

Date: 28 Sep 2024

## Keep the fire of Self-Respect Movement going

(The Hindu, 28-09-24)

### What is the Self-Respect Movement and its significance?

- An emancipatory movement started in 1925 that aimed to empower individuals and communities to challenge oppressive hierarchical structures
- Promoted rational thinking, subaltern politics, women's rights, and social justice
- Closely associated with, but distinct from, the Dravidian Movement
- E.V. Ramasamy ('Periyar'): Conceptualized and led the movement for nearly 50 years
- C.N. Annadurai ('Anna'): Regarded as the political patriarch of contemporary Tamil Nadu

### What were the major achievements of the Self-Respect Movement?

- Introduction and popularization of self-respect marriages
- Advocacy for women's liberation and rights
- Promotion of inter-caste marriages
- Contribution to the evolution of federalism in India

### What are the current challenges faced by the Self-Respect Movement?

- Cultural homogenization led by right-wing ideologies like Hindutva
- Addressing complex intersectional identities (caste, class, religion, gender, sexuality)
- Combating misinformation and falsehoods in the digital age
- Engaging with younger generations who are removed from traditional caste practices

### How can the Self-Respect Movement adapt to remain relevant in its second century?

- Resist cultural uniformity and continue championing individual identities
- Address new gender-related issues like LGBTQIA+ rights
- Engage with young people to counter right-wing propaganda
- Intensify the fight for social justice, equality, and rationalism

*Can you answer the following question?*

*As the Self-Respect Movement enters its hundredth year, evaluate its historical significance and contemporary relevance in addressing social issues in India.*

## Russia's geopolitical pivot to Asia, a new India chapter

(The Hindu, 28-09-24)

### What led to Russia's economic pivot towards Asia in 2022?

- Moscow cut economic ties with Europe due to political tensions
- Russia aimed to reduce susceptibility to external shocks from Western markets
- The move was driven by geopolitical considerations and the need for economic stability

### How has the India-Russia relationship evolved recently?

- Trade between India and Russia grew significantly despite lack of common borders

- Bilateral trade reached \$3.5 billion in June 2022 and \$7.5 billion in May 2024
- A bilateral trade target of \$100 billion by 2030 was announced

**What factors have contributed to the growth in India-Russia ties?**

- India's non-involvement in the European conflict provided stability for Russia
- Economic benefits for India, such as discounted oil imports and reduced food inflation
- Pragmatic approach from both sides, focusing on economic advantages

**What challenges does the India-Russia relationship face?**

- Lack of economic complementarity due to both countries' focus on domestic production
- Sanctions regime limiting opportunities to overcome trade imbalances
- Absence of stable payment mechanisms and clear arbitration systems
- Limited cooperation in technology and investments outside of nuclear and military spheres
- Insufficient development in science and education cooperation

*Can you answer the following question?*

*Examine the recent developments in India-Russia economic relations and discuss the potential challenges and opportunities for both countries in achieving their bilateral trade target of \$100 billion by 2030.*

