



# VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPEET SHAKTI UTTHAN AASHRAM LAKHISARAI

CLASS-8<sup>TH</sup>

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

Date:- 15.01.22

HISTORY

## MODERN EDUCATION

### Wood's Despatch (1854)

- Sir Charles Wood was the President of the Board of Control of the company in 1854 when he sent a despatch to the then Governor-General of India, Lord Dalhousie.
- This is called the 'Magna Carta of English education in India.'
- Recommendations of the Wood's Despatch:
  - Regularise education system from the primary to the university levels.
  - Indians were to be educated in English and their native language.
  - The education system was to be set up in every province.
  - Every district should have at least one government school.
  - Affiliated private schools could be granted aids.
  - Education of women should be emphasised.
  - Universities of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay were set up by 1857.
  - University of Punjab – 1882; University of Allahabad – 1887
- This despatch asked the government to take up the responsibility of education of the people.

### Assessment of the British efforts on education

- Although there were a few Englishmen who wanted to spread education for its own sake, the government was chiefly concerned only with its own concerns.
- There was a huge demand for clerks and other administrative roles in the company's functioning.
- It was cheaper to get Indians rather than Englishmen from England for these jobs. This was the prime motive.
- No doubt it spread western education among Indians, but the rate of literacy was abysmally low during British rule.

- The state of women education was pathetic. This was because the government did not want to displease the orthodox nature of Indians and also because women could not generally be employed as clerks.
- In 1911, the illiteracy rate in British India was 94%. In 1921, it was 92%.
- Scientific and technical education was ignored by the British government.

**Mr Anant kumar**