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Dr. Pooja Monga
Assistant Professor,
Department of Economics,
Shah Satnam Ji Girls' College,
Sirsa, Haryana, India

Atmanirbhar Bharat

Dr. Pooja Monga

Abstract

Atmanirbhar Bharat which translates to 'self-reliant in all senses. The aim to make the nation and its public independent and self-reliant. India is dependent on lots of imports from many countries across the world and pays a large import bill in comparison to export. India has started producing the items in our own country which eventually boosted the country's economy and benefits its employees, also creating job opportunities and reducing unemployment.

Keywords: Atmanirbhar Bharat, 'self-reliant, benefits its employees

Introduction

Atmanirbhar Bharat which translates to 'self-reliant India', is a phrase used and popularised by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and the Government of India in relation to the economic vision and economic development in the country during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the term is used as an umbrella concept in relation to making India "a bigger and more important part of the global economy", pursuing policies that are efficient, competitive and resilient, and being self-sustaining and self-generating. The phrase has been used by Modi since 2014 in relation to national security, poverty and digital India. The first popular mention of this came in the form of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' or 'Self-Reliant India Mission' during the announcement of India's COVID-19 pandemic related economic package on 12 May 2020, 12 October and 12 November 2020. Since May 2020, the phrase has been used by the former Planning Commission in India's Five-Year Plans. Commentators have noted that India has been enacting policies and building institutions that promote self-reliance since the day it was created. Private companies and their products have also been considered as fine examples of self-reliance in India such as- the Maruti 800 car, Thums up beverage, Amul, HDFC, the leading IT companies of India, and Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute of India. Bharat Biotech developed India's first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine in a bench-to-beside journey that took 8 month.

5 pillar on which Atmanibhar Bharat is to be based:

India's self-reliance will be based on five pillars

1. Economy
2. Infrastructure
3. Technology driven system
4. Vibrant demography
5. Demand.

Main aims of Atmanirbhar Bharat

The aim is to make the nation and its public independent and self-reliant in all senses. He further outlined five pillars of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat - Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and demand. Atmanirbhar Bharat will make India self-reliant by creating an eco-system that will allow Indian companies to be highly competitive on the global stage. India is dependent on lots of imports from many countries across the world and pays a large import bill in comparison to export. During the time of pandemic all the import and export activities across the world was on halt. Transportation on goods and services were stopped. Then it was very difficult to live without resources as import of goods were not possible due to termination of transport activities.

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Pooja Monga
Assistant Professor,
Department of Economics,
Shah Satnam Ji Girls' College,
Sirsa, Haryana, India

India faced problems in terms of shortage of Hospital beds, PPE kits, Covid test kits, medicines, ventilators and other necessary respiratory and medical equipments including basic supplies of hand sanitisers, N95 Masks. We realised that it is the time for us to depend upon indigenous Innovation, products and local manufacturing. To fulfil these demands and promote production of these items in the country our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Campaign. He defined the five pillars of Aatm Nirbhar Bharat to boost the economy and to turn difficulties into opportunity.

What comes under Atmanirbhar Bharat?

According to the government, self-reliance does not advocate a self-centered protectionist system.

Controversy around Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission

The government has said 'self-reliant India does not mean cutting off from rest of the world.' However, some have called Atmanirbhar Bharat as a re-packaged version of the Make in India drive using new taglines such as 'Vocal for Local'. Some Opposition members have spoken about how India had enacted policies and built companies since its creation to make India self-reliant - SAIL for steel production, ITs for domestic engineers, AIMS for medical sciences, DRDO for defence research, HAL for aviation, ISRO for space, CCL NTPC and GAIL in the area of energy, for example. These politicians have criticised the so-called advertising tactics in the re-packaged scheme. Some have also panned the scheme re-phrased as "Fend for Yourself" Campaign.

Other major decisions taken under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Apart from the above, under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan decisions are also made to reform labour, agriculture, coal sector etc.

Labour sector reforms

- To avoid regional disparity in minimum wages, National Floor Wage to be introduced.
- An appointment letter is to be provided to all workers to promote Formalisation.
- Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) code to cover all establishments engaged in hazardous work.
- Definition of the inter-state migrant worker to include migrant workers employed directly by the employer.

Coal sector reforms

- Introduction of commercial mining in the coal sector through a revenue-sharing mechanism instead of the regime of fixed Rupee/tonne.
- To lower impact on the environment, coal gasification and liquefaction will be incentivised through rebate in revenue share.
- Coal Bed Methane (CBM) extraction rights to be auctioned from Coal India limited coal mines.

Self-reliance in defence production

- Ban the import of several weapons and a separate budget provisioning for domestic capital procurement to help reduce the huge defence import bill.
- Corporative the Ordnance Factory Board to improve autonomy, accountability, and efficiency.

- Increased FDI limit in the defence manufacturing under the automatic route from 49 percent to 74 percent

Aircraft and airspace sector

- Restrictions on the utilisation of the Indian airspace will be eased so that civilian flying becomes more efficient. Development of world-class airports through PPP
- The tax regime for Aircraft Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul ecosystem is rationalised and the convergence between the defence sector and the civil MROs will be established to create economies of scale.
- Boosting private participation in space activities. The private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capabilities

Ease of doing business related measures

- The minimum threshold to initiate insolvency proceedings raised to Rs 1 crore Suspension of fresh initiation of insolvency proceedings up to one year.
- Special insolvency resolution framework for MSMEs to be notified soon.
- Decriminalisation of violations under Companies Act Allow direct listing of securities by Indian public companies in permissible foreign jurisdictions.
- The government will announce a new, coherent policy where all sectors are open to the private sector while public sector enterprises (PSEs) will play an important role in defined areas.

Agriculture Marketing Reforms to provide choices to farmers

- Now, farmers are bound to sell agricultural produce only to licensees in APMCs.
- A law will be formulated to provide choices to farmers to sell produce at an attractive price and enable barrier-free inter-state trade.
- The legal framework will be created towards contract farming and enable farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters in a fair and transparent manner.
- Risk mitigation for farmers assured returns and quality standardisation to be an integral part of the framework.

Benefits of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- Liquidity infusion and direct cash transfers into the accounts of labourers and daily-wage earner are helpful for their survival during the lockdown.
- Long-term modifications in critical-sectors keep them globally competitive and attractive.
- Substantial growth in the e-Commerce industry.
- Boost in the supply chain logistics industry.
- Lots of employment opportune chat soon in the country Reduction in scarcity for medical supplies and food grains.

The Role of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in Indian Economy Transformation through Innovation

The pivotal concern of Atmanirbhar Bharat has been the revival of lockdown haunted economy. This mission engaged all the fields and gave new platform and opportunities to the society by instilling new hope and zeal in the environment of dejection. Aatmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan needs only proper implementation of strategies and

government made laws. This mission is directly related to industrialisation in all technical, medical and scientific disciplines. The mission connotes to sponsor and give first choice to local products and make certain that these products must maintain cost and quality. Largely Indian market were generally dependent on Chinese products, be it fancy items, toys, electronic products and many more, also in the early days of the COVID pandemic, the sanitisers, PPE kits and other medical equipment which were inadequate, and the same goods were imported from China. But after the advent of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, India has started producing the items in our own country which eventually boosted the country's economy and benefits its employees, also creating job opportunities and reducing unemployment. It adventurously intends to help the poor by generating subsequent number of career opportunities and dreams to restructure the growth-critical sector to make it worldwide striking. The economic activities have stimulated after the application of the measures of this initiative. Opportunities in micro, small, agricultural, and medium sectors were to be enhanced. It has been assumed that the same will bring substantial growth in power, coal, defence, aviation and mining. The scheme formulated is a giant-step towards the one nation one market and help India emerge as the food factory of the world also.

Measures Provided Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

The various measures are undertaken by the government under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in different sectors are as follows:

- Reforms for MSME.
- Reforms for Employment and Ease of Doing Business.
- Reforms for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors.
- Reforms for Poor, Farmers and Migrant Workers.

Conclusion

The strategy of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan seems to give a strong supply-side push by boosting the availability of capital on easy terms and through supporting agriculture and business sectors. The additional allocation to MNREGA will help in productively employing-returning migrants.

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