

### 1. SKETCH OF BRIEF ACCOUNT OF ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR'S CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIO-RELIGIOUS REFORMS IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.

**Ans:** Vidyasagar, a great scholar and reformer, was confluence of Indian and western thoughts. He is a staunch moralist, deep humanist and a epitome of generosity. He was determined to break the priestly monopoly of scriptural knowledge, and for this he opened the Sanskrit college to non-brahmins. He introduced western thoughts in Sanskrit College to break the self-imposed isolation of Sanskrit leaning.

A votary of women emancipation, he started a movement in support of widow remarriage which resulted in legislation of widow remarriage. He was the force behind the enactment of Widow Remarriage Act of 1856. He was a crusader against child marriage and polygamy. He also worked for spreading women education in India. As a secretary of Bethune School he was one of the pioneers of higher education for women in India.

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar is a radiant star in the socio-religious reform ambience in India. He is still remembered for his salutary contributions.



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