

Self-Reliant India: As an Independent Global Economy

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The Self-Reliant India mission, or Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, is a vision to make India a stronger and more independent global economy. Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative focuses on enhancing domestic production, reducing reliance on imports, and boosting the nation's economic resilience. In May 2020, Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi launched the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission to promote Indian goods in the global supply chain markets and help the country achieve self-reliance. The mission was announced amid the pandemic when the government allocated funds worth Rs. 20 lakh crore (US\$ 268.74 billion), which amounts to 10% of India's GDP, as a stimulus package to help recover the economy by promoting incentives for domestic production. It encompasses themes such as 'local for global', 'made for world' and 'vocal for local'.

Key Words : Meaning, achievements and schemes.

Introduction:

It means being self-sustaining and self-generating; and creating "wealth and values not only for ourselves but for the larger humanity". Self-reliance for a country is a vision towards activities that are self-supporting in economic terms and indicate reliance on one's own resources and having means to an end. But a self-reliant economy is built by self-reliant citizens as the wealth of a nation derives from the drive and creativity of its people. If each of the members of the population gainfully contributes towards the economy, then such a population becomes our collective strength. But a person becomes independent if he has the skills and can earn a livelihood. That is why Indian businesses have always clubbed Riddhi (wealth and prosperity) and Siddhi (skill) together, thereby internalizing the fact that expertise and wealth cannot be decoupled. The Government of India announced a special economic package Of 20 lakh crores under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The principal object is to make the country independent and countering the competition in the world market.¹

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the progress of Self-Reliant India.
2. To analyse the government schemes.

Methodology:

This paper based on secondary data sourced related to India's GDP growth rate and contribution of different sectors of Indian economy. This paper is completely descriptive

research and is based on secondary data. It includes compilation of research articles, books, journals, newspaper etc.

Review of Literature

1. Ahluwalia, 2021 has indicated that for self-reliant country India, to become economically strong with growth and development, getting the foreign aid and support is embarked to be effective in various ways. It suggests that Indian Government is focusing on making policies and getting proper assistance from foreign experts to implement them. In the field of higher education to develop learning skills among students with dynamic environment implementation of heutagogy philosophy is must, as the self-determined learning is meaningful and purposeful. With the implementation of NEP 2020 students have to keep ready to be lifelong learners .
2. Masand & Ambreen (2020) to make India Atmanirbhar various measures and have been implemented and announced, large no. of scopes for RBI and government of India are seen to build India self-reliant. There is a need of aggressive reforms by labour and land part to easy to do business in India. Atmanirbhar Bharat mission also contributes to the downfall of economy through e-education, digital health program to make India social self-reliant. "Independence Day is likely to see a renewed call for "Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat." It is highly helpful that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has directed that being a "swadeshi" does not mean the boycott of all foreign products to make correction towards promoting self – reliance. It is also observed that Indian businesses are churning out the foreign products gradually and therefore consumers have no choice except to buy the Indian products.
3. Research (Agarwal, et al,2020) study says that up to 2030 India would become the largest workforce and higher education system have a prominent role to decide the status of a nation at global level as they are the producers of future nation builders. It is necessary to resolve the problems of higher education system of India. To make the higher education system of best quality away from flaws it is necessary to remain

Meaning of Self-Reliant India

Atmanirbhar Bharat translates to "Self-Reliant India." The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was launched with the goal to make India self-sustaining in the global arena. Its vision is rooted in producing and consuming more indigenous goods, leveraging local talent, and enhancing digital and technological infrastructures. This initiative encourages Indians from all walks of life to contribute towards national progress. Atmanirbhar Bharat is the vision of a self-reliant India initiated by the government. It encourages local businesses, boosts manufacturing, and promotes digital technology. This initiative empowers citizens to innovate and become job creators. The focus is on making India independent in essential sectors, reducing foreign dependence, and supporting indigenous talent through schemes and policies. It also aims to improve education, healthcare, and start-ups, thus ensuring growth for all. Atmanirbhar Bharat represents India's step towards becoming a stronger nation and inspires everyone to contribute to national progress with confidence. Present paper focus on achievements and schemes of self-reliant India.

Objectives of the 'Self-reliant India' (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission :

1. Enter the global markets to export goods including agriculture, textiles, clothing, and jewellery.
2. Determine adequacy of each sector (e.g., defence, agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, etc.), with the help of FY22 budget, to achieve self-reliance.
3. Develop India into a global supply chain hub.

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 2021 is likely to benefit numerous industries.

1. **Primary Sector** : In this sector, agriculture, mining, and fishing are the three key industries.
2. **Secondary Sector** : This sector comprises industries such as construction, manufacturing, utilities, MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) and cottage.
3. **Tertiary Sector** : This sector includes key services—from retail, tourism, banking, real estate, media & entertainment, telecommunication to hospitality & leisure and information technology.
4. **Quaternary Sector** : This sector consists of education, research & development, and public sector industries.

This mission focuses on the following four key factors—Land, Labour, Liquidity and Laws. In line with these factors, the government introduced several initiatives, between 2014 and 2020, to help the country achieve self-reliance.³

Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan): Key Initiatives and Progress

The government announced an Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package (ANB 1.0) in May 2020 and launched two additional Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan packages in end-2020 (ANB 2.0 and ANB 3.0) to maintain the progress. The overall Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package, including the RBI initiatives, was estimated at Rs. 27.1 lakh crore (US\$ 362.49 billion), or >13% of the GDP.

With the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package, the government facilitated structural reforms such as redefinition of MSMEs, commercialisation of the mineral sector, agriculture & labour reforms, privatisation of public sector undertakings, One Nation One Ration Card initiative and production-linked incentive schemes.⁴

Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan), the government implemented the following schemes:

1. **Introduced Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** : To establish India's manufacturing global leadership and boost the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India) scheme, under the Union Budget 2021-22, the government launched a production-linked incentive scheme (PLI) across 13 sectors, at ~Rs. 1.97 lakh crore (US\$ 27.02 billion), for the next five years.

The allocated budget is an additional fund to Rs. 40,951 crore (US\$ 5.45 billion), which was for PLI electronics manufacturing schemes.

In addition, these PLI schemes have attracted foreign players to invest in India. For example, in February 2021, Amazon announced to establish a manufacturing plant for its electronic devices in India; in March 2021, Apple started assembling iPhone

12 in India.

2. **Strengthened Healthcare infrastructure:** In the Union Budget 2021-22, the government introduced a new central healthcare scheme that will be implemented over the next six years to improve the country's healthcare infrastructure. Under Pradhan Mantri Aatmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMANSY), the government allocated funds worth Rs. 64,180 crore (US\$ 8.80 billion) over six years to strengthen the existing 'National Health Mission' and develop capacities of primary, secondary & tertiary care and healthcare systems & institutions to detect and cure new and emerging diseases. The pandemic highlighted the urgent need for a self-sufficient healthcare sector. In response, India rapidly scaled up the local production of medical supplies, including PPE kits, sanitizers, and ventilators, and became a major exporter of vaccines.
3. **Strengthened other infrastructure:** In alignment with the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission, the Union Budget 2025-26 has categorized hotels at 50 tourist destinations as infrastructure projects. This initiative is designed to enhance tourism and foster job creation within the hospitality sector. As part of the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission, the Union Budget 2025-26 has granted infrastructure status to the shipbuilding sector, fostering the growth of domestic large ship construction. In 2015-16, the government, under the Department of Science & Technology's 'Science & Technology for Women' scheme, launched women technology park (WTP) programmes to empower women by training them in skills to set up their own microenterprises and become self-reliant. In the last five years (until March 2021), 10,000 rural women have benefited from this programme, 28 WTPs have been successfully completed and 12 parks are under progress across the country.
4. **Achieving self-reliance in the defence sector:** Initiatives under this mission encourage private investment and boost the defense sector by increasing the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit and promoting indigenous manufacturing of defense equipment. This reduces dependency on foreign suppliers and enhances national security. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India) scheme, the government launched policies to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing. For example, the government increased FDI limit to 74% in defence manufacturing, placed 'import embargo' on 101 military items and introduced the Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020. The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the primary initiative of the Department of Defence Production, has achieved a significant milestone by finalizing its 300th contract. This contract pertains to the design and advancement of cutting-edge Gallium Nitride Semiconductors crucial for the upcoming era of wireless transmitters in defence applications, spanning from radars to Electronics Warfare (EW) jammers.

The Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020) highlights a framework to achieve a turnover of Rs. 1.75 lakh crore (US\$ 25 billion), including exports of Rs. 35 thousand crore (US\$ 5 billion), in the aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025.

As part of the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission, the Ministry of Defence has awarded HAL a contract worth over Rs. 26,000 crore (US\$ 3.12 billion) for 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines for Su-30MKI aircraft. HAL's Koraput Division will manufacture these engines, supporting India's defence preparedness. The project aims to enhance indigenisation, involving MSMEs and industries, with 63% local content targeted. Delivery will span eight years, with 30 engines annually.

The Ministry of Defence, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, has signed a contract worth Rs. 2,385 crore (US\$ 277 million) with Bharat Electronics Limited for indigenously developed Electronic Warfare Suites and modification kits for Mi-17 V5 helicopters of the Indian Air Force.

As part of the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the 'PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)' scheme to provide financial, technical, and business support to upgrade the existing micro food processing enterprises. The government allocated funds worth Rs. 10,000 crore (US\$ 1.34 billion) for this scheme, which will be implemented between FY21 and FY25.

In Union Budget 2025-26, a six year "Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses" with special focus on Tur, Urad and Masoor was announced by Union Minister of Finance Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman. Central agencies (NAFED and NCCF) will be ready to procure these 3 pulses, as much as offered during the next four years from farmers.

In the Union Budget 2025-26, the Union Minister of Finance Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the loan limits for loans taken through Kisan Credit Cards under the modified interest subvention scheme were increased from Rs. 3 lakh (US\$ 3,484) to Rs. 5 lakh (US\$ 5,807).

5. **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):** The government has provided financial and regulatory support to MSMEs, recognizing their importance to the economy. Schemes like the Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund help empower MSMEs with growth capital, encouraging them to scale up and create jobs.
6. **Technology and digital access:** Digital India is a foundational part of this mission, leveraging technology to empower citizens and improve service delivery. From digital payment applications to telemedicine, technology-enabled systems are driving self-reliance in the modern era.
7. **Agriculture:** Farmers are being empowered through schemes such as the PM Kisan Yojana and PM Fasal Bima Yojana, which help boost agricultural productivity and ensure fair remuneration.⁵

Achievements of the Self-reliant India

The key achievements of the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission are as follows:

1. The Union Cabinet has approved the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 22,919 crore (US\$ 2.66 billion) to boost self-reliance in the electronics supply chain. It aims to enhance domestic value addition, attract investments worth Rs. 59,350 crore (US\$ 6.89 billion) and generate over 91,000

direct jobs by integrating Indian firms into global value chains.

2. The 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024' was inaugurated in New Delhi by government of India. The event highlighted the National ODOP awards 2023, emphasizing India's journey towards a US\$ five trillion economies by 2027 through collective effort and promotion of traditional Indian products like ODOP and Geographical Indicators.
3. On December 23, 2024, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi distributed over 71,000 appointment letters to new recruits via video conferencing. This 'Rozgar Mela,' held across 45 locations, aimed to boost employment generation and empower youth to participate in nation-building, which is a crucial part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan's focus on creating job opportunities.
4. As of December 2023, Rs. 10,043 crore (US\$ 1.21 billion) has been distributed to 60.49 lakh recipients through 1.52 lakh establishments under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana.
5. The mission has helped reduce dependence on imports of air conditioners, as between October 2020 and November 2020, India reported 65% reduction in imports of split ACs or air conditioners; this bodes well for the government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' policy of self-reliance. In October 2020, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) released a regulation restricting imports of air conditioners with refrigerants.
6. Within 60 days of the mission's launch, India's domestic producers were able to generate an indigenous supply chain of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, demonstrating the country's self-sufficiency in PPE kits.
7. In January 2020, the country launched the world's largest vaccination drive with two 'Made in India' vaccines—Covaxin and Covishield—and demonstrated its determination to become self-reliant.
8. Domestic supplies: As of April 14, 2021, India's cumulative vaccination coverage crossed 110 million.
9. International supplies: As of April 15, 2021, the country exported 65.5 million indigenous COVID-19 vaccines to >90 countries.

Findings and Suggestion

The objectives of Abhiyan could be fulfilled by adopting some measures. As Government allotted huge amount for the development of many sectors and schemes but there is need of proper allocation of the funds generated and it should reach the actual hands. The poor population affects severely by natural calamities and pandemic. Therefore, country should be prepared for facing such situations as well as for economic challenges. Success of any idea and any policy depends on good Governance and appropriate mechanism for execution of that policy. To become self-reliant and global supplies it is require to enhance quantity as well as quality of the commodity. So that we can utilise the benefit from the advantage turn aside from China. For the profitable execution of the scheme indicated in Abhiyan, it is must to acknowledge the actual prospective of numerous sectors standing in urban and rural India and provide them adequate resources

Conclusion

India ranked 63rd out of 190 countries in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business 2023' survey, indicating a favourable business environment in the country. The recent government reforms, such as allowing private companies to operate in key industries, introducing agriculture initiatives & labour reforms and enabling commercial coal mining, serve as strong pillars to aid development of India's economy and present huge opportunities for the country to become self-reliant.

In addition, strong budgetary push for the manufacturing sector, MSMEs, along with supportive PLI reforms, will boost the domestic manufacturing companies and attract foreign companies to invest in the country; thereby, foster India's path to achieve self-reliance.

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