

A Critical Review On Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Dr. Himadri Dutta^{1*}

^{1*}Guest Faculty, Sarupathar College, Sarupathar, Assam.

*Corresponding Author:- Dr. Himadri Dutta

^{*}Guest Faculty, Sarupathar College, Sarupathar, Assam.

DOI: 10.47750/pnr.2022.13.506.575

Abstract

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, a new iteration of "Make in India," was unveiled on May 12, 2020, by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. To lessen the detrimental consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made the specific announcements in a five-day relief package. She made it clear that it has no intention of enacting protectionism against other nations. All industries that require FDI and foreign technology are encouraged. When international trade in products and services was restricted due to the pandemic, India demonstrated its independence in the production of PPE by increasing its daily production from zero to one lakh and fifty thousand pieces by the beginning of May. The article focuses on those industries and regions that could eventually become self-sufficient. It makes an effort to evaluate the constraints and present numerous solutions for utilising the current capability to become a global supplier.

Keywords: Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Organic Farming, Covid-19, APIs.

INTRODUCTION

India's decreased foreign commerce as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic inspired the concept to become self-sufficient in some areas and a major provider to the world market. Fiscal crisis, BOP crisis, and hyperinflation in 1991 prompted the introduction of a new strategy known as LPG, or Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization. Similar to how from March 2020, COVID-19-related situations that affected both the globe and India have led to the emergence of a new idea known as an independent India. Many nations are pursuing protectionist policies in response to COVID-19. India is a developing nation, thus adopting protectionism is quite challenging. But in some areas where we have a chance to become self-sufficient, we may erect trade barriers to safeguard and advance homegrown businesses. 12 industries have been identified by the government, including auto parts, textiles, furniture, industrial machinery, food processing, organic farming, iron, aluminium, and copper, agro-chemicals, electronics, leather, and footwear. It has been decided to concentrate more on masks, sanitizers, and ventilators in order to become a global provider. These goods can be manufactured domestically at a cheap cost, giving them a comparative edge. India has enormous potential in the fields of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and active pharmaceutical ingredients. The goal of Atmanirbhar, according to foreign secretary Shringala, is to guarantee that India can become the world hub of the intricate contemporary multinational supply networks, not to create an isolated nation. By localising their product and enhancing supply chains to satisfy domestic demand, India was given a fresh opportunity to become a demonstrated and leading country in front of the globe. Speaking to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi, the foreign secretary stated that "India now have potential to diversify global supply chains.". With the integration of supply-demand fundamentals with highly diversified value chains, emerging technologies, and artificial intelligence, we now have a significant opportunity to help other nations and reduce supply chain disruptions with the increased use of cutting-edge digital platforms and applications.

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine some sectors' ability to become self-sufficient
2. To identify the issues encountered on route to Atmanirbhar Bharat.
3. To offer solutions for current loopholes.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study is based on secondary material that was gathered from several books, journals, periodicals, and websites that are all explicitly listed in the bibliography.

Scope to boycott China

Nearly 12.4% less was traded between India and China in the first two months of the year, totaling USD 12 billion. The two nations' economies' decline was a major factor in the decreased trade. India's pharmaceutical sector is concerned as a result of the lockout because China is the country from which India imports the majority of its active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). Chinese capital has been invested in several Indian start-ups, including Zomato, Swiggy, Ola, Big

Basket, Udaan, and Policy Bazaar. Alibaba contributed \$21 million to the food delivery service Zomato and \$216 million to the online supermarket BigBasket in 2018. Tencent has invested \$400 million in Ola and a sizable sum in Paytm and the education start-up Byju's. According to research from the think tank Gateway House, two thirds of Indian start-ups have a \$1 billion valuation. If less Chinese investment is made, it won't do much harm to the nation. However, if the proportion reaches 40%, like in the case of Paytm, we shouldn't utilise it. Furthermore, it is risky if Chinese corporations hold more than 50% of the stock since they will then have more control over decisions. According to Shri V. K. Saraswat, a member of Niti Aayog, UP enterprises in Kanpur should avoid importing raw materials to make bulletproof jackets owing to a steady supply of low-quality raw materials and instead convert to buying raw materials from American and European nations. L&T (Larsen & Toubro), the largest multinational engineering, construction, technology, and financial services conglomerate in India, pledged to lessen reliance on Chinese goods. Shri SN Subrahmanyam, CEO of L&T, stated that the company completely supports the "Make in India" programme to promote domestic manufacturing and create an environment for the production of effective and affordable replacements for the international markets. The company has contributed significantly to the development of important technical and technology goods and has built the majority of nuclear power reactors during the past eight decades. To promote commerce with other nations other than China, India could talk with the European Union and Australia on trade-related issues.

An Extension of Make in India

Since the Prime Minister of India just announced plans to make India an independent country and a major supplier to the world, there is no prior literature on the subject. There is some prior writing on "Make in India" that follows the same theme. a global viewpoint through In numerous industries, including aviation, autos, and biotechnology, the "Make in India" initiative has caused a significant transformation, according to Dr. (Smt.) Rajeshwari Shettar and SM Sheshgiri (2017). Many scholars have made the case that increasing investments in R&D and foreign direct investment will contribute to the creation of jobs. Puneet Aneja in his article emphasised that the "Make in India" campaign is a creative vision of our Prime Minister to make it into reality and to gain some share from China in global manufacturing we have to enhance our infrastructure, ease of doing business, tax and labour laws reform. In her study, Dr. Richa Shrivastava outlined how India has the potential to advance its manufacturing. By reducing business hurdles and raising the purchasing power of the average citizen, the government has taken many initiatives to promote both local and foreign investors, which in turn serves to raise demand and create jobs.

SECTORS HAVING POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE IN FUTURE

1. Textile Industry:

In terms of economic output and job creation, the textile sector in India is second only to agriculture. The textile and apparel industry makes about 15% of India's export revenue, 14% of industrial production, and 4% of the country's GDP. For its textile sector, India imports raw materials and accessories from China. Global manufacturers are hunting for textile substitutes. China is the greatest exporter of all goods and the top importer of both completed goods and raw resources. The output of raw cotton, cotton yarn, cellulosic fibre yarn, and silk is all second-largest in India. It is also the fourth-biggest producer of synthetic fibre and the top producer of jute. China receives India's monthly shipment of 25 million kg of cotton yarn. Threats and opportunities must be analysed on both the positive and negative sides. Costs of producing textiles rise by 3% to 5%. China's closure of facilities has caused a decline in textile demand. The chosen market for the sourcing of clothing will be India. Synthetic fibre was also imported by the clothing industry from China. As a result, clothing importers must relocate to other nations. The local producer now has the chance to provide fabric to a company that exports clothing. China accounts for almost 40% of global exports. Bangladesh imports from China together with Vietnam and other nations besides just India. Therefore, if they do not receive possibilities from China, they may be diverted to India. According to a recent analysis by the India Brand Equity Foundation, the country's total exports of textiles in FY 2017–18 were USD 39.2 billion and are projected to reach USD 82.00 billion by 2021. (up to Jan 19). PPE kits and masks were first produced by a number of textile companies. India is now the world's second-largest producer of PPE kits worth Rs. 7000 crore. Over 600 businesses produce PPE kits nationwide. PPE gear is produced by polyester sportswear firms at a rate of 8,000 per day. Fabric for PPE kits is sourced from places like South India, Himachal, Gujarat, Nasik, and Zindal. India is a terrific manufacturing country, but unless we improve our ability to produce things of sufficient quality and on time, we will continue to lose out on possibilities.

2. Automobile Industry:

According to the Foreign Secretary, developing nations would have a larger market for Indian autos, especially low cost vehicles like 2 and 3 wheelers. India now has the fourth-largest position in the global vehicle market. It makes up 7% of India's GDP, accounts for 40% of its manufacturing, and directly or indirectly employs 45 million Indians. The "Make in India" programme has been instrumental in improving the nation's standing. India has made progress on nine out of 10 criteria for business ease in the last three to four years. To improve communication with its consumers, India's automobile sector transitioned from conventional roles to a digital environment. India is renowned for its inexpensive administrative skills and economical engineering. The practise of creating items at minimal cost that are yet valuable enough to draw demand has been dubbed "Jugaad" by several multinational corporations. Because we are not only producers of vehicles but also of components, technology, and services, our manufacturers should not wait on outsiders to help them become self-sufficient in the automotive sector. Since employees are an asset to any business, it would be preferable to establish an Auto Industry Workers Benefit Fund and increase expenditures in training them so they can find employment. A sizable

investment in research and development is required to provide a clear methodology that encourages creativity and solutions while also acknowledging "Jugaad." For displaced employees, a PAN-India supply chain network must be built, and low interest credit arrangements must be made.

3. Pharmaceutical Industry:

In 1969 Indian pharmaceutical industry had a 5% share of the global market. By 2020, it is the reverse, now Indian pharma is having an almost 85% share of the global market. Over the last more than 50 years, India has been successful in meeting the domestic market and has a potential to play the role of 'pharmacy of the world'. According to Pharmexil, India exported pharma products worth of \$200.02 million in financial year 2018, with a recorded growth of 37.52%. Excess dependency on China for APIs need to be reduced because continuous increase in import of raw materials from China shows alarming situation for Indian Pharma industry. Dr. V. K. Subburaj, Secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, emphasised the need for API self-sufficiency in 2015. In order to decrease reliance on China, the Chemical and Fertilizer Ministry collaborated with other ministries to expand local API production in 2018. The Indian pharmaceutical business is producing in line with consumer demand and investing more in R&D in order to realise the full potential of the sector and seize the chances that are now there. Existing regulations must be made friendlier so that local businesses may produce the essential components of their industries. To get access to the sea routes and airports and to create a more concentrated Center of Excellence for the pharmaceutical industry, several of the leading pharmaceutical corporations have already established their manufacturing facilities in Vishakhapatnam.

4. MGNREGA

Without self-sufficient communities, Mahatma Gandhi thought it would be impossible for India to become independent. The MGNREGA is one of the most significant rural employment programmes, giving people the chance to become self-sufficient. For the MGNREGA under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhyan, an extra sum of Rs. 40,000 crore has been allotted by the government. Farm bunds funded by MGNREGA in Madhya Pradesh contributed significantly to a significant rise in agricultural production. It has been noted that this programme caused the recipients' incomes in Jharkhand to grow by 190%. The development of assets on private property has received a lot of attention lately. Fruit orchards, agricultural bunds, farm ponds, and wells for irrigation and drinking are among examples. It is now appropriate for rural residents, including recently returned migrant workers, to engage in tasks like building small check dams and filling gullies, and many are now able to grow three crops each year rather than just one. The government raised the amount of money provided for MGNREGA, but it is still insufficient since these monies are improperly allocated in poor states owing to corruption, therefore employees must "become outspoken" in order for it to be implemented effectively in local regions.

5. Organic Farming:

According to the 2018 World Organic Agriculture report, India is the third-largest producer of organic food worldwide. Out of the \$250 billion worldwide organic food business, the Indian organic food market is estimated to be worth \$1.5 billion. India's north-eastern states have worked to establish a reputation as a centre for organic farming. In the North-East, organic farming has the potential to grow significantly and take over the world market. Sikkim has made the initiative to switch to organic farming for all of its crops. Indian organic agriculture is thought to be expanding at a rate of 25% annually. Enabavi, Telangana's first and foremost chemical-free or organic hamlet, is the greatest illustration of organic farming and demonstrates the enormous potential of Indian agriculture by enabling farmers to produce above subsistence levels. According to a farmer from this community, one farmer's work is useless; all farmers must take action to restore the health of mother earth, which is deteriorating owing to the excessive use of fertilisers. Everyone in the Enabavi community has switched to natural farming as a result. Many farmers used to attempt suicide because of the unpredictable weather, but after switching to natural farming, their lives were transformed. Now that they are debt-free and each farmer has a bicycle and tractor, their lives are simpler.

CONCLUSION

The development of assets on private property has received a lot of attention lately. Fruit orchards, agricultural bunds, farm ponds, and wells for irrigation and drinking are among examples. It is now appropriate for rural residents, including recently returned migrant workers, to engage in tasks like building small check dams and filling gullies, and many are now able to grow three crops each year rather than just one. The government raised the amount of money provided for MGNREGA, but it is still insufficient since these monies are improperly allocated in poor states owing to corruption, therefore employees must "become outspoken" in order for it to be implemented effectively in local regions. Consuming products made locally is not just the government's job; it is also the responsibility of the customer because demand is the primary factor in the growth of any industry. India has the ability to develop both simple items and very complex ones, in addition to both.

RECOMMENDATIONS

By doing certain actions, the Abhyan's goals might be achieved. Although the government has allocated a sizable sum for the development of several sectors and programmes, the money must still be properly allocated in order for them to reach the intended recipients. The poor population is particularly impacted by pandemics and natural disasters. As a result, the nation should be ready to handle both natural and economic crises. The effectiveness of every concept or programme depends on excellent governance and the right execution mechanism. In order to capitalise on the opportunity created by China's opportunity diversion, we must expand both the quantity and quality of the item in order to become a self-sufficient

worldwide provider. Recognizing the true potential of the different sectors already present in urban and rural India and providing them with appropriate resources is essential for the effective execution of the initiatives described in Abhiyan.

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