

[Act No. 13 of 1965]

The Telangana Bhoodan and Gramdan Act, 1965

A Legal Blueprint for Agrarian Equity
and Communal Ownership

Codifying the Vision of Acharya Vinobha Bhave

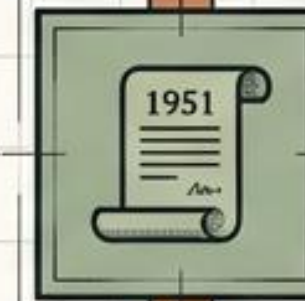
[Sec. 1, 2a, 35]

Strategic mandate

The Bhoodan Yagna was initiated as a voluntary movement to acquire land for distribution to the landless poor and for community purposes. This Act provides the permanent legal architecture to receive, manage, and grant these donations across the State of Telangana, superseding the temporary 1951 Land Revenue Special Rules.



1965 Codification:
Permanent statutory architecture established via Act No. 13 of 1965.



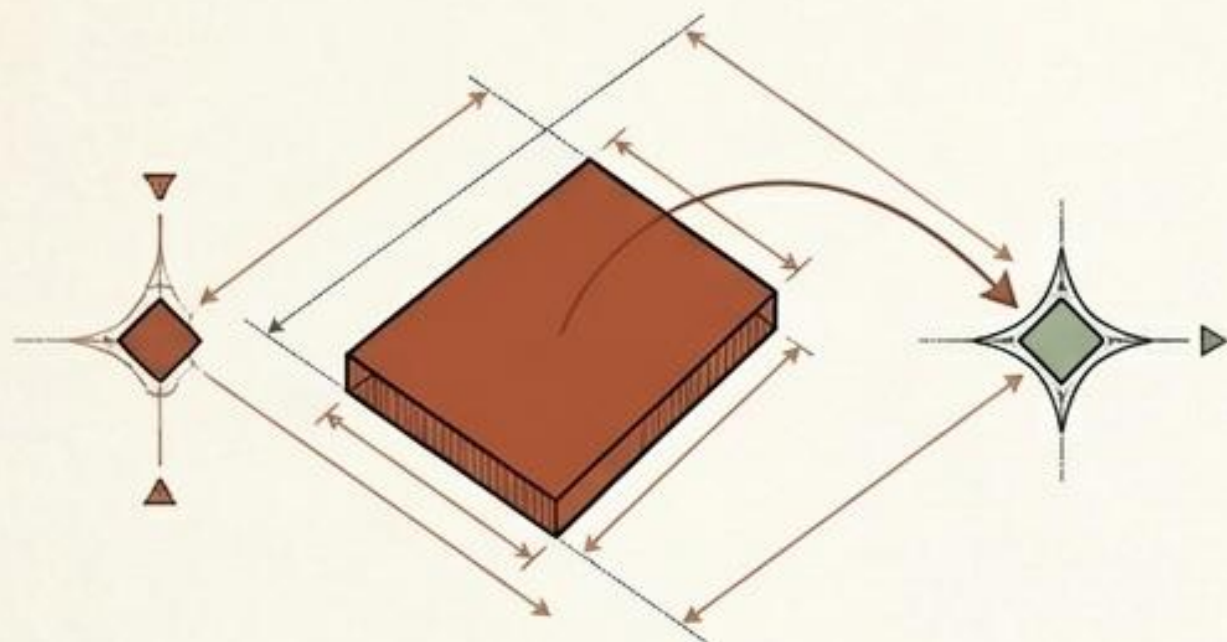
1951 Special Rules:
Temporary agrarian framework under the Hyderabad Land Revenue rules.



The Social Movement:
Voluntary donation initiated by Acharya Vinobha Bhave.

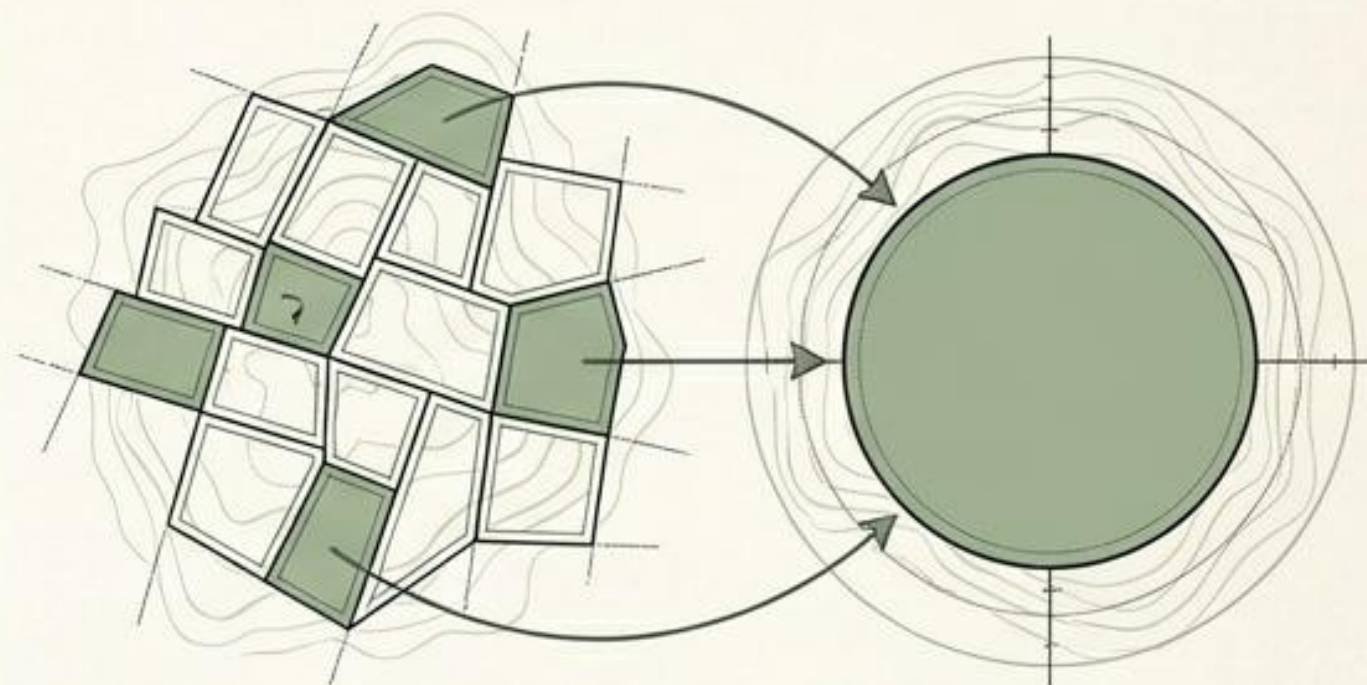
The Dual Engines of Agrarian Redistribution

Bhoodan Yagna (Individual Level)



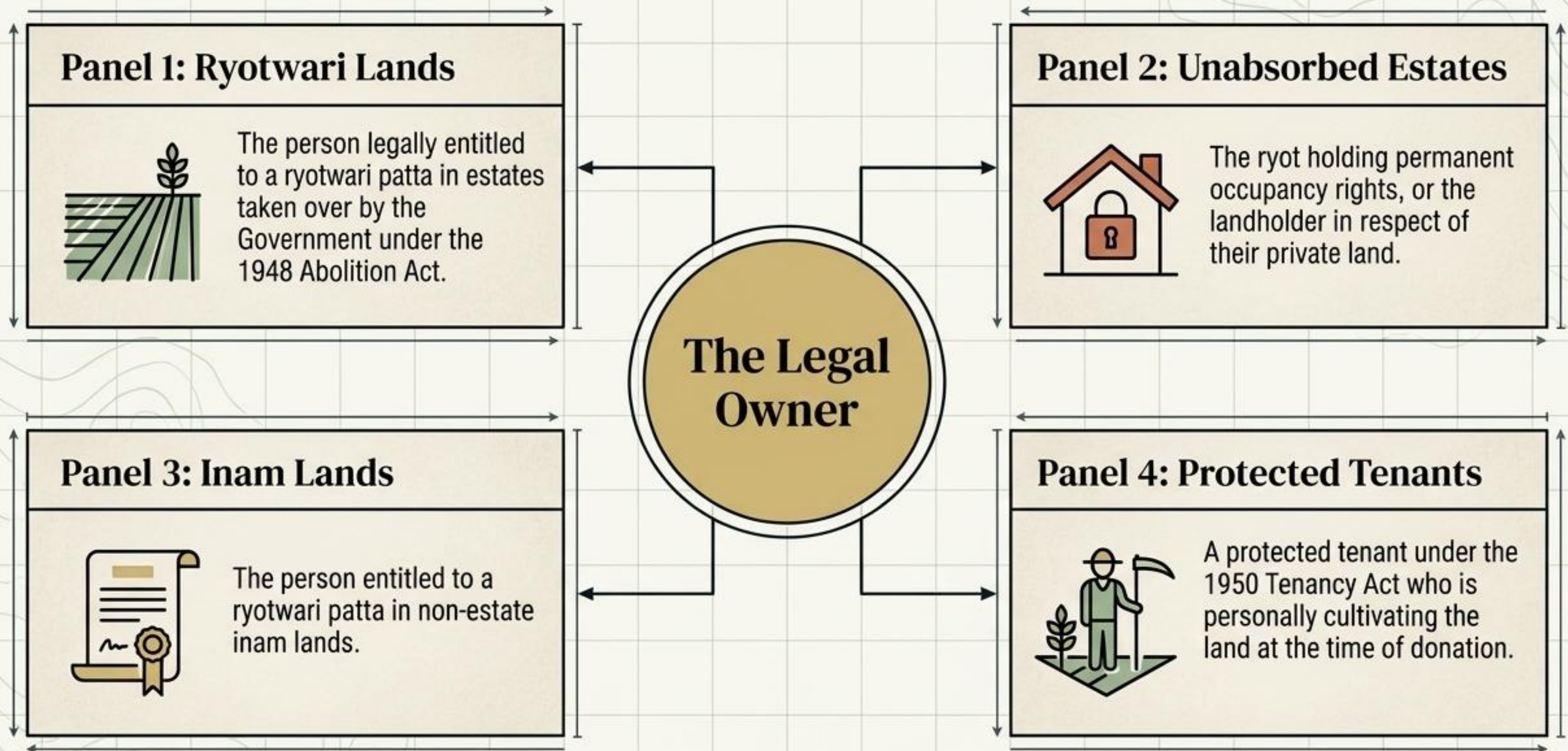
The voluntary donation of specific land parcels by individuals. Intended for targeted distribution to landless poor persons or for specific community purposes.

Gramdan (Communal Level)

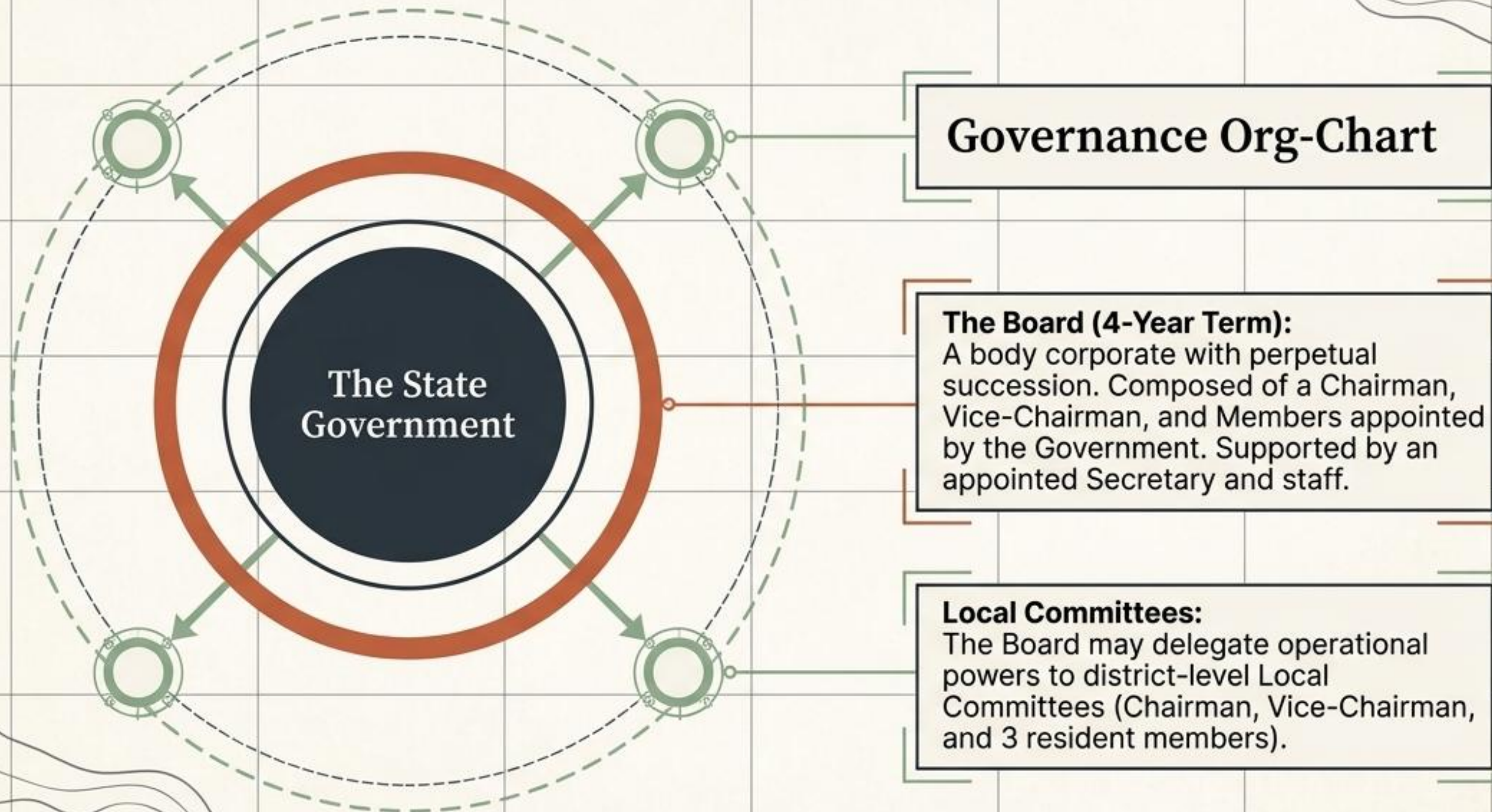


The voluntary donation of land across an entire village. Transforms the village into a unified legal entity where land vests in the community (Gram Sabha) rather than specific individuals.

Defining the Legally Authorized Donor



The Bhoodan Yagna Board: Corporate Authority & Decentralization



System Corrections: Vacancies, Removals, and Dissolution

Friction Management Mechanisms

Path 1: Individual Member Removal



Government may remove members for:

- Unsound mind or insolvency.
- Criminal sentence involving moral turpitude.
- Abuse of positional powers.
- Missing 3 consecutive meetings without excuse.

*Note: Casual vacancies are filled only for the residue of the predecessor's term.

Path 2: Total Board Dissolution



If the Board fails its duties or abuses power, Government may dissolve the entire body.

- A new Board must be reconstituted immediately, or within a 1 to 3 year window.
- The Government totally absorbs all assets and liabilities during the interim period.

The Procedural Pathway for Legal Donation







Quality Control: Statutory Grounds for Rejection

The Board holds a 2-month window to confirm or reject a Tahsildar-approved declaration. Rejection triggers an automatic cancellation, returning all rights and liabilities to the donor.

Note: If the Board takes no action within 2 months, the donation is deemed automatically confirmed.

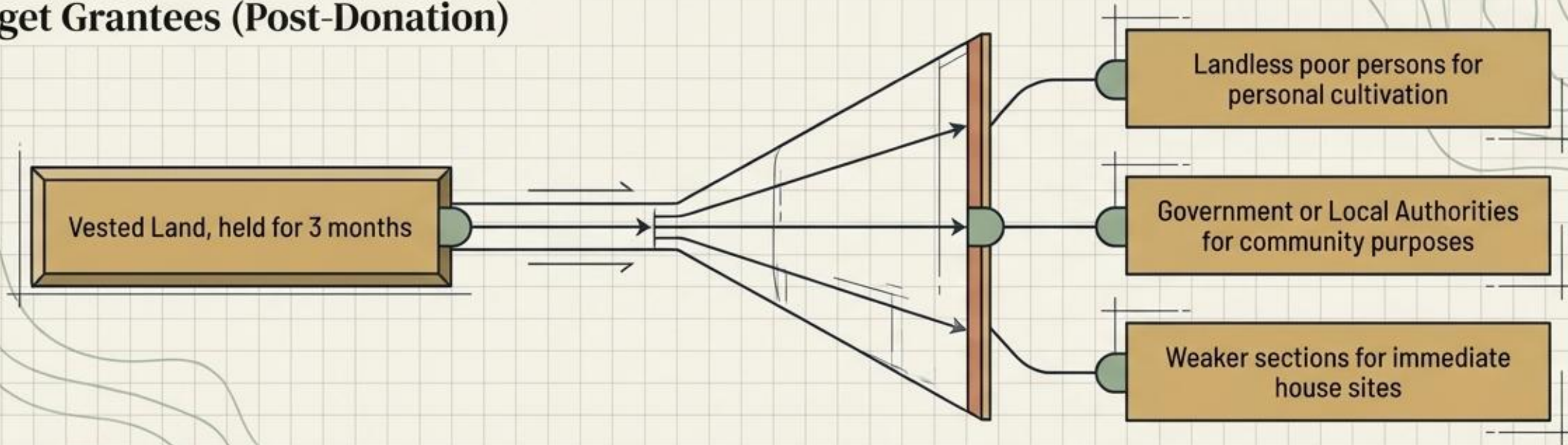
Quality Control Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion 1: Encumbrances exist on the land.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion 2: Unpaid arrears of land revenue or rent.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion 3: Donor lacks legal ownership or competency to donate.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion 4: Any other good or sufficient reason identified by the Board.	

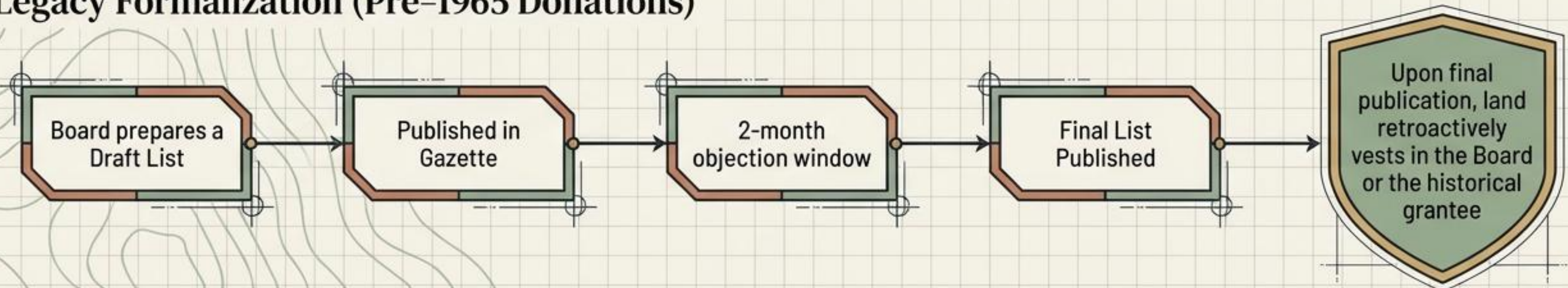
Distributing the Asset: Land Grants & Legacy Formalization

[Sec. 14, 15]

Target Grantees (Post-Donation)

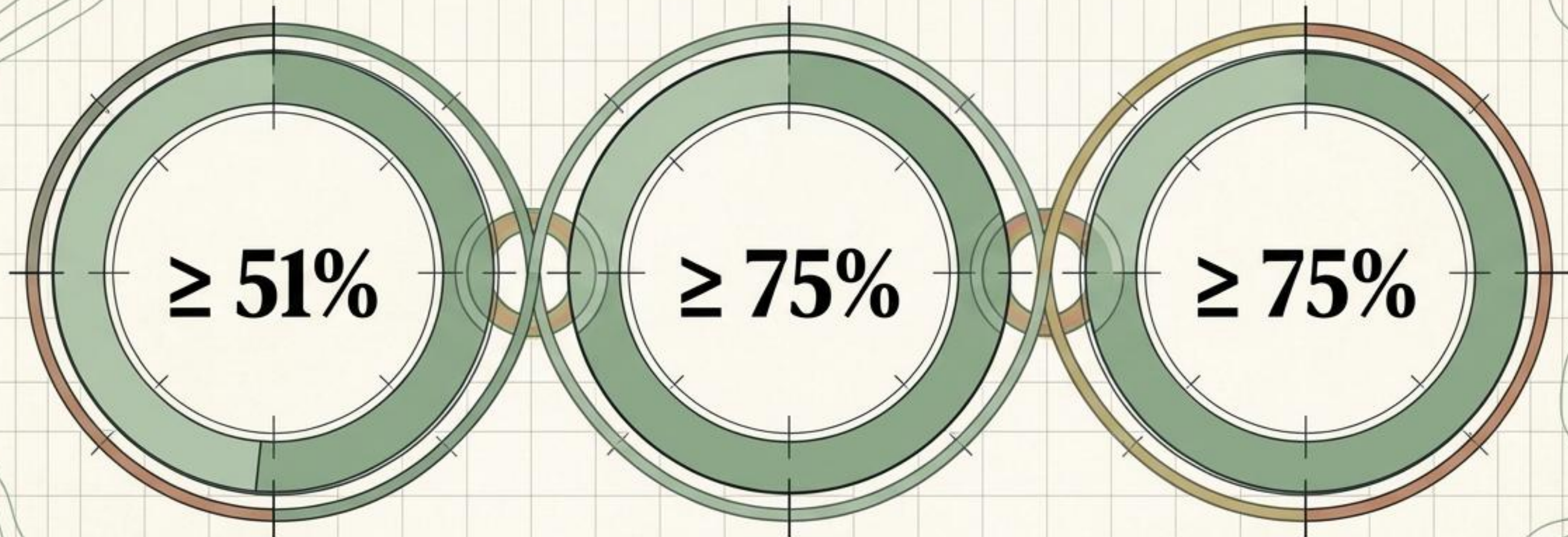


Legacy Formalization (Pre-1965 Donations)



The Mathematical Threshold for Communal Ownership

The Government can only declare a “Gramdan Village” when strict, concurrent thresholds of donation and consensus are mathematically met.



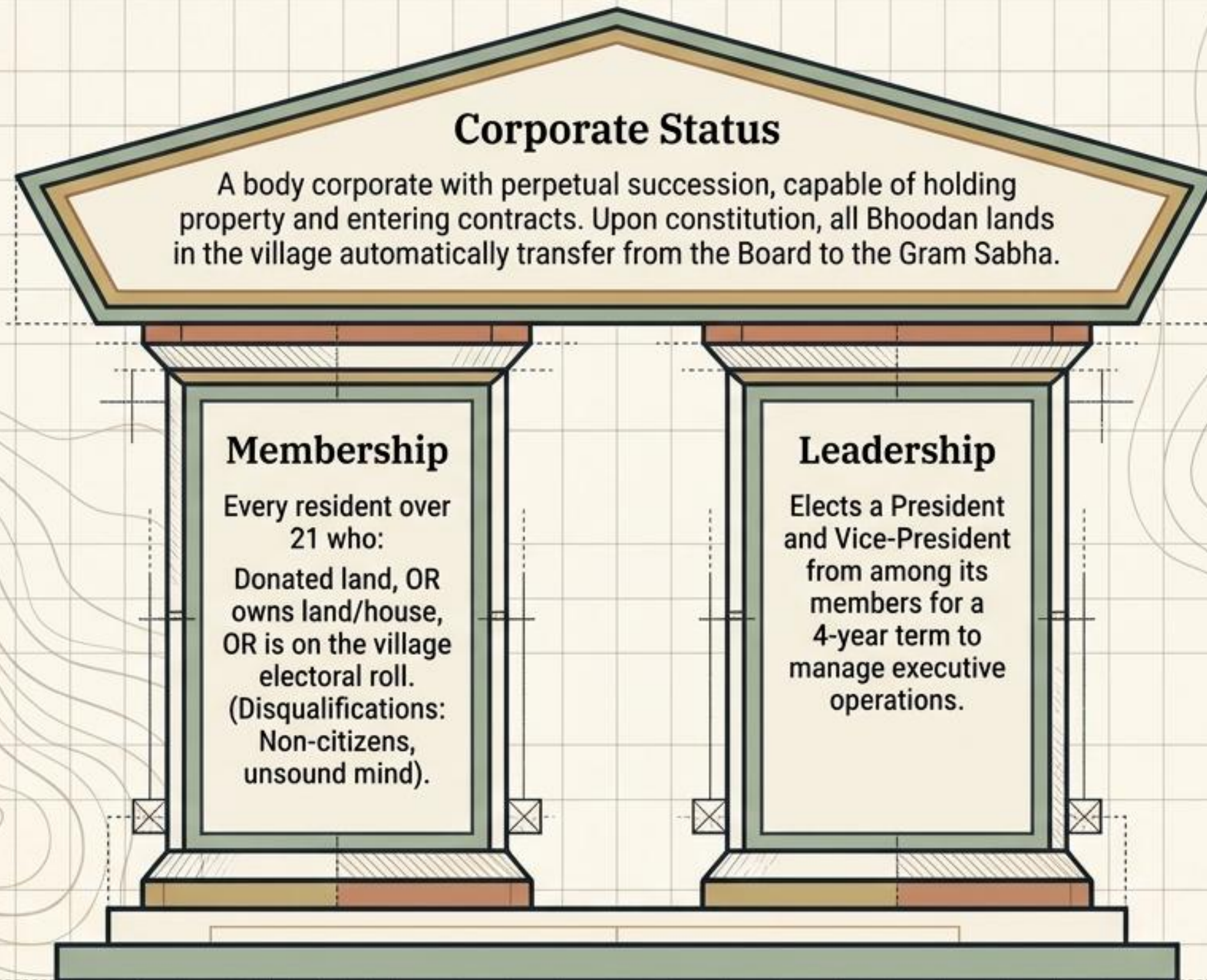
of the total extent of privately owned land in the village must be donated.

of the total number of resident landowners must have confirmed declarations.

of all adult residents (completed 21 years) must formally declare their desire to participate in Gramdan.

Anatomy of the Gram Sabha

[Sec. 17, 18]



Operational Capabilities: Management & Cultivation



Cultivation Strategy:

Arrange for land cultivation either jointly by the Sabha or by individual allotments.



Wealth Apportionment:

Distribute the produce or income generated from jointly cultivated lands.



Community Reserves:

Set apart specific lands exclusively for the general good of the community.



Financial Advances:

Make advances (in kind or cash) to allottees and legally recover them.



Agrarian Improvement:

Execute measures for cultivation improvements and waste land reclamation.

The 'Personal Cultivation' Mandate for Allottees

The Core Rule:

The allottee must cultivate the land personally. This legally requires the individual or their family to put in minimum labor as defined by Gram Sabha regulations.

Prohibition:

The allottee shall NOT transfer their interest in the land to any other party.



Exception 1:

The Gram Sabha retains the sovereign power to specifically exempt an allottee from personal cultivation.

Exception 2:

While non-transferable while alive, the interest in the land is legally heritable by the allottee's successors.

The Financial Engines & Asset Safeguards



The Board Fund

Both the Board and Gram Sabha maintain independent Funds pooling Govt grants, private funds, and cultivation proceeds to strictly finance operations.

The Funds

Gram Sabha Fund



Asset Safeguards

Locked Gates



Alienation Restrictions:

Gram Sabha cannot alienate or transfer land without explicit Government sanction.



Permitted Exceptions:

May exchange lands for consolidation, or hypothecate lands to Gov/ Co-ops/Mortgage Banks for loans (requires Collector sanction).



Protection from Debt:

Land vested in a Gram Sabha is strictly immune from attachment or sale by civil/revenue courts for unsecured debts.

System Override: Supersession of the Gram Sabha

The Triggers:

Government may intervene if the Gram Sabha is incompetent, persistently defaults on duties, abuses powers, or violates the Act. (Show-cause notice required).

Invokes

The Action:

Government publishes a notification superseding the Gram Sabha for up to 1 year (extendable by 1-year increments).

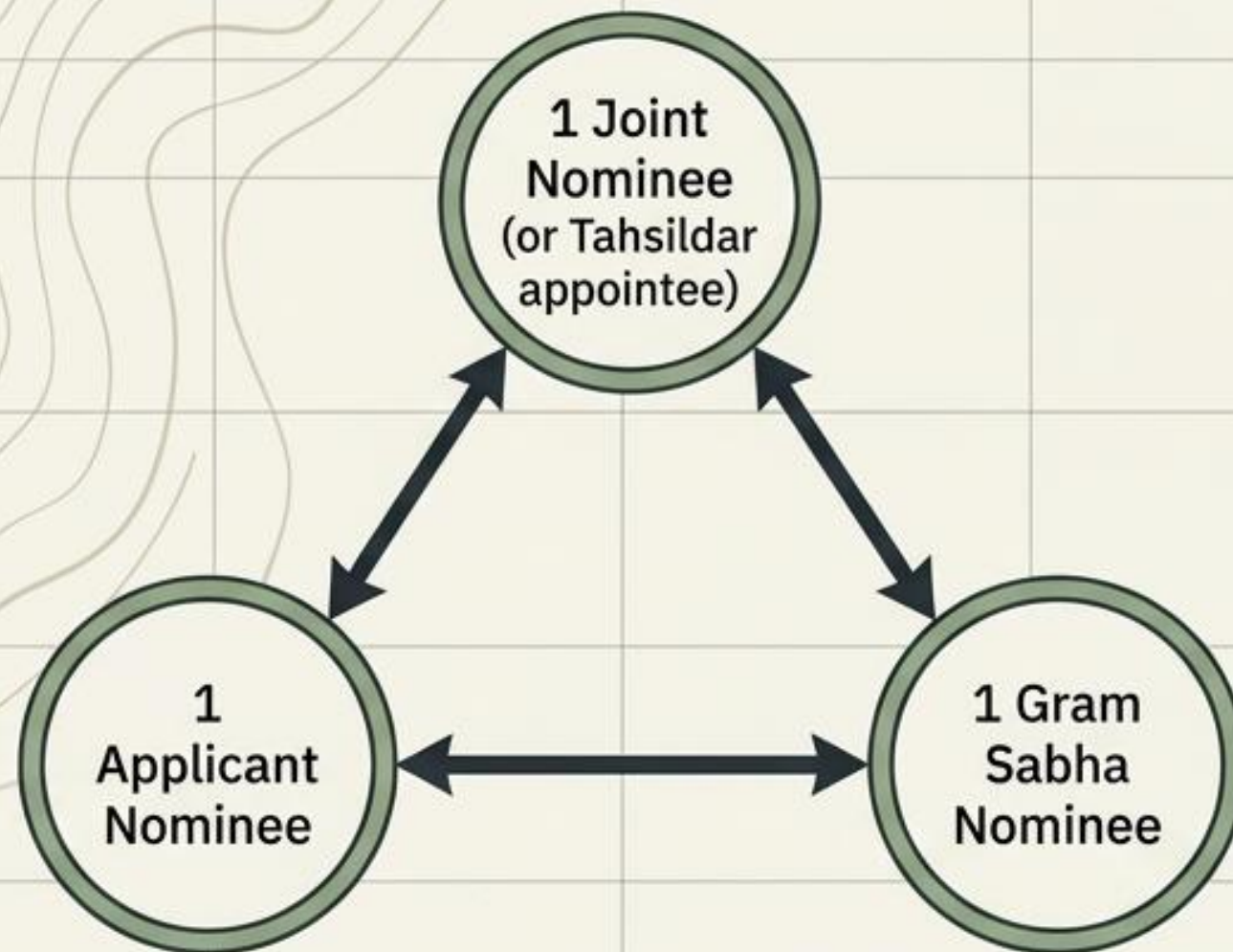
Results In

The Consequence:

President, VP, and committees immediately vacate office. Government appoints an administrator, and all properties temporarily vest in the Government. Income generated during supersession pays off management costs and liabilities first.

Friction Management: Arbitration & Allotment Reviews

Arbitration Board



Triggered within 60 days of an allotment order. The decision of this 3-member board is legally final and binding.

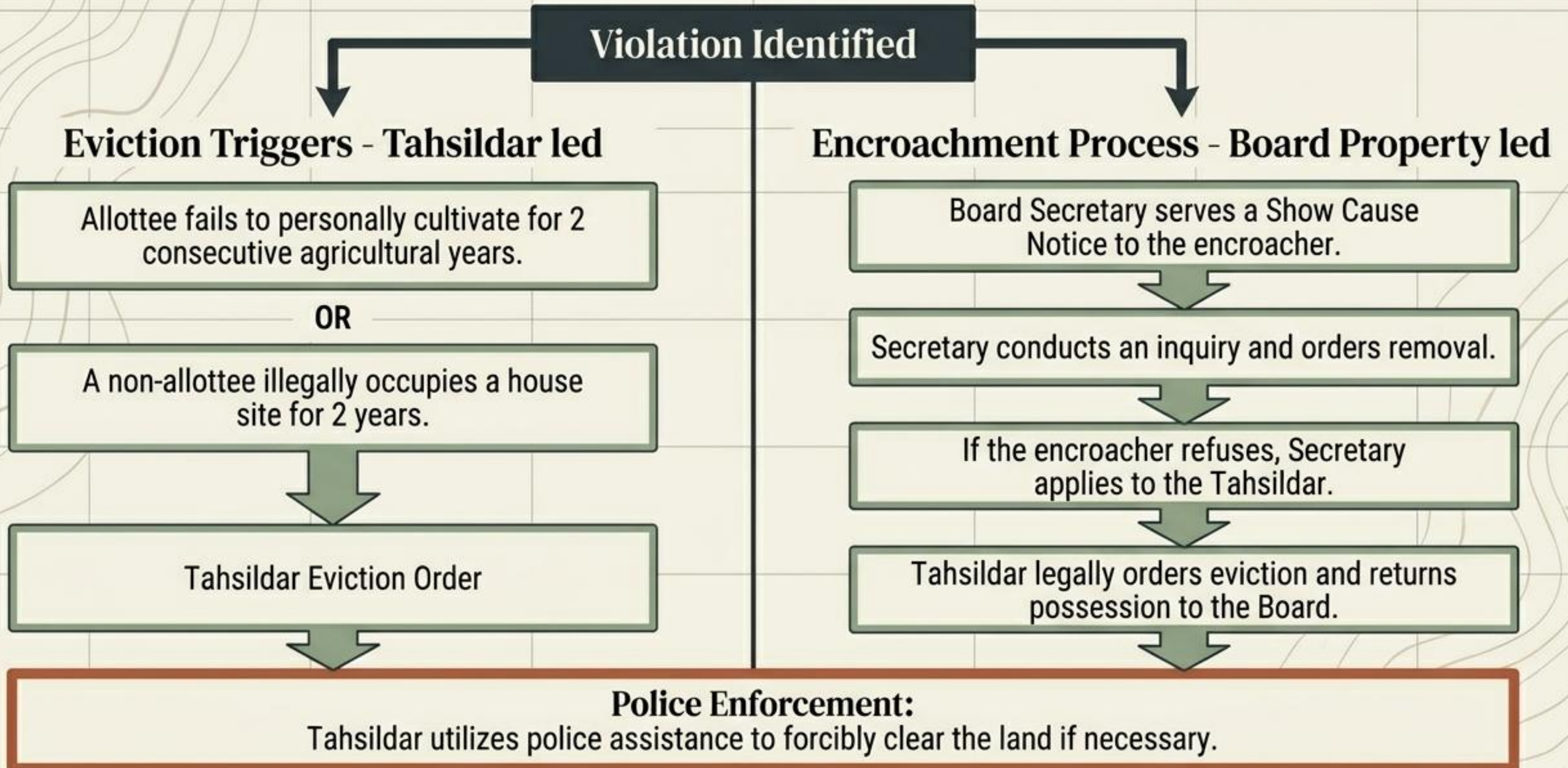
Supreme Review (Sec 24C):

The Board retains absolute power to suo-motu review, reconsider, and cancel any illegal allotments made to persons or institutions.

Urbanization Vesting (Sec 24D):

If allotted land ceases to be agricultural or becomes urbanized, it automatically reverts back to the Board for non-agricultural use.

The Eviction & Anti-Encroachment Protocol



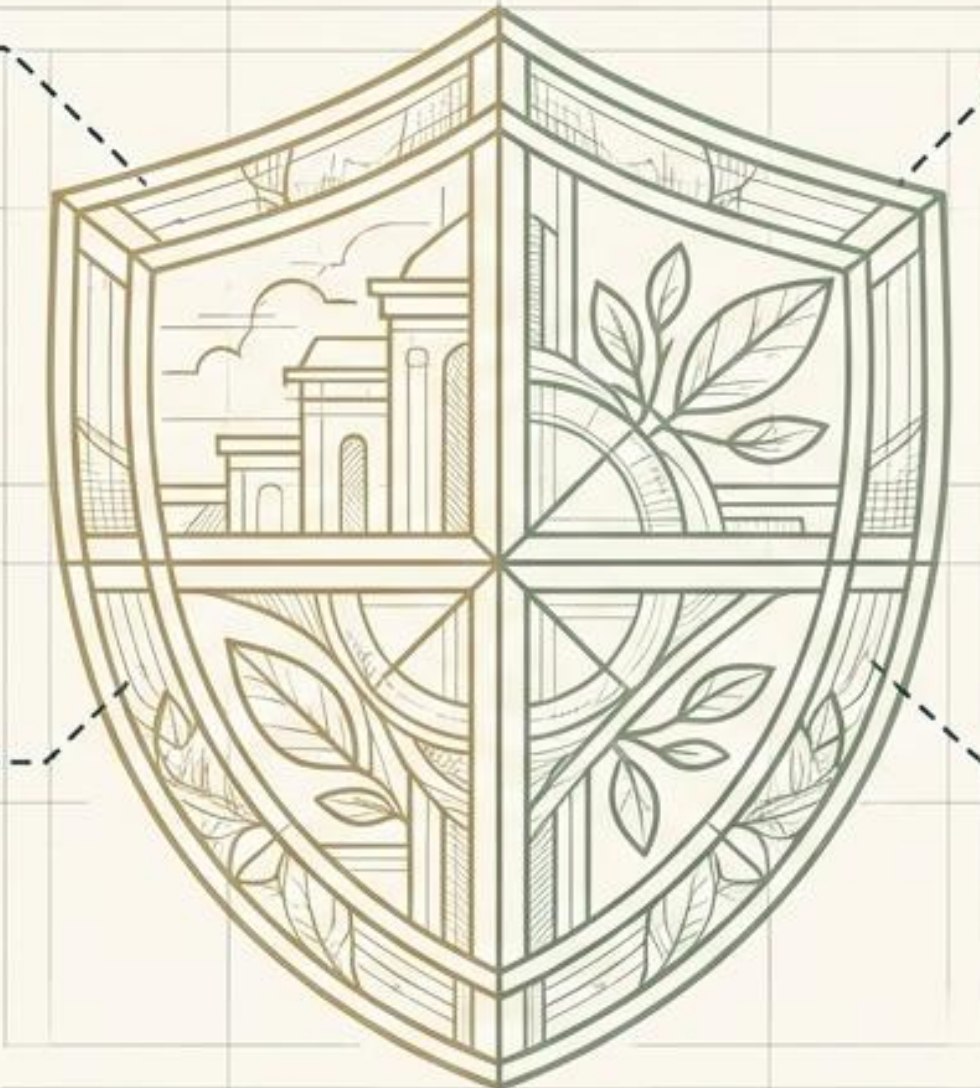
The Shield: Legal Protections & Immunities

Tenancy Exemption

Grantees/allottees are explicitly NOT classified as "tenants" under standard tenancy laws, shielding the land from conventional tenancy claims.

Legal Supremacy

The provisions of this Act legally override anything inconsistent in any other law currently in force in the State.



Financial Exemptions

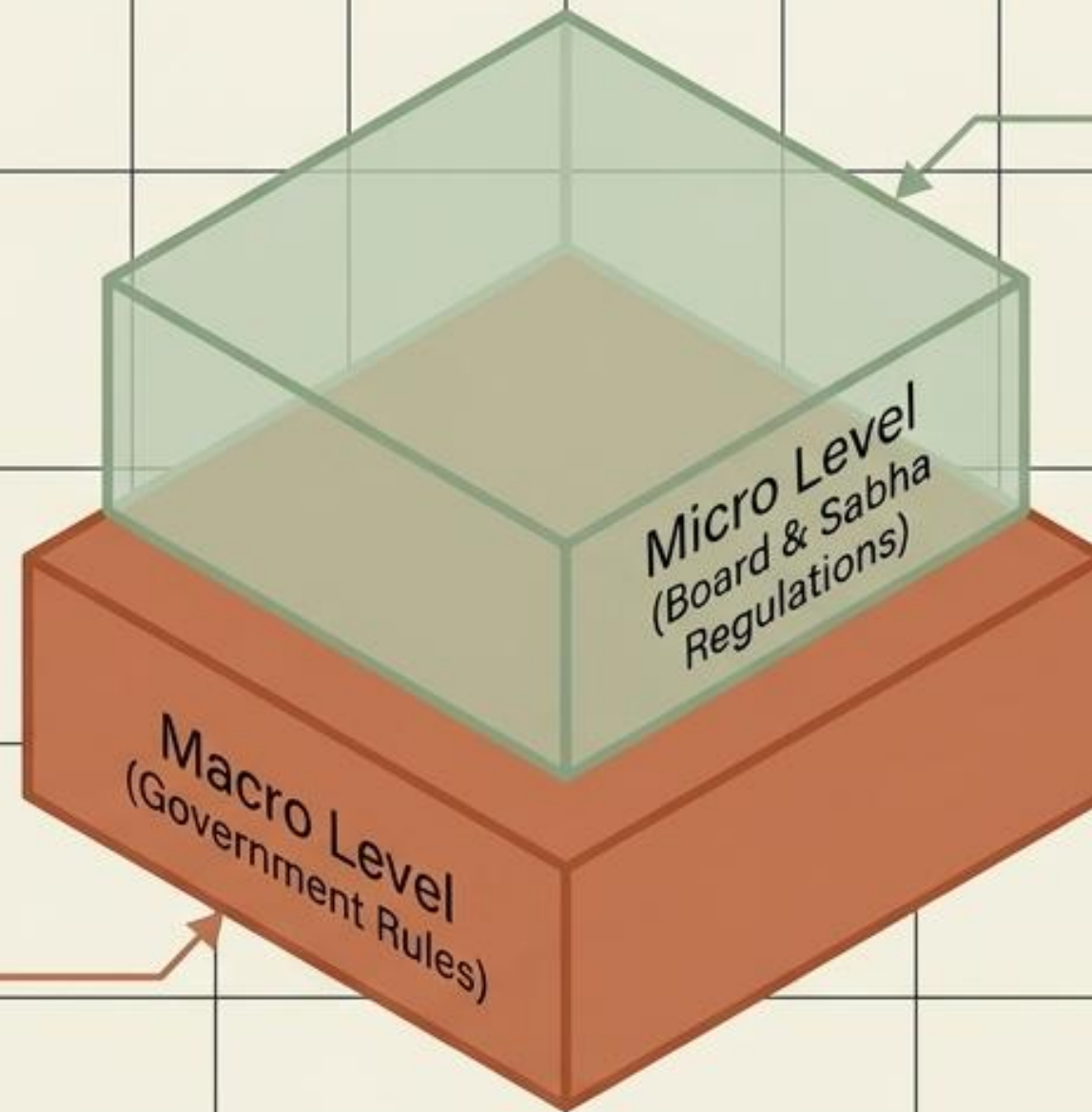
Total legal exemption from stamp duty, registration fees, and encumbrance certificate fees for all declarations and grants.

Due Process Timelines

Strict boundaries for legal challenges (30 days for an appeal to the Revenue Divisional Officer; 3 months to file a civil suit regarding donations).

The Regulatory Architecture: Rules vs. Regulations

Government creates rules for overarching procedures: grant criteria, inquiry methods, financial accounting, budgets, staff appointments, and dispute settlement procedures. (Subject to State Legislature approval).



With Government sanction, the Board and Gram Sabha make regulations for internal operations: conduct of business, committee appointments, staff remuneration, and minimum labor standards for personal cultivation.

The Lifecycle of Donated Land

