

CORE-4: INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

Though a late developer, Indian writing in English has been the fastest growing branch of Indian literature. It has delivered a rich and vibrant body of writing spanning all genres. As a 'twice born' form of writing, it partakes of both the native and alien perspectives and has an inherent inclination to be postcolonial. This paper attempts to introduce the students to the field of Indian writing in English through some representative works.

Unit – 1

A historical overview of Indian writing in English the key points of which are East India Company's arrival in India, Macaulay's 1835 Minutes of Education, India's first war of independence and the establishment of colleges to promote Western education. The focus in the literary setting will include Dean Mohammed's travel writing, said to be the first work of Indian English writing, Toru Dutt and Henry Derezio in poetry and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Lal Behari Day in prose fiction.

Unit 2

Crystallization: R.K. Narayan, *The Bachelor of Arts* or Mulk Raj Anand, *Untouchable*

Unit 3

Flowering: R. Parthasarathy (ed) *Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets*. The following poets and their poems are to be studied.

Nissim Ezekiel, "Good Bye Party for Miss Puspa T.S", "Poet, Lover, Bird Watcher", Arun Kolatkar, "The Boat Ride", "Jejuri", Kamala Das, "My Grandmother's House", "A Hot Noon in Malabar", Jayanta Mahapatra, "Indian Summer", "Grass", A. K. Ramanujan, "Looking for a Cousin on a Swing", "Small Scale Reflections on a Great House"

Unit 4

Performing: Mahesh Dattani, *The Final Solution* Or Manjula Padmanabhan, *The Harvest*

Unit 5

Maturation: Amitav Ghosh, *Shadow Lines* Or Kiran Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss*

Suggested Readings:

1. Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, *An illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2003.
2. R. Parthasarathy, *Ten Twentieth-Century Indian Poets*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1975.
3. Vinay Dharwadkar, "The Historical Formation of Indian-English Literature" in Sheldon Pollock (ed.) *Literary Cultures in History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003.