



'SELF RELIANT INDIA' – A NEW HORIZON

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ABSTRACT

Self Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) has become a key national vision, yet its core principles are still widely debated. This study explores five essential questions: Why does a nation need self-reliance? How can it be achieved? What steps help in building it? How can it be encouraged among citizens and institutions? And what major factors determine its success? By analysing existing literature, policies, and development strategies, the study concludes that self-reliance is not about isolation but about strengthening internal capabilities while engaging globally. The insights aim to guide policymakers and citizens in building a strong and sustainable self-reliant nation.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on the economies around the globe. And, India is not an exception.(Pallavi Pahwa,2020). Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Self-reliant India campaign is the vision of new India. The aim is to make the country and its citizens independent and self-reliant in all senses. The government has taken several bold reforms such as Supply Chain Reforms for Agriculture, Rational Tax Systems, Simple and Clear Laws, Capable Human Resource and Strong Financial System. This initiative focuses on reviving the economy, promoting domestic production, generating employment, supporting start-ups and budding enterprises, strengthening supply chains and empowering people. The government has announced a special economic package worth Rs. 20 lakh crore under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. Having understood the significance of this concept, this article aims to throw more light on the possibilities of India emerging as a strong, self-sufficient and self-reliant nation.

OBJECTIVES

As Self Reliant India is an emerging concept, an attempt has been made in this study to seek answers to the following questions:

- 1) Why self-reliance is important for a nation?
- 2) How can a nation be self-reliant?
- 3) How can self-reliance be developed?
- 4) How can self-reliance be promoted? and
- 5) What are the factors that would determine the achievement of Self Reliance?

DISCUSSIONS

The answers to the questions raised in the objectives are discussed as below:

- The definition of self-reliance has changed in a globalized world and it is different from being self-centered. Turning a crisis into an opportunity, self-reliance is the only way out for India. Self-reliance does not mean cutting India off from the world. India believes in the welfare of the world and India's progress is linked with the world. The world trusts that India has a lot to contribute to the development of the entire humanity. Bold reforms across the sectors will drive the country's push towards self-reliance.

- To spur growth and to build a self-reliant India, 5 important pillars were identified. 1. *Economy*: contemplates not an Incremental change but a quantum leap so that we can convert the current adversity into an advantage. 2. *Infrastructure*: that can be an image of modern India or it can be the identity of India. 3. *Systems*: driven by 21st-century technology, and that is not based on old rules. 4. *Democracy*: a vibrant democracy that is the source of energy to make India self-reliant. 5. *Demand*: where the strength of our demand and supply chain is utilized intelligently. In order to prove the determination of a self-reliant India, Land, Labour, Liquidity and Laws have all been emphasized in the economic package along with various packages released during the lockdown period comes to around Rs 20 lakh crore (US\$ 283.73 billion), which is about 10 per cent of India's GDP. It is expected to provide support and strength to various sections of the country and give a renewed boost to the development journey of the country post covid.
- To develop self reliance, remarkable strategies were adopted. Five major phases were formulated and huge funds were allocated for each phase. The first phase focuses on Businesses including MSMEs for which Rs 5,94,550 Cr was allotted. People living at various levels were considered in the second phase. Poor, including migrants and farmers well being were given due care with a fund allocation of Rs. 3,10,000 Cr. A Total Rs 1,50,000 Cr was funded for Agriculture in the third phase. Fourth phase emphasis on New Horizons of Growth and the fifth phase emphasis on Government Reforms and Enablers. The fourth and fifth phases of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (combined) amounts to Total Rs 48,100 Cr.
- To make India a self-reliant economy and to promote self reliance, five 'I's were pointed out. These include Intent, Inclusion, Investment, Infrastructure and Innovation. It was stressed on the need to restrict imports and boost local manufacturing with the "Make in India for World", "Local for Global" And "Vocal for Local" initiatives
- Factors that can help India become a self-reliant nation are studied under three major categories namely Social factors, Economic Factors and Structural factors. Large pool of highly educated and ambitious youngsters combined with the high level of skills,, strong consumer market, numerous opportunities and abundant resources are the social factors which will lead India to attain self reliance. India has a favourable business environment. It ranks at 63rd position among 190 nations in the recent World Bank's ease of doing business 2020 report. Thus the economic factors are also favouring India in achieving self reliance. The Infrastructure in India covers the growing construction projects in different sectors, like Social Infrastructure, Transportation Infrastructure, Extraction Infrastructure, Manufacturing Infrastructure. Government plans to invest about INR 102 lakh crore on infrastructure projects by 2024-25. The five-year-long National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) will enter its second year in FY21, during which INR 1,950,397 crores are to be invested. About INR 19.5 lakh crore has been budgeted during FY21 as part of the NIP. Urban infrastructure, road transport, energy, and Railways account for about 70% of allocation this 2020. About 42% of the projects in the NIP are under implementation, which means construction work is already going on. Another 19% is under a development stage, while a big 31% is still in the conceptual stage. During the fiscals 2020 to 2025, sectors such as Energy (24%), Roads (19%), Urban (16%), and Railways (13%) amount to around 70% of the projected capital expenditure in infrastructure in India. Thus the infrastructural factors have a remarkable contribution in the attainment of self reliance.

CONCLUSION

Self Reliant India is a long-term concept, and the Indian Economy has a vast potential to achieve the objectives of Self-Reliant India Movement, and by proper implementations of the laws and proper allocation of funds, India will show a rising trend as it has shown till now. Being a Welfare state, it is not only a responsibility of the government but also of consumers to consume domestically produced goods as the demand is the main factor in developing any sector. Every citizen of the nation should contribute to achieve reliance and make it a '*Dream comes true*'.

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