

GS PAPER 1- SOCIETY-SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT**Challenges and opportunities facing the Self-Respect Movement today**

The article discusses the Self-Respect Movement, which aimed to challenge social hierarchies and promote rational thinking, women's rights, and social justice. It highlights the movement's impact on Tamil Nadu and its relevance in resisting cultural homogenization today.

What is the Self-Respect Movement?

1. The Self-Respect Movement was **founded in 1925 by E.V. Ramasamy, also known as Periyar**.
2. Its goal was to challenge social hierarchies, including caste-based oppression and gender inequality.
3. The movement advocated for social reforms such as women's rights, including equal property rights, widow remarriage, and the right to divorce.
4. Periyar launched the ***Kudi Arasu weekly in 1925*** to promote these ideas and criticize Brahminical dominance.
5. It contributed to promoting rationalism, social justice, and regional identities in Tamil Nadu.

How did the Self-Respect Movement influence Tamil Nadu's politics?

1. The Self-Respect Movement significantly influenced Tamil Nadu's politics by promoting social justice and equality.
2. In 1929, the first Self-Respect Conference addressed issues like equal property rights for women and caste abolition.
3. **The Justice Party**, allied with the movement, passed the Communal Government Order and nominated **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, the first woman Legislative Council member**.
4. Periyar introduced self-respect marriages, legalised in 1967 by the DMK.
5. The movement focused on reforms such as widow remarriage and inter-caste marriages, which challenged traditional Hindu practices and Brahminical dominance in society.

What are the challenges and opportunities facing the Self-Respect Movement today?

1. **Cultural Homogenization:** Hindutva promotes a singular identity, threatening the diversity the Self-Respect Movement protects. This erodes regional, caste, and gender identities central to the movement's cause.
2. **Intersectionality:** New social dynamics—where caste intersects with class, religion, gender, and sexuality—require the movement to expand its focus to include LGBTQIA+ rights and gender fluidity.
3. **Digital Misinformation:** social media amplifies caste biases and group prejudices, making it harder to uphold anti-caste reforms. The movement must engage young people to combat these influences.
4. **Youth Disconnect:** Many young individuals, though distanced from caste practices, are vulnerable to right-wing propaganda. The movement must reconnect with them to reinforce social reforms like reservations.

Why is the Self-Respect Movement still important?

1. As the movement enters its second century, it remains crucial in fighting for social justice and equality.
2. It must adapt to contemporary societal changes and continue to oppose forces that threaten India's cultural diversity.
3. The movement's ongoing mission is to maintain and promote individual and community rights against overarching nationalistic ideologies.

GS PAPER 2-JUDICIARY**Challenges in disciplining constitutional court judges**

The article discusses the challenges in disciplining constitutional court judges. Impeachment is rare and difficult, so alternatives like judicial intervention and transferring judges are used. Recent cases highlight concerns about judicial accountability and the limits of these methods.

What is the Concern Regarding the Karnataka HC Judge's Comments?

1. Justice V Srishananda of Karnataka High Court made controversial comments, including comparing a Bengaluru locality to Pakistan and making an objectionable remark about a female lawyer.
2. The Supreme Court (SC) expressed concern but dropped its intervention after the judge apologized.

How are Constitutional Court Judges Protected?

1. Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts have strong protections to ensure judicial independence. The only constitutional method of removing a judge is through impeachment.
2. According to Article 124(4), a judge can only be removed through a political process in Parliament. Impeachment requires a two-thirds majority and must prove "misbehaviour" or "incapacity." This high standard makes impeachment rare.
3. Impeachment proceedings have been initiated five times, including against Justice V Ramaswami (1993), Justice Soumitra Sen (2011), and Justice C V Nagarjuna (2017). However, no judge has been successfully impeached, although Justice Sen resigned after being impeached by the Rajya Sabha.

What Other Methods Does the SC Use to Discipline Judges?

1. **Judicial Intervention:** The Supreme Court can act directly, as seen in the 2017 case of Justice C S Karnan, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for contempt of court. This set an uneasy precedent but showed SC's willingness to act.
2. **Transfer Policy:** The Supreme Court's Collegium transfers judges as a disciplinary measure. For instance, Justice P D Dinakaran was transferred from Karnataka High Court to Sikkim High Court amidst corruption allegations. However, critics argue this only moves problems instead of solving them.

3. **Mild Reproach:** The SC can issue reprimands, as seen in the recent case of Justice V Srishananda, who apologized for controversial comments, and the SC dropped its intervention.

What are the concerns related to the Supreme Court's intervention in disciplining judges?

1. **Impeachment is rare due to the high political consensus required.** It has only been initiated five times, with none fully succeeding.
2. The 2017 case of Justice C S Karnan, sentenced to imprisonment for contempt, **raised questions about one constitutional court disciplining another.**
3. The Supreme Court uses the transfer of judges as a disciplinary measure, as seen with Justice P D Dinakaran. However, this method has been **criticized for simply moving corruption instead of addressing it.**

GS PAPER 2- INTERNATIONAL RELATION- BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL GROUPINGS AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS**Russia shifts its trade focus from Europe to Asia**

The article discusses the shift in Russia's trade from Europe to Asia, especially with India. It highlights increasing economic ties despite challenges like sanctions, limited technology cooperation, and trade imbalances. The goal is to boost collaboration despite hurdles.

Why did Russia shift its trade focus from Europe to Asia?

1. Russia cut ties with Europe in 2022, turning its focus to Asian countries, especially China and India.
2. The shift began due to Russia's vulnerability to external political and financial shocks.
3. Economic links with Europe were affected by the Ukraine conflict, leading Russia to explore new markets.

How did India-Russia trade develop?

1. India-Russia trade increased significantly after the Ukraine conflict.
2. By June 2022, their bilateral trade was \$3.5 billion. By May 2024, it reached \$7.5 billion. The target is to reach \$100 billion by 2030, despite challenges like sanctions.
3. Russia became India's fourth-largest trading partner in 2022.
4. India imports Russian oil, fertilizers, and sunflower oil, helping reduce domestic costs.
5. India re-exports Russian oil to Europe, benefitting its economy.

What challenges exist between India and Russia's economic relations?

1. **Economic complementarity:** Both nations focus on self-reliance—Russia on industrial production and India on 'Make in India'.
2. **Sanctions and payment issues:** There are no stable payment mechanisms or logistics operators. More cooperation between banks could help ease financial challenges.
3. **Technology and investment gaps:** Except for the nuclear and military sectors, there are no significant investment projects. Historical collaboration in technology has weakened since the USSR's collapse.
4. **Education and research:** Cooperation in STEM and social sciences is slow. More collaboration is needed to bridge knowledge gaps.

What is the outlook for India-Russia relations?

1. The Ukraine conflict drove the relationship forward, but both countries face pressure—India from external forces and Russia from economic strain.
2. Growth may come from military and civilian engineering sectors, but trade quality must improve through stronger bilateral production chains.

GS PAPER 3 – LAND REFORMS IN INDIA**Technological Solutions Alone Are Not Enough to Address Land Governance Challenges in India**

The article discusses how India's land governance is complicated by conflicting laws, unclear property rights, and outdated records. While digitization efforts help modernize land administration, comprehensive legal reforms are essential to address deeper issues hindering land use and development.

What are the key challenges in India's land governance?

1. **Unclear land titles:** Insecurity of tenure hinders investments and ownership transfers.
2. **Fragmented landholdings:** 90% of farm households own less than 2 hectares, limiting agricultural productivity.
3. **Complex laws:** Conflicting regulations, like Gujarat's 40 types of land ceiling laws, create administrative difficulties and encourage rent-seeking.
4. **Outdated land records:** Poor record management delays infrastructure projects and limits credit access.
5. **Gender inequality:** Women face challenges in owning land and property.
6. **Inability to use land efficiently:** Leasing agricultural land is prohibited in many states, and complicated tenancy laws make land use risky.
7. **Weak targeting of subsidies:** Fertiliser subsidies aren't integrated with land data, leading to inefficiencies.
8. **Benami properties:** The legal framework lacks clarity for regularising these properties, contributing to uncertainty in ownership.

Why are technological solutions alone not enough?

While the 2024 Budget proposed digitisation (like land records digitisation and Agri Stack integration), this is not enough:

1. The root problem is the complex legal framework, not just outdated records.
2. _____

2. Simply digitising land records without legal reform won't improve land markets or property rights.
3. Laws like the Ninth Schedule prevent judicial review, limiting property owners' rights.
4. State-level legal complexities, like Gujarat's land ceiling laws, create multiple regulations based on land quality and ownership.

What should be Done?

1. **Legal Reforms:** Comprehensive legal reforms should address the complex and conflicting land laws. These reforms must strengthen property rights and streamline regulations for more efficient land markets. For example, updating tenancy laws and land use regulations can help ensure better property rights and access to formal credit.
2. **Digitization and Integration:** Accelerate the digitization of land records and integrate these with platforms like Agri Stack. However, ensure these technological solutions are complemented by legal reforms. For instance, digitizing land records should go hand in hand with updating the laws that govern land ownership and use.
3. **Enhance Land Banks:** Improve the functioning of land banks to support infrastructure, renewable energy, and industrial projects by addressing legal hurdles that currently limit their effectiveness.
4. **Targeted Subsidy Reforms:** Link subsidies more closely to land ownership data to ensure efficient targeting and reduce misuse. This includes integrating Point of Sale devices for fertilizer subsidies with updated land records.
5. **Promote Land Consolidation:** Implement policies that facilitate land consolidation, particularly in rural areas where land fragmentation affects agricultural productivity. Nearly 90% of farm households own less than 2 hectares, leading to suboptimal economies of scale.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

Recently, The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) released its monthly list of drugs that fail quality tests.

- Around 50 medicines like paracetamol (fever), metformin (diabetes), and pantoprazole (acidity) were found to be either spurious or not of standard quality (NSQ).
- The findings were part of routine random sampling.

About CDSCO

- CDSCO is India's National Regulatory Authority (NRA) under the Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

Key Responsibilities of CDSCO

- **Safety and Quality:** Ensures transparency, accountability, and uniformity in services to maintain the safety, effectiveness, and quality of medical products.
- **Approval of New Drugs:** Approves new drugs and oversees clinical trials.
- **Standards for Drugs:** Establishes standards for drugs and controls the quality of imported drugs.

Collaboration with State Regulators

- **Licensing:** Along with state authorities, CDSCO grants licenses for critical drugs like blood products, vaccines, IV fluids, and sera.
- **Expert Advice:** Provides guidance to ensure **uniform enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act** across the country.

What is CDSCO's NSQ Alert?

- CDSCO releases a **monthly list of medicines** that fail quality tests, highlighting the drugs that do not meet standards.
- Central and state regulators collect samples from the market and test them randomly.
- The list includes medicines and the specific parameters on which they failed.

Purpose of the Quality Checks

- These monthly alerts inform the public, healthcare departments, and state regulators about medicines that may not be of high quality.
- It also ensures that pharmaceutical companies know their products are under constant monitoring.

Types of Substandard Medicines

Spurious Drugs: Fake products that imitate popular brands.

They may or may not contain the correct active ingredient and are not made by the actual manufacturer.

Example: Telmisartan (Glenmark) and Pantoprazole (Sun Pharma) were found to be fake.

Poor Quality Drugs (NSQ): These may have faulty descriptions, may not dissolve properly, or have less active ingredients.

They may not harm the patient but fail to treat the condition.

Example: Metformin failed the dissolution test and would not work as intended once consumed.

Adulterated Drugs: These contain harmful contaminants or adulterants. Such drugs are usually recalled to avoid causing harm.

Examples of NSQ Drugs

- **Metformin** failed the dissolution test, meaning it wouldn't dissolve properly and wouldn't work as intended.
- The list also includes other medicines that fail to meet specific quality parameters.

PRELIM FACTS

1. CAQM

The Supreme Court criticized the ineffectiveness of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in curbing pollution, citing poor enforcement of its directives. The CAQM defended its efforts, claiming a marked improvement in pollution levels since its inception

Origin: Established under the CAQM Act 2021 for NCR and adjoining areas, replacing the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).

Aim: Coordinate and oversee efforts to improve air quality, prevent and control air pollution in Delhi-NCR and surrounding states (Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh).

Jurisdiction: Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

Powers:

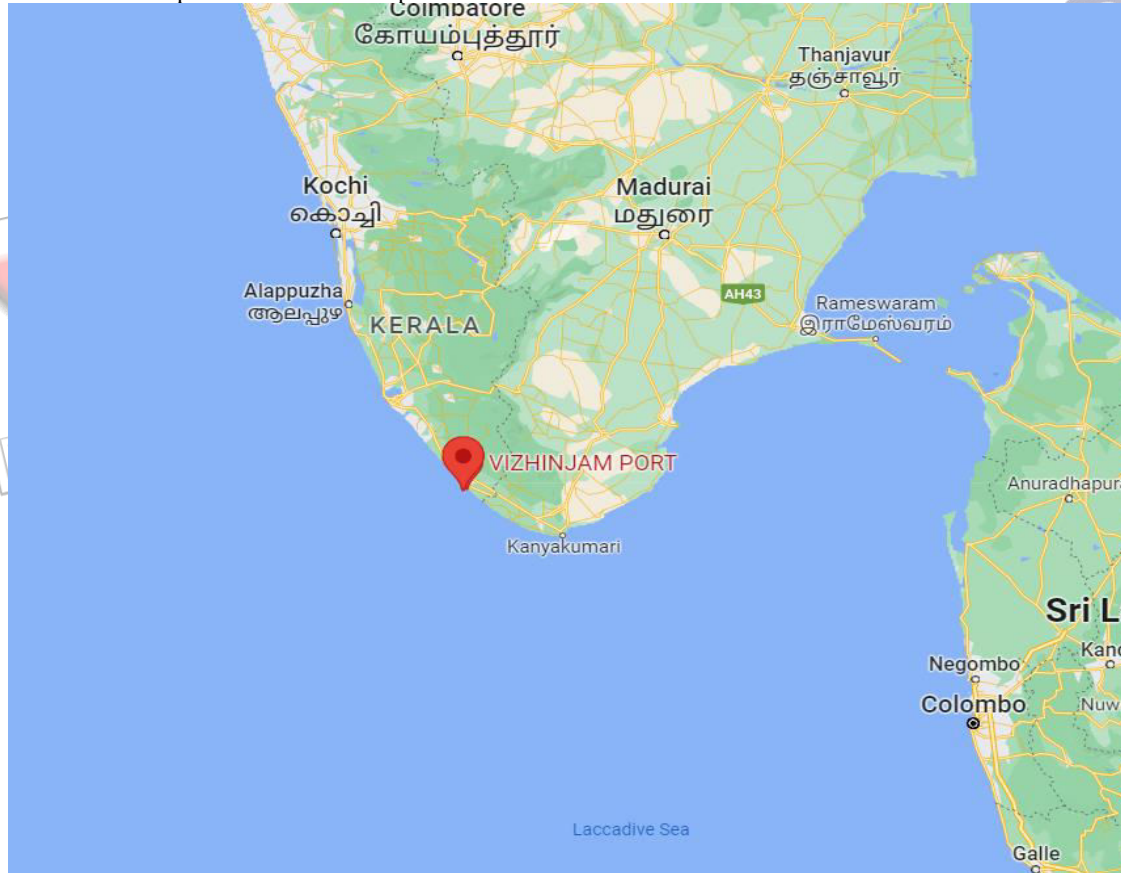
- Restrict activities impacting air quality.
- Conduct research on pollution.
- Issue binding directions to authorities and individuals.
- Enforce compliance and take preventive actions.

Composition:

- Chairperson: Secretary/Chief Secretary rank official.
- Five ex officio members from Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and UP.
- Three full-time technical members.
- Members from NGOs and technical bodies like CPCB, ISRO, and NITI Aayog.

2. Vizhinjam International Seaport

Mediterranean Shipping Company's Anna, one of the largest container ships in the world, berthed at the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram.



About Vizhinjam International Seaport:

- It is India's first deep water container transshipment port, currently under trial run from July 2024.
- Located in: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Features:
 - The port is designed to be a multi-purpose, all-weather, and green port.

- It is poised to become India's first automated port and holds a unique position as the only Indian port directly adjacent to an international shipping lane.

3. Production Linked Incentive

India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is set to boost the textile sector, with disbursements starting this fiscal year. The initiative aims to address stagnation in India's textile exports, enhance competitiveness, and promote job creation in the sector.

Summary:

- PLI for textiles: About a dozen companies will receive incentives under the scheme for man-made fibers (MMF) and technical textiles this year.
- Export stagnation: India's textile exports remain stagnant at \$35 billion, while competitors like Vietnam and Bangladesh gain market share through trade agreements.
- Job creation target: The government aims to create 4.5 to 6 crore jobs in the textile sector by 2030, while increasing the sector's market size to \$350 billion.

About the PLI scheme:

- Origin: Launched in 2021 to boost domestic manufacturing, reduce imports, and enhance exports.
- How it works: Provides performance-linked incentives based on incremental sales of domestically manufactured products.
- Sectors covered: Includes 13 sectors such as electronics, textiles, automotive, pharmaceuticals, telecom, and renewable energy. Budget: Rs 1.97 lakh crore (\$28 billion).

4. Global Innovation Index

India has ascended 42 positions in the Global Innovation Index (GII) since 2015 and now ranks 39th out of 133 economies evaluated.

2024 Report Highlights:

- Published by: World Intellectual Property Organisation.
- India's rank: 39th out of 133 economies in the GII 2024, improving from 40th in 2023.
- Key indicators:
 - ICT services exports: India ranks 1st globally.
 - Venture capital received: India's start-up ecosystem secures a strong position.
 - Unicorn companies: India ranks 8th globally.

Positives:

1. Start-up growth: India's dynamic start-up ecosystem continues to fuel innovation.
2. ICT services leadership: India leads the world in technology-driven services.
3. Venture capital: Strong investments are fostering innovation and growth.

Challenges:

- Low R&D spending: India needs to increase research and development (R&D) investments.
- Manufacturing innovation: The manufacturing sector still faces innovation challenges.
- Infrastructure: Gaps in innovation infrastructure remain a hurdle to growth.

5. Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MRLS) System

The Indian Army is **modernising its artillery** by enhancing range and precision through indigenous systems like the **Pinaka Rocket**.

Pinaka Rocket:

- **Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher:** Pinaka is a **multi-barrel rocket system (MBRL)** capable of firing a **salvo of 12 rockets within 44 seconds**.
- A Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) is a **type of artillery** that has **several launchers mounted on one platform**, allowing it to **fire multiple rockets** with different ranges and warheads.
- Examples: Indian **Pinaka** system, the Russian **Grad**, and the American **HIMARS** (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System)
- **Origin** : The Pinaka rocket system was developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in the late **1980s** to serve as an **alternative to Russian-made multi-barrel rocket launchers like the 'Grad'**.
- **First Battlefield Use:** The system was first successfully deployed during the **Kargil War in 1999** .
- **Versions and Range**
 - **The Mark-I** version : range of approximately 40 kilometres.
 - **Pinaka Mk-I Enhanced** : approx 60 kilometres and
 - **Pinaka Mk-II** : 90 kilometres.
 - The Mark-II integrates navigation and control systems linked to the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System**, enhancing both accuracy and range.
 - DRDO is working on **two variants of the Pinaka-MK3** rocket launcher.

- The first variant: range of **120 kilometres** or even more.
- The range of the subsequent variants will be **300 kilometres**.

6. Global Innovation Index 2024

India has ranked 39th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, rising from 81st in 2015.

More on the news

- India's ranking has improved by 42 positions over the last 9 years.
- It ranks first among 38 **lower-middle-income** economies
- It shows its leadership in innovation among developing nations.

Global Innovation Index (GII)

- The Global Innovation Index is an annual ranking that assesses countries based on their **innovation capabilities and achievements**.
- **Publisher:** It is published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- **Regional and Global Achievements:**
 - India ranks first among 10 economies in **Central & Southern Asia**.
 - India secures 4th place in the **World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking**.
 - Major cities like **Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai** are listed in the **top 100 global S&T clusters**.
 - India is ranked 7th **globally in intangible asset intensity**, which includes patents and trademarks crucial for innovation.
- **Factors Contributing to rise in ranks:**
 - Focus on fostering an environment conducive to innovation.
 - Contributions of Indian innovators and entrepreneurs.

About WIPO

- WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) is the international platform for discussions and services related to intellectual property (IP).
- **Foundation:** It was founded in 1967
- **Goal:** Its main objective is to create a fair and effective international IP system that promotes innovation and creativity for everyone.

7. Paryatan Mitra & Paryatan Didi

Launched on World Tourism Day, September 27th, 2024, the Ministry of Tourism's 'Paryatan Mitra & Paryatan Didi' initiative aims to enhance the tourist experience by training locals to become tourism ambassadors, promoting social inclusion and job creation.

Paryatan Mitra & Paryatan Didi:

- Year of Implementation: 2024
- Ministry: Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
- **Aim:** To empower locals in key tourist destinations as ambassadors, enhancing tourist experiences while promoting employment and community engagement.
- Features:
 - Piloted in 6 destinations, including Orchha, Gandikota, Bodh Gaya, and Jodhpur.
 - Locals trained in hospitality, safety, sustainability, and local storytelling.
 - Focus on women and youth for developing tourism experiences like heritage walks and food tours.
 - Training in digital literacy for promoting tourism products globally.
 - Recognized ambassadors receive badges for identification, ensuring quality experiences for tourists.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Assess the continuing relevance of the Self-Respect & Dravidian movement in contemporary times How do their legacies shape current political and social debates in the India?

The Self-Respect Movement, founded by E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar) in the 1920s, sought to uplift lower castes and challenge Brahminical dominance in Tamil Nadu, promoting rationalism and gender equality. Concurrently, the Dravidian Movement aimed to assert Dravidian identity advocating for regional pride and political representation. Together, these movements reshaped the socio-political landscape of present India and continue to inspire contemporary discussions on caste and social justice.

Relevance Of The Self-Respect Movement & Dravidian movement In Contemporary Times:

- **Challenging Caste Hierarchy:** The Self-Respect Movement's focus on dismantling caste-based hierarchies continues to **inspire anti-caste movements** across India.
For instance: Dalit movements in Tamil Nadu draw directly from **Periyar's teachings on social equality and self-respect**.

- **Advocating Women's Rights:** Periyar's push for **women's equality** resonates with modern efforts for **gender justice**, including movements for women's representation and reproductive rights.
For instance: The movement's support for **self-respect marriages** without religious rituals has empowered women to choose their partners freely.
- **Promoting Rationalism:** The movement's advocacy for **rational thinking** and rejection of superstition has found relevance in today's debates on **scientific temper** and **critical thinking** in education.
For instance: Periyar's emphasis on **atheism** and **scientific inquiry** is echoed in calls to integrate **science-based policies** in governance.
- **Fighting Cultural Homogenization:** As **cultural nationalism** gains ground, the Self-Respect Movement's stress on **regional identity** and resistance to **cultural homogenization** remains relevant.
- **Addressing Intersectionality:** The movement's foundation in **social justice** is increasingly applied to **intersectional issues** concerning caste, gender, and class in the 21st century.
For instance: **LGBTQIA+ rights** activists invoke Periyar's ideas to advocate for equality across diverse identities..
- **Promotion Of Social Justice Through Reservations:** The Dravidian Movement's advocacy for **affirmative action** continues to shape India's **reservation policies**, especially for **backward castes**.
For example: Tamil Nadu's **69% reservation policy** in education and employment is a direct outcome of Dravidian ideals.
- **Empowering Regional Identity:** The movement's focus on Dravidian pride and Tamil identity has cultivated a deep **sense of belonging** and **cultural affirmation**, celebrating the rich heritage and vibrant diversity of the Tamil people.

How Their Legacies Shape Current Political Debates In India:

- **Federalism Vs. Centralism:** The movements emphasised **regional autonomy** over **centralised governance**, impacting **federalism debates** in contemporary India.
- **Reservation Policies:** The legacy of both movements continues to inspire vibrant discussions on **affirmative action** and **social justice** in contemporary politics, promoting **inclusivity** and **equity** in society.
- **Secularism:** Both movements' **anti-religious stances** influence contemporary debates on **secularism** and **religious neutrality** in governance.
For instance: Periyar's **rationalist ideas** resonate with ongoing discussions about **religious influence** in politics.
- **Caste-Based Political Mobilisation:** The **mobilisation of backward castes** and Dalits continues to be a significant force in Indian politics.
- **Anti-Majoritarianism:** Resistance to **majoritarianism** and **cultural nationalism** has emerged as a pivotal aspect of the state-centre dynamics.
For instance: The widespread rejection of policies such as **one nation, one language**.

How Their Legacies Shape Current Social Debates In India:

- **Caste-Based Social Movements:** The **anti-caste ideologies** of both movements fuel modern-day campaigns for **caste equity** and **eradication of untouchability**.
For example: Movements like **Dalit Panthers** have drawn inspiration from Periyar's teachings.
- **Women's Empowerment:** The movements' emphasis on **women's rights** shapes current efforts for **gender equality**, including campaigns for **women's reservation** in politics.
For example: Periyar's advocacy for **equal property rights for women** is cited in contemporary legal reforms.
- **Rationalism Vs. Superstition:** The **rationalist underpinnings** of both movements influence contemporary debates on **scientific temper** and opposition to **superstitions** in society.
- **Linguistic Identity:** The Dravidian Movement's language policies continue to shape Tamil Nadu's rejection of Hindi and promotion of Tamil identity in education and governance.
For example: Tamil Nadu's continued emphasis on **Tamil-medium education** aligns with Dravidian principles.
- **Opposition To Patriarchy:** Both movements' focus on **gender justice** influences contemporary **feminist movements**, particularly in Tamil Nadu.
For example: Campaigns for **abolishing dowry** and promoting **equal marriage rights** draw directly from Self-Respect Movement ideals.

The Self-Respect and Dravidian movements remain highly relevant in contemporary India, influencing political and social debates around caste, gender, secularism, and federalism. These movements provide crucial frameworks for resisting cultural homogenization and ensuring that regional, caste, and gender identities are respected and protected. As India faces new social challenges, the principles of these movements continue to offer guidance on promoting social justice and equality.

MCQ

1. With reference to Vizhinjam International Seaport, consider the following statements:
1. It's the first solar-powered port in India.
2. It is expected to reduce India's dependence on foreign ports for transshipment.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only

