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The Idiom of Atma Nirbharta: The contemporary Economic complex

Manisha Attri
Research Scholar
William Carey University, Shillong

Abstract

The paper highlights the larger changing and transforming tenor of the Indian economic growth progression along with the dictum of: New India economics. The paper dwells upon the brief economic history of the country along with elaborating upon variant of the order of Defense economics which is directly an offshoot of the strivings of technology and economic linkages and intertwining. The rationale behind the idiom of the License quota permit raj, all the way, to the entrepreneurial and the welfare amalgam of the Indian economic and trade and investment matrix forms a significant deliberation in the research paper.

Key words: Indian Economy, Economic regulation, Economic history, regulation, Hindu Economy, Atma Nirbharta

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Introduction

The idiom of the Hindu economy goes back into the larger construct of sacrifice, Aparigraha and non-possession. The tax and market regulations always had a history of regulation and commandeering since the Chola times all the way to the era of the Sultanate, Mughal and British times. But in the comprehension of the, " New India", it can be contended that reliance on indigeneity and home spun and homespun political economy has become the official and the popular narrative and practise in the larger context of the nation.

Since the advent of the policies of Globalization, liberalization and Privatization, Bharat since 1991 has embarked a on a new and canny roleplay geo economically with the stress being on the convergence to be achieved and attained by the nation with the global economic system. In a manner the striving to unify Bharat's economy with its value systems and a red tape along with a multiple window clearance system of the Mahala Nobis model acted as a very severe impediment to the seamless integration of the nation's economy with the Global economy.

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It can be contended and argued factually that in May 2020, Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi launched the Self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission to promote Indian goods in the global supply chain markets and help the country achieve self-reliance. The mission was announced amid the pandemic when the government allocated funds worth Rs. 20 lakh crore (US$ 268.74 billion), which amounts to ~10% of India's GDP, as a stimulus package to help recover the economy by promoting incentives for domestic production. It encompasses themes such as 'local for global', 'made for world' and 'vocal for local'.[1]

The key objectives of the 'Self-reliant India' (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) mission are as follows:

- Develop India into a global supply chain hub.[2]
- Build the government's trust in the private sector capabilities and prospects.
- Establish 'good force multipliers' for Indian manufacturers.

[1] India Brand Equity Foundation, URL: https://www.ibef.org/government-schemes/self-reliant-india-aatm-nirbhar-bharat-abhiyan, (Online: Web), Accessed on 28 March, 2026

[2] Ibid 2

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- Enter the global markets to export goods including agriculture, textiles, clothing, and jewellery.[3]

- Determine adequacy of each sector (e.g., defence, agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, etc.), with the help of FY22 budget, to achieve self-reliance.

The past stress by the New Delhi denominations used to be on the transfer of technology in all imaginable commercial and economic sectors ranging from Health, Education, Heavy machines to healthcare and agriculture. Its here that the national enterprise and the nation's entrepreneurship lagged behind in the galvanisation to the Global business and supply chains where in the entire context resulted in a time and growth lag which did not let the MSME's and the smaller entrepreneurs along with the larger Industrial establishments to grow unfettered with little found freedom, thus initiating a trough in the nation's economic growth, development, sustantenance and its outreach abroad in the global comity of countries and in the context of the trade and Investment with the litany and pantheon of these national; and transnational establishments.

[3]Ibid 3

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The desire for self-reliance or the goal of 'Atmanirbharta' is not something novel to the policy discourse on development and growth. Nation states across the globe have time and again made a resolved effort to build a selfreliant nation led by visionary leadership, growing economic strengths and sustained governance reforms. Desire for global trade and commerce sounds nice when the world order is fine. However, when states face vulnerable external situations, they tend to devise a methodology offering technical and economic solutions to reduce external dependency and enhance selfreliance.[4] Most aspiring nations tend to aim for self-reliance or 'atmanirbharta'. [5]Take the example of Israel, which has undertaken its own journey towards self-reliance and faced perpetual threats and violence in history. Despite that, Israel has been a winner growing from total external dependency to maximum self-reliance. Over the years, it has provided many technical solutions and advancements in defence modernisation.[6]

[4]URL: https://www.idsa.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/21-jds-18-4-2024-Abhishek-Pratap.pdf (Online : Web), Accessed on 15 March, 2026

[5]Ibid

[6]Ibid1

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When one refers to the larger economics of the idiom of Atma Nirbharta then as mentioned above, the program of Defense modernization is an apt illustration of the manner in which the Defence scenario in the larger nation can gain apart from the augmented economic fluidity which becomes the order of the as far as the theme of "Economic Atma Nirbharta" is concerned. Israel can be restressed as the apt instance, where-in, the fact that the Jew nation is surrounded by all fences of the antagonists still the nation has excelled in the realm of military modernisation, political culture, economics and the larger context of political economy.

One can briefly dwell upon the theme of self sufficiency in the realm of the Défense sector of nations such as Israel which are intrinsically convergent with the larger " economics" of the Jew nation on an upswing. Rahul Wankhede contends in an MP IDSA report that, "India's continued dependence on imported defence platforms and critical systems such as engines, rocket motors, seekers and optical units is often attributed to historical neglect, colonial legacies, or technological denial regimes. While these factors shaped the initial conditions of India's defence ecosystem, they no longer adequately

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explain the persistence of import dependence despite decades of indigenisation policies and a rapidly expanding domestic defence industry."[7] Thus, New Delhi denomination has harboured and officialised indigenous defence production along with technology transfers leading to co production with other commercial and economic interests, but the actuals of realisation on the economics ground zero is yet to fructify in the actual sense of the term. The colonial mentality in the sphere of Indian defence economics too has perpetuated a series of bland import defence models and processes which is sans the element of self sufficiency in relation with the Indian defence economics.

It is further reported by the SIPRI that, "According the latest report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has been the largest arms importer globally from 2013 till 2022. It also contends that that the nation's defence imports decreased by 11 per cent during the time furlough. This major shift in India's defence trade has been made possible by various factors like: the rise of start-ups in the

[7]Rahul Wankhede, " Atma Nirbharta in Defense: Key Considerations," URL: https://idsa.in/publisher/issuebrief/atmanirbharta-in-defence-key-considerations (Online: Web), Accessed on 24 March, 2026

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defence and aerospace sectors, release of the positive indigenisation lists by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), investments and succour by governmental planning initiatives of the order of iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) and Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC), changes in the defence procurement policies, et al."[8] Thus instead of stodgy officialdom ruling the roost in the nation's defence economy now a more of an iota of output orientation has become the defining argument at least as far as the official comprehension is concerned. A novae genre of practicality and pragmatism and a corporate smartness has become the order of the day and the nation looks at this "new India" and new orange Economy" with a stress on smart economics which is also termed as the new, " Orange economy".

When an influx and homeland investments occur in nations such as India, then the TNE's (Transnational Enterprises have a key change ordained role to play. CB Gupta contends in an SRCC paper that, "The operation of Transnational Enterprises (TNEs) in developing countries has been advocated mainly on three

[8]Rahul Wankhede Bhojraj, " India's National security Industry," New Delhi: Routledge, 2016

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grounds; viz (i) they supplement domestic investment; (ii) they provide the source of foreign exchange; and (ii) they bring the much needed technology and knowhow for rapid industrialisation.. TNEs can be equated with being a central depository of advanced technology and they can be considered to be the spreader and facilitators of sophisticated technology and knowhow in host countries. One contentious argument runs that that the key roleplay of the vibrant and entrepreneurial TNEs subsists and exists not in the facilitation of capital or foreign exchange, but iyts more related with the bilateral transactional quid pro quo transfer of modern "techne", higher managerial capacitiousness and entrepreneurial skill sets.[1] Dissemination of valuable knowledge and entrepreneurship, product technology, marketing skills and managerial expertise which exists as the mainstay virtuosity of TNEs. Foreign capital is then permitted with an initialisation in the Indian economy on the belief that the foreign corporates will usher in sophisticated and contemporary "techne"."[9]

[9]C B Gupta, " Technology Transfers in India," URL: https://www.srcc.edu/system/files/Pg%2035-43,%20C%20B%20Gupta,%20Technology%20transfers%20in%20India.pdf, (Online: Web), Accessed on 26 March, 2026

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Conclusion

Since the earlies recorded history, development and growth progression and the economic growth of the nation in the Ancient times, barter was a common element of commercial element. Also, as an attendant fact, the ancient Indian regimes of the order of the Cholas and Pallavas to the Sultanate and Mughal times, regulation of the domestic market and a largely barter economy was the order of the day. The Britishers came and they imposed a suppressive and exploitative economic system in the nation, where in their advent brought in a bleeding India blue as all the raw resources were exported to the British homeland and were smartly transformed as factory outputs and sold back to the Indian and the elites in other British colonial possessions thus ushering in an ingrained and even the contemporary inequity in the realm of economics and the Bhartiya economy.

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The Governmental intervention went against the Laissez faire dictum of Western liberalism and now in the present context of the Indian economic and commercial context the nation stresses heartfeltly and through a multitude of economic planning upon the trade, investment and the taxation cavalcade in the homeland scenario.

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