

**Atmanirbhar Bharat** or self-reliant India was launched by the PM in the wake of the Covid pandemic to manage the economic disruption in the country. The objective of the Atmanirbhar Bharat program is to make the country and its people self-reliant and independent by all means with the help of a full-fledged economic stimulus package. **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** refers to the measures taken by the central government to make India self-sufficient in areas like infrastructure, services, etc. The value of the economic package is INR 20 lakh crore or 10% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

On India's 72nd Republic Day, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was emphasized through the COVID-19 vaccine development process and was displayed by the Department of Biotechnology in their tableau.

### What is Atmanirbhar Bharat?

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is a mission initiated by the government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who initiated it in May 2020 to make India a self-reliant nation. This mission was launched during the pandemic.

- The main purpose of launching this program was to support the country during the pandemic, for which the prime minister announced an economic package worth 20 lakh crore.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat is based on 5 basic components: economy, demography, system, demand, and infrastructure.
- Although this mission was launched to combat the vaccination crisis during the Coronavirus pandemic, later on, it developed drastically, and today many sectors are seen performing in the same field working in other dimensions.

### Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in India

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan includes a package that was announced at the beginning of the pandemic period. This package incorporated some of the measures from the Reserve Bank of India and some payouts from the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKP). The package released by the Prime Minister of India focused on four major fields: land, labour, laws, and liquidity.

- The goal of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme** is to reduce the import of products by improving the quality and quantity within the country itself.
- This mission does not signify any exclusionary strategy but is more of creating a helping hand to the world by empowering the country's population.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat mission's primary focus is on the promotion of local products.
- It was carried out in two phases; wherein the first phase will work in the sections related to electronics, medical, textiles, and plastics, and in the second phase, it considers the products related to pharmacy, steel, gems, and pieces of jewelry.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat is more complimentary to the [Make in India](#) initiative, where manufacturing in India is encouraged.

## Objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan has the higher objective of reducing the dependency on the import of any foreign products and focuses on the production of its substitute within the boundaries of the country to improve the compliance and production of quality goods to create a global market share.

- The Atmanirbhar Bharat program focuses more on becoming vocal for locals and promoting the products produced locally that benefit the rest of the country.
- It has already released a package worth 20 lakh crore and will keep on releasing more funds to cater to the laborers, MSMEs, cottage industries, and Middle-Class industries.
- By reducing imports, increasing production within the country, and increasing export, it is a vision to become a helping hand and partner for the economic growth of the entire world.

## Five Pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

By now, we have been discussing the five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat. In his 12th May 2020 speech, PM Narendra Modi declared the five pillars for developing a self-reliant India. Walk through the points that have been illustrated here to gain insights into the five pillars of the Abhiyan.

- **Economy:** To build a type of economy that is sufficient enough to take a Quantum jump rather than growing and changing incrementally.
  - **Infrastructure:** To create more and more Infrastructures within the country that become the spotlight and identity for modern India.
  - **System:** To create a system that runs on technology and can fulfill the needs and dreams of 21st-century requirements. The present system would be entirely upgraded, unlike the past conditions.
  - **Demography:** The vibrant demographic is the present millennials in the country who are ambitious enough to bring the nation to a global level and upgrade it from a developing to a developed country. Being the world's largest democracy, the vibrant demography would be given chances to come up and be part of a self-reliant India.
  - **Demand:** To create a demand cycle, there has to be proper supply there for Atmanirbhar Bharat aims to create a proper cycle of demand and supply chain within the economy, which will boost the needs of the country to be harnessed at its fullest.
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- MSMEs within the coming 45 days.

## EPF Support businesses

- The Eligible establishments received 12% of the employer and 12% of the employee contribution under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package.
- It was provided for the salary month of March, April, and May in 2020. Never this support was extended to another three months for June, July, and August.
- Later on, for the coming 3 months, the EPF contributions were reduced for both the businesses and the workers.

- CPSE and state PSUs were to be continuing their 12% employer contribution, but the statutory PF contribution for each was to be reduced from 10% to 12%.
- The workers who were not eligible for 24% EPF support under the Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan package their extension were covered by this scheme.

## Tranches of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

After announcing a package for Atmanirbhar Bharat, the finance minister, Nirmala Sitaraman, also announced tranches worth 20 lakh crores as the Atmanirbhar Bharat stimulus package.

- The first tranche extensively focused on supporting the MSMEs hit by the pandemic and the lockdown imposed.
- The second tranche focused on measures to revive the economies of the migrant workers and street vendors who have to leave their working places and move to their hometowns in adverse conditions.
- The third tranche focused on the agriculture and marketing reforms where the package was pending for a long period and was expected to relieve the farmers and consumers during the pandemic.
- The fourth tranche was related to the special sectors related to the defense mineral atomic space, Aviation, and power, where privatization was a major concern and emphasized.
- were also added as a part of the package. However, the RBI and the government initiatives cannot be added cumulatively.
- According to some renowned economists that more spending will be required to prevent an economic contraction. More spending will lead to a surge in the fiscal deficit and higher rates of inflation.
- There will be an issue in generating the demand, as it cannot surge with ease.
- Concern was also raised for the state governments, that adequate funding was not furnished to them during the pandemic.
- It is also criticized for being the restructured model of the Make in India.