

# ENGLISH IN INDIA

- English in India has a colonial origin but continues as a powerful language today.
- English functions as:
  - **Associate** official language.
  - **Link** language across regions.
  - Medium of higher education, science & technology.

## EARLY INTRODUCTION OF ENGLISH

- 1600 – **Queen Elizabeth I** grants charter to East India Company.

A **Charter** is an official document issued by a monarch or government giving authority to a company or organization to operate.

- 1792 – Charles Grant: *Treatise on English Education* → spread European literature through English.
- 1813 – **Raja Rammohan Roy's** Letter to **Lord Amherst** → supported English for modern knowledge.
- **Charter Act, 1813:**
  - Allowed the East India Company to spend money on education and literature in India.
  - It was the first act to promote English and modern education officially.
  - Sanctioned funds for literature & education → triggered Anglicist–Orientalist debate.
  - Which type of education to promote?

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## THE ANGLICIST–ORIENTALIST DEBATE

<b>Orientalists</b>	<b>Anglicists</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Believed education in India should be given in classical Indian languages like Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian.</li> <li>2. Wanted to preserve Indian knowledge, literature, and traditions.</li> <li>3. Key Supporters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sir William Jones</b> – founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal (1784) to study Indian texts and culture.</li> <li>• <b>Warren Hastings</b> – first Governor-General of India, promoted traditional Indian studies.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Believed education should be in English.</li> <li>2. Wanted to spread Western science, modern ideas, and literature.</li> <li>3. Thought this would create a small class of English-educated Indians who would help modernize society.</li> <li>4. Key Supporters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thomas Babington Macaulay</b> – wrote the Minute on Education (1835), strongly in favor of English.</li> <li>• <b>Charles Trevelyan</b> – supported Macaulay's views.</li> <li>• Lord William Bentinck – Governor-General, approved Macaulay's plan in 1835.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

- 1835 – **Macaulay's Minute on Education:**
  - Favoured English as medium.

- Famous quote: “We must form a class of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect.”
  - **Lord Bentinck**: approved Macaulay’s recommendations.
  - Trevelyan: ‘On the Education of the People of India’ 1838 → argued for European education.
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## INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ENGLISH

- Presidency Colleges (**Calcutta, Bombay, Madras**).
- CBM - Year of Establishment - 1857
- **Wood’s Despatch (1854)** – called the Magna Carta of Indian Education:
  - Vernacular at lower levels.
  - **English** for higher education.
  - Vernacular means local, regional, or mother-tongue languages spoken by common people (e.g., Hindi, Bengali, Tamil).
  - Schools in every district.
  - Support for women’s education.
  - Encouragement for Private entities in edu.
- **Hunter Commission (1882)**:
  - Formulated to proper implementation of ‘Wood’s Dispatch’

- English = literary training for government jobs.
- Major emphasis on - PRIMARY education.
- Funds separated for urban vs rural schools.
- Panjab University est. - 1882
- Allahabad University est. - 1887

## EARLY 20th CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Indian Universities Act - 1904**
  - Organize Universities + Enhance 'English' language teaching
- **Calcutta University Commission (1917-19, Sadler Commission):**
  - Importance of mother tongue in early stages.
  - Improvement of **Secondary Education.**
  - English retained in Higher Education.
- **Hartog Committee (1928-29):**
  - Focused on **mass education.**
  - Found problems: dropouts, wastage, stagnation at the primary school level.
  - Suggested reforms for quality improvement in primary and secondary education.
- **Wardha Scheme:** Proposed by Mahatma Gandhi.

Idea: "Basic Education" or Nai Talim:

1. Learn through handicrafts and practical work.
2. Use mother tongue as medium.
3. Goal: Education + self-reliance.

- **Abbott-Wood Report** (1937): lack of proper vocational education.
  - **Sargent Report** (1944): Recommended: universal free education within 40 years for all children.
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## ENGLISH AFTER INDEPENDENCE (1947 onwards)

- At independence, Nehru & Jinnah addressed their nations in English.
- Gandhi opposed the English medium, but practical needs kept it alive.
- **Constitution**: English continued for 15 years (till 1965), but anti-Hindi agitations in South India → English continued as ASSOCIATE official language.

### Government Policies

1. Radhakrishnan Commission (1948–49):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1st Commission After Independence.</li> <li>- Warned English divided rulers &amp; ruled.</li> <li>- Still recommended English for higher education.</li> </ul>
2. Banerjee Committee (1960):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English as a second language in schools.</li> </ul>
3. Kothari Commission (1964–66):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English should not be hastily replaced.</li> <li>- Foundation for National Policy on Education (1968).</li> </ul>

<b>4. The Three-Language Formula 1968</b>	<b>Mother tongue +  Hindi (or another Indian language) +  English (or another European language).</b>
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## CHRONOLOGY

### Pre-Independence (till 1947)

- 1792 – *Charles Grant’s Treatise*: Argued for spreading Western education in India.
- 1813 – *Raja Ram Mohan Roy’s Letter to Lord Amherst*: Supported English education, opposed only Sanskrit focus.
- 1824 – *Sanskrit College, Calcutta*: Promoted Orientalist education (traditional learning).
- 1828 – *English Introduced in Delhi College*: Start of Western curriculum in North India.
- 1835 – *Macaulay’s Minute on Indian Education*: Favored English and Western knowledge.
- 1835 – *Lord Bentinck Approves Macaulay’s Recommendations*: English made medium of higher education.

- 1835 (after) – *Trevelyan's Book*: Advocated European education in India.
- 1835 – *Lord Bentinck's Education Policy*: Balanced English + Oriental education.
- 1854 – *Wood's Dispatch*: Called “Magna Carta of English Education in India.” English at higher level, vernacular at primary level.
- 1882 – *Hunter Commission*: Focus on primary education for government jobs.
- 1911 – *Gokhale Bill*: Attempt to make primary education compulsory.
- 1904–1911 (Lord Curzon's period) – Reforms in universities, focus on efficiency and purpose of higher education.
- 1917 – *Calcutta University Commission (Sadler Commission)*: Stressed both mother tongue and English in higher education.
- 1928–1929 – *Hartog Committee*: Highlighted wastage/dropouts; wanted improvement in primary/mass education.
- 1931 – *Wardha Scheme / Zakir Hussain Committee*: Gandhi's idea of “Basic Education” (Nai Talim).
- 1936–1937 – *Wood & Abbot Report*: Focused on vocational education.
- 1944 – *Sargent Report*: Pointed out the poor state of Indian education, suggested expansion and reforms.

**Post-Independence (after 1947)**

- **1948–49 – *University Education Commission* (Radhakrishnan Commission): Focus on higher education reforms.**
  - **1964–66 – *Kothari Commission*: Comprehensive plan, emphasized education for national development.**
  - **1968 – *First National Policy on Education*: Based on Kothari Commission recommendations.**
  - **1968 (with Policy) – *Three-Language Formula*: Regional language + Hindi/other Indian language + English/modern European language.**
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