

Atma Nirbhar Bharata

“It Is Not Just A Slogan, It Is A Planned Economic Strategy and Vision Of The Country”

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ABSTRACT

Atma Nirbhar Bharat is not just a slogan, it is a planned economic Strategy and Vision of the Country. This is a new scheme of the Government. This paper describes the radical reforms which are included in this scheme. Under this scheme government wants to boost the Indian economic and social system in during and post-Covid-19. The main aim of this scheme is producing in the country, distributing or supplying in the country and consuming in the country (self-reliant) and we focused our strength on more production within the country, unless depending on others for everything. This means should not close door to the world, but we compete in the world market. Under the Atma Nirbhar Bharata Project, the Prime Minister announced a special economic package of Rs. 20 Lac crores, this is equivalent to 10% of Indian GDP. The budgeted amount allocated in several sub titles (reforms). Implementation of this project also done through Umbrella concepts of ‘Make in India’, ‘Start up India’ and ‘Stand up India’ etc. The Prime Minister stated that; “This scheme stands on Five pillars, these are- Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant demography and Demand”, and he also quoted “Atma nirbhar Bharata is not about being self-contained or being closed to the world, it is about being self-sustaining and self-generating” and pursuing “Policies that promote efficiency equity and resilience”. This talk shows that self-reliance to us did not mean shutting out the windows to the world. This paper is an attempt to understand the concept of Indian Government's new project Atma Nirbhar Bharat which means self-reliant the Indian economy.

Key words: Atma Nirbhar, Self-reliant, Five pillars.

Introduction:

It is a new scheme of the government for encouraging local talent and generates new employment for people who are lost their jobs in the COVID-19 Pandemic. ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat’ Is Hindi phrase, which is used and popularised by Prime Minister of India Shree Narendra Modi which means- “Self-reliant India”. This scheme introduced on 12th May 2020 by the central Government of India to boost the economic system in the country during and after the Covid-19 Pandemic. Under these circumstances, this term used as an “Umbrella concept” in relation to ‘Make in India’, ‘Start up India’ and ‘Stand up India’ etc. ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharata’ Means “Self-reliance and Self-sufficient India”, these two are not just a matter of economics and finance areas, in spite of economic importance Self-sufficiency is goes beyond that.

Background:

Because of Covid-19, the country’s administrative, social and most importantly economic system had changed and measures such as- lockdown to prevent coronavirus has disrupted the entire system. As a result, production, demand and supply have been stalled in all sectors except the medical. Because of this, not only our country, but also the advanced nations of the world have suffered. A scheme like ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharata’ is needed to radically revive the declining India’s economy. ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharata’ is not just the latest talk. It was the ambition of the majority of freedom fighters of the India, it was existing in many forms like Self-esteem, Self-reliance and Indigenous campaigns etc. After India become independent it was necessary to revive the economic system, in this case the Political leaders of the time had taken many action plans, their impact has strengthened the Indian economy. Recently lot of major changes happened in the Indian economy for example in 2016 demonetisation, in 2017 tax reforms (GST implementation), etc. for all these reasons the economy has taken a rational turn appropriately serve the Global market and Global competition. In that time the COVID-19 epidemic had troubled not only India but the entire world economy. The whole system of Livelihood was disrupted because of lockdown. All the production, demand and supply stalled. So, that need of such a project was everywhere.

There are many reasons behind starting this scheme:

1. The very first reason is COVID-19, it is an epidemic and the entire world is facing huge trouble. Even the developed countries couldn’t stop this virus and as a result, it has directly affected our markets and various industries. So, to improve their performance and to improve our economy the Government of India started this scheme.
2. It is a belief that it is China behind this virus and as a result, many countries stopped their business relationships with China and we realized that most of the Indian products are imported from China itself. We are totally dependent on China in many terms and if we will suddenly stop the import, again it will affect our market. So, for this, our Prime Minister thought to promote local products and also promised to help people to start their small-scale industries, so that in the upcoming years we can stop being dependent on other countries and promote our national products.

3. The third reason is, again the COVID-19 virus, many industries were running in loss and as a result, many lost their jobs and it was really shocking for many families. Not only labourers but also other workers lost their job. So, to help them the Government launched this scheme.

The Indian Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi talks about this scheme, he told that “Atmanirbhar Bharata Abhiyan is not about being self-contained or being closed to the world, it is about being self-sustaining and self-generating” and pursuing “Policies that promote efficiency equity and resilience”. This talk shows that self-reliance to us did not mean shutting out the windows to the world. Some slogans initiated under Atmanirbhar Bharat these are- ‘vocal for local’, ‘local for Global’, ‘Make for world’ and ‘Brain Drain to Brain Gain’. These slogans conclude that not only should products be ‘Made in India’ but the promotion of those products should take place so, as to make those products competitive to global.

Five Pillars of this scheme:

On 12th May 2021 the Prime Minister announced a special economic package of rupees 20 Lac crore (equivalent to 10% of Indian GDP) under the Atmanirbhar Bharata project, with the aim of making the country independent against the tough competition in the global supply chain and to help in the empowering the poor, labours, migrants who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. Prime Minister during the address to the nation he noted that the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharata Scheme’ has standing on **Five Pillars**. These are-

- 1) **Economy:** - We need an economy that doesn't bring incremental change but makes quantum jumps.
- 2) **Infrastructure:** - We need a Infrastructure that will become the identity of modern India.
- 3) **System:** - We need a system that is no longer based on the rules and rituals of the past but one that actualises the dreams of the 21st Century. This system needs to be technology based.
- 4) **Vibrant demography:** - We are the world's biggest democracy. A Vibrant demography is our strength. It is the source of energy for our efforts to make India self-reliant.
- 5) **Demand:** - The cycle of demand and supply in our economy is an asset we need to utilise this powerfully.

Some Measures/Reforms Provided Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan:-

AtmaNirbharBharata project includes many reforms to implement. Some of them are described below. -

Reforms for MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises):

- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to Businesses or MSMEs from Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) up to 20% of the entire outstanding credit as of 29.2.2020.
- Rs.20,000 crore for Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs. Etc.
- 100% guaranteed by the Government to provide a total liquidity of Rs. 3 lakh crore to more than 45 lakh MSMEs.

Reforms for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors:

- Rs.1 lakh crore for Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to farmers for farm-gate infrastructure.
- Rs.10,000 crore scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE).
- Rs.20,000 crore for fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund set up for Rs.15,000 crore
- Promotion of Herbal Cultivation with an outlay of Rs.4,000 crore.
- Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital Funding for farmers through NABARD.
- A special drive to give concessional credit to PM-KISAN beneficiaries through the Kisan Credit Cards. Animal Husbandry Farmers and Fishermen are also included in this drive.

A Central law will be formulated to provide -

- Adequate choices to farmer to sell produce at attractive price. Barrier frees Inter-State Trade.
- Framework for e-trading of agriculture produces.

Reforms for Employment and Ease of Doing Business:

- Additional allotment of Rs.40,000 crore for MGNREGS for boosting employment.
- Decriminalisation of the Companies Act, 2013 for ease of doing business.
- Lowering of penalties for all defaults for One-person Companies, Small Companies, Producer Companies and Start-ups. Etc.

Reforms for Poor, Farmers and Migrant Workers:

- Introduction of One Nation One Card. The migrant workers can access the Public Distribution System.
- Rs. 3500 Crore will be spent on this intervention for 2 months.
- Cost will be fully borne by Government of India.
- Provided living facilities to the migrant labours and urban poor at affordable rent under the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana).
- Rs 40,000 crore increase in allocation for MGNREGS to provide employment boost and rural economy through higher production.

Health Reforms & Initiatives:

Increased investments in Public Health -

- ▶ Public Expenditure on Health will be increased.
- ▶ Investments in grass root health institutions.
 - Ramp up Health and Wellness Centres in rural and urban areas

Preparing India for any future pandemics –

- Investments in Public Health and other health reforms to prepare India for future pandemics.
- Infectious Diseases Hospital Blocks - all districts.
- Strengthening of lab network and surveillance –
 - Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts & block level Labs & Public Health Unit to manage pandemics.
- Encouraging Research-National Institutional Platform for One health by ICMR.
- National Digital Health Mission: Implementation of National Digital Health Blueprint.

Structural Reforms in Defence Sector:

- Enhancing Self Reliance in Defence Production.
- Policy Reforms in Defence Production.
- FDI limit in the defence manufacturing under automatic route will be raised from 49% to 74%.
- Time-bound defence procurement process and faster decision making will be ushered in by :
 - Setting up of a Project Management Unit (PMU) to support contract management;
 - Realistic setting of General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQRs) of weapons/platforms;
- 'Make in India' for Self-Reliance in Defence Production:
 - Notify a list of weapons/platforms for ban on import with year wise timelines.
 - Indigenisation of imported spares.
 - Separate budget provisioning for domestic capital procurement.
 - Will help reduce huge Defence import bill.
- Improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency in Ordnance Supplies by Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board.

Structural Reforms in Civil Aviation, Power, Social, Space and Atomic energy Sectors:

- Efficient Airspace Management for Civil Aviation
- More World-class Airports through PPP
- India to become a global hub for Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)
- Tariff Policy Reform in Power Sector; Privatization of Distribution in UTs
- Boosting private sector investment through revamped Viability Gap Funding Scheme in Social Sector
- Boosting private participation in space activities
- Many reforms in Atomic Energy Sector.

Technology Driven Education with Equity post-COVID:

- PM eVIDYA- A programmes for multi-mode access to digital/online education to be launched immediately; consisting of:
 - DIKSHA for school education in states/UTS: e-content and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
 - One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
 - Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired. B
 - Top 100 universities will be permitted to automatically start online courses by 30th May, 2020.
- Manodarpan-An initiative for psychosocial support of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing to be launched immediately.
- New National Curriculum and Pedagogical framework for school, early childhood and teachers will be launched: integrated with global and 21st century skill requirements.
- National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission for ensuring that every child attains Learning levels and outcomes in grade 5 by 2025 will be launched by December 2020.

In Education system many changes came into force like- Classes are in online mode (virtual classes) and syllabus, notes & books are in digital form. Etc.

After the introduced Atmanirbhar Bharata Abhiyan, the extended versions of this scheme also announced by the Ministry of Finance on 12-Oct-2020 and 12-Nov-2020 as Atmanirbhar Bharata Abhiyan-2.0 and Atmanirbhar Bharata Abhiyan-3.0 respectively. Our development indicates the developments of our Nation. So, we should try our best for developing ourselves. The success of any Government's plans actually depends on how they are implemented. So, the Government can only launch a scheme but it is our duty and responsibility to bring it into action effectively.

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