policies for entry of foreign institutions in India and the promotion of Indian institutions abroad.
- **Ensure quality of education** by stringent information disclosure norms, evaluation of courses by teachers and students, rethinking the issue of salary differentials within and between universities to retain talented faculty.



CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE

- India should set up a National Science and Social Science Foundation (NSSSF) which will look at all knowledge as a seamless entity.
- In order to facilitate the creation of knowledge NKC has recommended scaling up efforts to build a world class IPR infrastructure. It also recommended establishment of new structures such as a separate IPR Tribunal, a national institution for cutting edge IPR policy, and a Global Technology Acquisition Fund.
- realising that entrepreneurship is a key driver for wealth creation and employment generation, NKC recommended : creation of a supreme business environment through measures such as single window system, composite application form, etc., and setting up of new institutional mechanisms such as special commercial courts and Limited Liability Partnerships.



KNOWLEDGE APPLICATIONS

- Major efforts be undertaken to provide quality education in traditional medicine.
 - Create a suitable IPR framework for better protection of the sources of medical knowledge while at the same time ensuring that sufficient incentives are created for commercialization of traditional medicines.
 - Concrete steps to be taken to modernise and stimulate agricultural research institutions, coordinate research and make research support more flexible.
 - Recommended restructuring the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) to make it more decentralised, participatory and locally responsive, and enhancing the role of private players in agricultural extension delivery.
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DELIVERY OF SERVICES: E-GOVERNANCE

- The commission believes that for the creation of a true knowledge society, the availability of efficient knowledge services for citizens is critical.
- For ensuring efficient delivery of service by the government, e-governance should be taken as an opportunity. It focuses upon the re-engineering government processes to change the basic pattern of governance for simplicity, transparency, productivity and efficiency.
- Recommends that 10 to 20 services that make a critical difference to citizens may be selected, simplified and offered as web-based services.



THANK YOU

