

## Insights on Atamanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: A Scientific Approach

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### Abstract:

The occurrence of Covid -19 pandemic in India has affected the Economy of India to the greatest extent anyone could ever imagine causing damage to almost all the Service, Manufacturing and Trading sectors. Suddenly, due to the lockdown declared by the Government of India, the economy had come to the stage of Stand Still. Therefore, to boost the morale of the common population of almost all the major sectors, the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced a package worth Rs. 20 lakh crore which is said to be equivalent to 10 percent of GDP. It is based on Five main pillars namely Economy, Infrastructure, Technology driven system 4. Vibrant demography and Demand that serve as foundation for a self-reliant India. As technology driven systems are one of the pillars in the mission Atamanirbhar Bharat, it becomes a responsibility of the Science fraternity as well to analyze critically the insights of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with Scientific approach. The paper elaborates the importance of the Five Pillars and evaluates critically with a Scientific approach behind the various aspects of the Mission Atmanirbhar Bharat.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, five pillars, Scientific approach, Scientific community.

### Objective:

1. To understand the origin of Atamanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
2. To understand the Five Pillars of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

### 1. Introduction:

The Corona virus disease (COVID-19) outbreak was initiated in Wuhan city of China in December 2019; but in India, the first case was reported on 30th January 2020 in Kerala with an infected who had a travel history from Wuhan. As the corona virus was assumed to transmit through the social contacts, people were advised to maintain social distancing. But with the

arrival of the visitors from China and other European countries, the number of infected cases were found to have increased exponentially. Therefore, as a precautionary measure to break the chain of transmission, the Hon'ble Prime Minister declared the lock down in in the form of 'Janta Curfew' on 22nd March and subsequently declared first lockdown of 21 days from 25th March to 14th April subsequently declaring lockdowns of 14 days each from 15th April to 3rd May, 4th May to 17th May and 18th May to 31st May called as second, third and fourth Lockdown respectively. The lockdown was the need of the hour to control the transmission of virus by avoiding the Physical contact amongst the people as the then guidelines by ICMR and Government of India was to keep a distance of minimum 6 bit and also to avoid coming out of the houses only in the except extreme emergencies. This stopped all kinds of social contacts amongst the people restricting all the service and industrial sectors to function. This created an unemployment for the majority of the workers associated with most of the Medium, Small and cottage industries. Not only this, the majority of the large industries were also forced to shut down making many of the temporary and contractual workers unemployed. With the time these workers started finding it difficult to meet their daily needs of food clothing and Shelter as well. So they started migrating from cities to their hometowns with all the possible ways they could manage. Those who had no money to pay the fares for the available illegal transports started going by walk too. This was given wide publicity by almost all the print and electronic media imposing pressure on the government to come up with some solution to this sudden unemployment among the major working population (almost 40%) as the medium and small scale owners and businessmen also got demoralized with the arising situation. So, to empower the poor, laborers, migrants who have been adversely affected by COVID, on 12th May, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, declared in his address to the nation an economic package of Rs 20 Lac (which would be around 10 percent of the GDP). Prime Minister Modi said it would benefit laborers, farmers, honest tax payers, MSMEs and cottage industry. The Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized that the declaration of the Mission Atmanirbhar is a step towards making India self-reliant which is the only way to make the 21st century belong to India. The mission is based on the 5 core Pillars namely economy, infrastructure, technology driven system, vibrant demography and demand. The package was announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitaraman assisted by Minister of State for Finance Mr. Anurag Thakur on 5 Consecutive days though press conferences. Although many debates and discussions on different

economic and Commercial forums have taken place, we would like to evaluate Atmanirbhar Abhiyan with a Scientific approach.

## 2. Five Pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan:

In his 33 min speech Prime Minister Modi discussed the various kinds of losses incurred during this period of Covid 19 pandemic. He also discussed the impact of lockdown on the Indian Economy. But at the same time he reminded the citizens of the country, how Indians have come out of difficult situations may it be due to Earthquake or other natural calamities. He also mentioned that in the present situation we have to save ourselves and go ahead with our determination and have to become stronger with the problem. He appreciated the Indians for reacting so fast to come out of the crises of PPE kits and N-95 Masks. That is the response of the Indian manufacturers to come out of the dependency of the country on the other global suppliers in spite of lockdown in such a short notice. This has proved that Indians can achieve any goal with their determination. The Hon'ble Prime Minister boldly announced that India need to become self-reliant and to achieve this he declared a mission called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' by announcing a package of Rs. 20 Lakh crore to motivate the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), street venders, cottage industries, farmers etc. According to him this package announced considering the five Pillars Viz. Economy, Infrastructure, Technology Driven System and Demography.

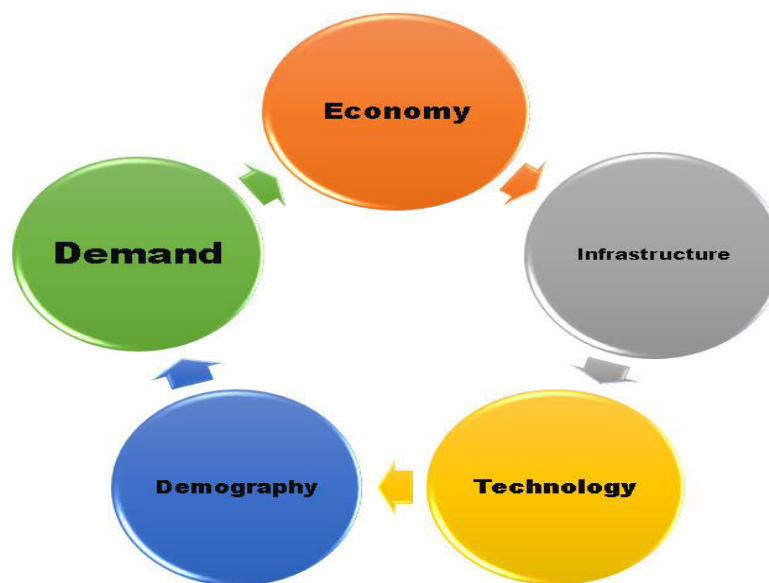


Figure 1. The Interdependency of 5 Pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

The tag line for the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is 'Vocal for Local'. The experts have commented on the various aspects of the division of Rs 20 lakh crore on various sectors. But very less thoughts have been deliberated on the critical approach behind these five pillars. We have discussed in this paper the Scientific approach on these five pillars. Here scientific approach does not mean the Science and Technology involved in the declarations of Atamanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan but to critically analyze the declarations and with the hypothesis, proofs and evidences to justify the thoughts behind the Abhiyan and its forthcoming impacts. Let's discuss each of the pillars.

**2.1 Economy:**An economy of any country incorporates all the activities associated with production, consumption of goods and services in an area. It is careful use of money, resources, and means of production. An economy starts from home and covers all entities like Districts, Corporations, States and Country at large. So directly or indirectly, it applies to every individual. Therefore, the economy of a particular region or country is governed by its culture, laws, history, and geography, among other factors. That is the reason, no two economies are identical. According to Atamanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, an economy of any country deals with significant growth in the form of quantum jump and not linear incremental growth. The growth percentage increasing from 2 to 4 to 6 to 8 ..... is an example of quantum growth, whereas the increment in the range of 2.5 to 2.6 to 2.8.....is an example of incremental growth.

**2.2 Infrastructure:** Broadly speaking infrastructure is categorized into two types i.e. Social infrastructures including facilities like Educational infrastructures such as Schools, Colleges, Technical Institutes, Hospitals, Health care centers, Parks, Bus Depots, Prisons, Courts, Housing Infrastructure etc. and Economic Infrastructure including Roads, Bridges, Railways, Airways, Thermal Power stations etc. Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan targets to have world-class infrastructure to enhance the identity of India to be termed as modern India. It is also associated with the economy. When the growth rate increases, the per capita income increases. So the expectations of the people for the better facilities increases leading to demand for the better infrastructure, consumptions and employment. Therefore, we can say that the economy and infrastructure are complementary to each other.

**2.3 Technology driven System:** Technology plays a vital role in the growth of any country. It is possible to achieve faster growth and so can develop better infrastructure if the systems are Technology driven. It not only accelerates, but also the efficiency, transparency and quality of the growth of the economy is enhanced to a significant level. The dream of India becoming a superpower in the 21st century can be translated into reality only with a technology driven system. For example, in recent times the various schemes run by the government for the poor and farmers were technology driven. The subsidies were directly transferred to the beneficiaries instead of being routed through different intermediate channels. The method is popularly known as DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer). The JAM methodology (Jandhan, Adhar, Mobile) helped the government to reach to the masses of beneficiaries in the shortest possible time with more transparency and less chances of corruption. As the third pillar of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the technology driven system gives strength and support to the earlier two pillars; as with technology the faster growth of Infrastructure and Economy is possible. At the same time better infrastructure can boost the Technology based system to achieve the faster goals.

**2.4 Demography.:** A vibrant demography is the source of energy for a self-reliant India. In India 65% of our population is below the age of 35 years means youth population. Therefore, we need to tap the potential of the youth population for the economic growth of India. We need to use our available human resources in the best possible manner for the economic growth of India. Our 70% youth go for engineering. After completing their engineering, they have no jobs in the market to get employed. So they are ready to do any other job which does not utilize their full potential. There is a need to go into other fields also like Medical, Biotechnology, Political Science, Law etc. Government should create jobs in other fields and invest more on skill development, training programmers for youth to utilize our vibrant potential. Large numbers of efficient youth migrate to other countries because they get better jobs and better earning as per their capability. In Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announcements, various upcoming projects which can generate employability were also announced. For example, the construction of Kushinagar Airport International will soon generate employment for youth. The 125-day campaign will provide employment to migrant workers and others in UP. This Abhiyan also aims at promoting local entrepreneurship and will also encourage industrial associations and other organizations to create employment opportunities. The Prime Minister promised that the

package announced by him will provide a new era of opportunities for farmers, workers, small entrepreneurs or youth associated with startups. According to Minister for Food Processing Industries Shri Harsimrat Kaur Badal, PM FME Scheme with total investment of Rs 35,000 crore will generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment and benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training, better exposure and formalization.

**2.5 Demand:** Demand is the main determinant of output, employment and income in an economy. An economy runs through market forces i.e. demand and supply chain. Adam Smith in his book 'Wealth of Nations' described it as an 'invisible hand'. The Invisible Hand of the market creates predictable economic systems such as supply and demand, because humans are relatively predictable in their behavior. In a free market economy action of consumers, producers, suppliers, distributors depend upon their prediction. Competition and self-interest acts as an invisible hand that regulates the free market. As profit-seeking producers will produce more, the needs of society are automatically met, Government does not get involved directly. The competition forces us to keep high quality at low prices. India is a highly populated country; therefore, has a large number of consumers. But the majority of them have low purchasing power because they belong to poor sections and lower income groups. Their purchasing power should be increased by providing them subsidy and generating employment. Low income group people spend a major portion of their income on consumption. There is a need. to increase the income of lower income groups as they have lost their jobs during COVID-19 and migrate to their native place. Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, introduced many reliefs for migrant workers through MGNREGA, free food grain supply, PM Awas Yojana for urban and rural poor, money transfer in their account etc. can stimulate their demand. MGNREGA scheme is providing employment opportunities for migrant workers as additional funds have been allotted under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Increase in employment will increase demand in our economy. The move to provide free foodgrains to migrants and One card one nation scheme will ensure better utilization of foodgrain stocks and will have a beneficial effect on the whole agro-supply chain. Demand and supply are complementary to each other; therefore, both should be improved for smooth running of an economy. In the declaration of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan PM Modi emphasized that the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to fullest capacity. He

underlined the importance of strengthening all stakeholders in the supply chain to increase, as well as fulfill, the demand.

### 3. Conclusion:

As a huge economic crisis was generated due to the lockdown implemented by the government of India to overcome the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the government of India announced a package of Rs 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on 12th May 2020 through the fifth Speech of PM Modi during lock down. The Abhiyan intended to strengthen the economy by providing stimulus financial assistance to the various sectors of economy. The five pillars of the abhiyan namely Economy, Infrastructure, Technology, Demography and Demand are important and complementary to each other. The role of these insights, role and examples to explain the importance of these pillars in Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is evaluated critically with Scientific approach.

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