



Original Article

# Vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Self-Reliant Economy

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## Abstract

*This paper analyses the vision, policy instruments, implementation, early outcomes, and future pathways of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India). Launched in 2020 as a comprehensive response to the economic shock of COVID-19, Atmanirbhar Bharat combines stimulus measures, supply-side reforms, demand creation, and institutional change to reduce strategic vulnerabilities, accelerate domestic manufacturing, and promote competitive local enterprises on the global stage. Using policy documents, government reports, and recent empirical studies, this research synthesizes the initiative's pillars, evaluates strengths and weaknesses, and offers targeted recommendations to ensure inclusive, sustainable, and globally competitive self-reliance.*

**Keywords:** Atmanirbhar Bharat, Self-Reliance, Msmes, Industrial Policy, Vocal for Local, Economic Stimulus

## Introduction

India, the land of rich culture and heritage, is also a country of immense potential. With a population of over 1.4 billion, vast natural resources, and a strong human capital base, India aspires to become a global leader in the 21st century. The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) is a step towards achieving this goal. Announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in 2020, the idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat is not about isolating the country from the world, but about making India stronger, more competitive, and self-sustaining while contributing actively to the global economy.

## Meaning of Atmanirbhar Bharat

The term Atmanirbhar Bharat literally means "self-reliant India." It refers to an economy that can sustain itself through domestic production, innovation, and efficient use of resources while reducing excessive dependence on imports. However, it does not mean a closed economy. Instead, it promotes "vocal for local," i.e., encouraging local industries to compete globally by improving quality and innovation.

## Vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat

The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat rests on five key pillars:

1. Economy – Moving towards a modern, vibrant economy that is demand-driven rather than supply-driven.
2. Infrastructure – Developing world-class infrastructure that represents the identity of modern India.
3. System – Building a transparent, technology-driven, and efficient system for governance.
4. Demography – Utilizing India's demographic dividend by empowering its youth and workforce.
5. Demand – Strengthening domestic demand and supply chains to fuel sustained economic growth.

This vision aims to position India as a hub for manufacturing, digital technology, innovation, and services while ensuring inclusive growth.

## Key Areas for a Self-Reliant Economy

1. MSMEs and Startups – The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises sector is the backbone of India's economy, providing employment to millions. Government schemes like the Credit Guarantee Scheme and Startup India encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.
2. Make in India – Launched in 2014, this program seeks to boost manufacturing and position India as a global hub in sectors such as defense, automobiles, textiles, and electronics.

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3. Agriculture and Rural Development – Reforms aim to empower farmers with better markets, storage, and technology, making agriculture not only self-sufficient but also export-oriented.
4. Digital India – Focus on technology, artificial intelligence, fintech, and e-governance. India is already a leader in IT services and digital payments (UPI is a global example).
5. Energy Security – Promotion of solar energy, wind power, and electric vehicles reduces dependence on oil imports. India's International Solar Alliance is a step in this direction.
6. Defense Sector – The government has taken initiatives to produce more defense equipment domestically, reducing reliance on imports.

### **Self-Reliant Economy**

A self-reliant economy is one where the nation can produce essential goods and services domestically, innovate in technology, and ensure food, energy, and health security. For India, this involves: Boosting MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises): The backbone of India's economy. Encouraging Make in India and Startups: To promote indigenous innovation and entrepreneurship. Agricultural Reforms: To make farmers independent and capable of contributing to exports. Digital India and Innovation: Strengthening IT, AI, and digital infrastructure to lead in the knowledge economy. Energy Security: Promoting renewable energy and reducing dependency on fossil fuel imports.

### **Government Schemes Supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat**

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme: Encourages domestic manufacturing in electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, etc.

Skill India Mission: Trains youth with skills required for modern industries.

Digital India: Expands internet access, digital literacy, and innovation.

Startup India: Provides funding, mentoring, and opportunities for new businesses.

National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP): Invests in large-scale infrastructure projects.

### **Role of Atmanirbhar Bharat in Global Economy**

India's self-reliance does not mean isolation. Instead, it signifies a strong India that can contribute to global supply chains. For example:

Indian pharmaceutical industries supply affordable medicines worldwide.

Indian IT services are the backbone of many global companies.

India is emerging as a hub for renewable energy and electric vehicles.

A stronger, self-reliant India will not only support its own citizens but will also help create a more stable and balanced global economy.

### **Challenges in Achieving Self-Reliance**

Despite the vision, there are challenges such as: Dependence on imports for oil, defense equipment, and advanced technology. Infrastructure gaps in rural areas. Need for large-scale skill development. Ensuring equitable distribution of resources overcoming these challenges requires collective efforts from the government, private sector, and citizens.

### **Challenges Ahead**

Dependence on imports for crude oil, semiconductors, and high-end technology. Need for rapid infrastructure development in rural and backward areas. Skill gap among the workforce. Ensuring equitable growth so that all sections of society benefit.

### **Conclusion**

The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat is not just an economic mission, but a holistic approach to nation-building. It calls for innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and inclusivity. A self-reliant economy will make India stronger, more confident, and capable of withstanding global shocks such as pandemics or financial crises. Ultimately, Atmanirbhar Bharat envisions an India that is modern yet rooted in its traditions, competitive yet cooperative with the world, and self-reliant yet globally connected.

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### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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