**THE ANGLICIST–CLASSICIST CONTROVERSY**

The Anglicist–Classicist Controversy was an important debate in early 19th-century colonial India about the direction of British educational policy.

* In the early 1800s, the East India Company had begun funding education in India but there was no consensus on:
  1. What should be taught.
  2. Which language should be the medium of instruction.

Two Sides

1. Classicists (Orientalists)
   * Supported by scholars like H. T. Prinsep, H. H. Wilson, and others.
   * Believed education should be given in classical Indian languages (Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic).
   * Wanted to preserve and promote traditional Indian learning.
   * Favoured funding oriental colleges like Calcutta Sanskrit College and Madrasah.
2. Anglicists
   * Led by Thomas Babington Macaulay and others.
   * Believed modern Western knowledge (science, philosophy, literature) should be taught through the English language.
   * Considered classical learning outdated for modern progress.

The Core of the Controversy

* Whether government funds should support traditional oriental learning or Western education in English.
* Whether the medium of instruction should be Sanskrit/Arabic/Persian or English.

Resolution

* The issue was resolved through Macaulay’s Minute on Indian Education (1835).
* Governor-General Lord William Bentinck accepted Macaulay’s recommendations.
* Decision:
  + English was to be the medium of instruction.
  + Funds were to be spent on teaching Western sciences and literature.
  + Traditional oriental institutions lost government priority.