**LORD WILLIAM BENTINCK’S RESOLUTIONS OF 1835**

Lord William Bentinck’s Resolutions of 1835 were a landmark in the history of Indian education because they formally established English as the medium of instruction for higher education in India, shaping the entire colonial education policy thereafter. They were issued on 7 March 1835, following the famous Macaulay’s Minute on Indian Education (2 February 1835), and were approved by the Governor-General in Council under Bentinck’s leadership.

Background

* Before 1835, the East India Company funded both Oriental learning (Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit) and limited Western education.
* There was a debate between Anglicists (supporters of Western, English-based education) and Classicists/Orientalists (supporters of traditional Indian learning in classical languages).
* Macaulay’s Minute strongly favoured English education to create “a class of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect.”
* Bentinck accepted Macaulay’s recommendations and formalised them through these Resolutions.

Main Clauses of the Resolutions (1835)

1. Medium of Instruction
	* English was declared the medium of instruction for higher education in India.
	* Government funds for education would be spent primarily on English-language education.
2. Promotion of Western Knowledge
	* Aim shifted from promoting Oriental literature and science to promoting European literature, science, and philosophy.
	* Focus on subjects such as Western science, mathematics, philosophy, and history.
3. End of Official Support for Oriental Institutions
	* No further public funding for the publication of books in Sanskrit, Arabic, or Persian.
	* Existing Oriental institutions were to be gradually restructured or closed if they did not adopt English instruction.
4. Use of Funds
	* The limited resources available for education were to be concentrated on English-based instruction rather than divided between Oriental and Western systems.
5. Role of Vernacular
	* Vernacular languages were to be used at the elementary level, but the ultimate aim was to prepare students for higher studies in English.

Significance

* Marked the official triumph of the Anglicists over the Orientalists in the educational policy debate.
* Laid the foundation of modern Western education in India.
* Created an educated class that became intermediaries between the British rulers and the Indian masses.
* Led to the gradual decline of traditional systems of learning in Sanskrit Pathshalas and Arabic/Persian Madrasas.