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Sustainable Economic Development through Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India

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Abstract

Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India advance India's industrial development. Their complementary frameworks connect *manufacturing* ambition with economic resilience. This paper examines production achievements and wider developmental contributions. Documentary analysis supports descriptive comparisons across major economic indicators. Electronics production reached ₹13.11 lakh crore during 2025–26. Defence exports achieved ₹38,424 crore during the same year. Production Linked Incentive schemes supported substantial investment and employment. Enterprise registration also expanded participation within formal institutional networks. Infrastructure investment and renewable electricity strengthened enabling economic conditions. These developments illustrate an increasingly diversified foundation for self-reliance. The analysis identifies productive capability as their central contribution. Domestic manufacturing increasingly connects entrepreneurship with international market opportunities. Sustainable development gains further strength through cleaner energy expansion. Future opportunities include supplier development and advanced technological learning. Together, these initiatives offer a transformative framework for durable prosperity.

Keywords: Self-Reliance; Industrial Development; Domestic Manufacturing; Enterprise Participation; Technological Capabilities; Sustainable Growth.

1. Introduction

Make in India advances a clear national manufacturing vision. Launched on 25 September 2014, it promotes industrial investment. Its scope connects manufacturing with design and innovation. Atmanirbhar Bharat gained renewed policy direction during May 2020. Its framework brings infrastructure and technology into development planning. Economic strength and domestic demand complete this broader orientation. Together, the initiatives encourage confidence in India's productive capabilities. Their **visionary approach** connects national ambition with practical enterprise. Self-reliance develops through competitive production and constructive international engagement. Indian enterprises gain opportunities through stronger domestic industrial networks. Global partnerships can simultaneously support productive investment and mutually beneficial technological exchange.[16]

India's economic expansion provides an encouraging development setting. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew a provisional 7.8% during 2025–26. The corresponding growth estimate for 2024–25 stood at 7.2%. Nominal national output reached approximately ₹345.37 lakh crore. These estimates use the revised 2022–23 statistical base. They describe the broader economy surrounding industrial policy implementation. Within this setting, manufacturing creates important opportunities for diversification. Expanding production can strengthen commercial relationships across economic activities. Industrial investment also supports opportunities for skills and entrepreneurship. These connections explain the developmental relevance of manufacturing promotion.[15]

Sustainable economic development combines prosperity with enduring productive strength. It includes technological learning and responsible resource management. Wider enterprise participation strengthens its social and institutional foundations. This paper examines achievements across these interconnected dimensions. Its central argument concerns the convergence of complementary initiatives. Manufacturing incentives support investment within selected industrial activities. Enterprise programmes widen participation within the development process. Infrastructure and cleaner electricity strengthen the wider productive environment. Their interaction offers a coherent development pathway towards more diversified and resilient prosperity.

2. Literature Review

Amsden (1992): Industrial Learning and Capability Formation

Industrial advancement develops through sustained learning and technological adaptation. South Korea's experience connects government support with industrial capability. Engineering skills and professional management strengthened expanding manufacturing enterprises. The analysis explains how productive competence develops over time. It also highlights coordinated relationships between institutions and industry. This perspective illuminates India's emphasis on supplier development. Manufacturing promotion gains developmental significance through accumulated domestic expertise.[1]

Chang (2002): Historical Foundations of Industrial Development

Industrial development has historically involved active public policy. Advanced economies used supportive institutions during their industrial expansion. Trade measures and industrial assistance supported emerging productive activities. This historical interpretation highlights the importance of developmental policy space. India's manufacturing initiatives can be examined within this tradition. Their relevance concerns institution building and sustained capability formation.[2]

Mazzucato (2013): Public Investment and Innovation

Public institutions contribute actively to technological and entrepreneurial development. Historical cases connect major innovations with sustained public investment. Patient financing supports research before commercial markets become established. This interpretation broadens understanding of government participation in innovation. It offers useful foundations for examining India's strategic technologies. Semiconductor development and cleaner manufacturing involve similar institutional complementarities. Public initiative can encourage private investment and collective learning.[6]

Rodrik (2007): Institutions and Developmental Adaptation

Economic development benefits from policies adapted to national conditions. Productive investment depends on institutions supporting experimentation and learning. International integration works alongside domestic institutional capability. This approach helps explain India's complementary development initiatives. Manufacturing promotion and enterprise support address connected developmental requirements. Their coordination can strengthen opportunities across diverse economic settings.[19]

Juhász, Lane, and Rodrik (2024): Contemporary Industrial Policy

Contemporary research provides stronger evidence concerning industrial policy effectiveness. Its analytical advances connect economic structure with institutional design. Carefully targeted interventions can support learning and industrial coordination. Outcomes vary with policy instruments and their implementation settings. This framework supports examining India's sectoral achievements systematically. Production, investment and employment illuminate different dimensions of progress. Together, these indicators enrich understanding of productive transformation.[5]

3. Research Objectives

1. Assess manufacturing and export achievements within major industrial sectors.
2. Examine investment and employment contributions across complementary development initiatives.
3. Analyse enterprise participation alongside infrastructure and cleaner energy expansion.

4. Research Methodology

The paper is organised around an interpretative and evidence led research framework based entirely on secondary sources. The study's data is collected from reputable academic journals, newspaper articles, Government papers, policy documents, and research articles. The qualitative approach has been applied to synthesize and present the findings, allowing for meaningful conclusions to be drawn. The analysis examines India's industrial development through major indicators such as production, investment, enterprise growth, employment and programme performance. Official administrative records are considered alongside budget documents, enterprise databases and relevant academic literature.

5. Industrial Achievements and Expanding Productive Capabilities

5.1 Electronics Manufacturing and Component Development

Make in India has supported remarkable expansion within India's increasingly diversified electronics manufacturing sector. Production increased from ₹1.90 lakh crore during 2014–15. It reached ₹13.11 lakh crore during 2025–26. This represents approximately 6.9 times the earlier nominal value. Electronics exports expanded from approximately ₹38,000 crore during 2014–15. Their value reached ₹4.24 lakh crore during 2025–26. Mobile production reached approximately ₹6.27 lakh crore that year. Corresponding mobile exports stood near ₹2.59 lakh crore. These achievements demonstrate growing scale and international commercial participation. India's manufacturing presence now extends across increasingly complex activities.[10]

The sector's development also creates valuable opportunities for industrial learning through specialised production partnerships. Large production networks require dependable suppliers and skilled personnel. Electronics manufacturing supports around 25 lakh jobs nationally. Mobile manufacturing accounts for approximately 12 lakh jobs. This finding concerns supported large-scale electronics manufacturing during 2023–24. It provides a specific benchmark for understanding capability development. Component production can extend these gains through supplier specialisation. Testing and engineering services offer additional avenues for participation. Such linkages strengthen the developmental significance of manufacturing expansion.[10]

The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme advances domestic technological capabilities. By August 2026, approvals covered 106 projects across fifteen states. Approved investment amounted to ₹69,548 crore across these projects. Production had commenced at 38 approved plants. Expected production from approved projects totalled ₹5.34 lakh crore. Their projected direct employment amounted to 74,628 positions. These figures distinguish operational progress from anticipated future contributions. The scheme provides an important platform for supplier development. Its innovative emphasis connects component specialisation with manufacturing expansion.[17]

Stronger component capabilities can deepen domestic industrial relationships. The coverage includes printed circuit boards and camera modules. Display modules and capacitors provide further specialisation opportunities. Engineering services can contribute design, testing and process improvement. Such relationships encourage cumulative learning across industrial networks. Their developmental relevance extends beyond individual manufacturing facilities. Domestic expertise strengthens opportunities for participation in demanding markets. Continued commercial cooperation can reinforce quality and production reliability. Technological learning thereby becomes a durable source of competitiveness. This pathway gives self-reliance an increasingly knowledge-intensive industrial foundation through continuing technological capability formation.

5.2 Defence Production and Strategic Self-Reliance

Atmanirbhar Bharat gives defence manufacturing substantial strategic significance. Annual defence production reached ₹1.78 lakh crore during 2025–26. This represented 15.6% growth over the previous financial year. Public enterprises contributed approximately 76% of total production. Private producers accounted for the remaining 24% share. Private participation increased from 22% during 2024–25. These developments demonstrate complementary contributions from public enterprises and private manufacturers within defence production. Public manufacturing capabilities operate alongside expanding entrepreneurial participation. Their interaction strengthens opportunities for specialised industrial collaboration. **Indigenisation** thereby connects national security with productive capability.[9]

Defence exports provide another compelling measure of industrial achievement. Export earnings reached ₹38,424 crore during 2025–26. Their annual increase amounted to ₹14,802 crore. This represented growth of 62.66% over the previous year. Public defence enterprises contributed exports worth ₹21,071 crore. Private firms exported products worth ₹17,353 crore. Their respective shares stood at 54.84% and 45.16%. These results illustrate substantial participation across both producer groups. Export success demonstrates expanding international acceptance of Indian products. It also creates promising commercial opportunities for engineering enterprises and specialised domestic suppliers.[8]

5.3 Performance-Linked Investment and Employment

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes encourage manufacturing investment through a clearly defined performance-oriented approach. Their coverage extends across fourteen selected economic sectors. By June 2026, cumulative investment reached ₹2.60 lakh crore. Production and sales totalled ₹23.80 lakh crore. Supported exports exceeded ₹15.50 lakh crore across covered activities. Employment associated with these schemes reached 14.60 lakh. These indicators describe investment, commercial activity and employment separately. Together, they demonstrate the substantial scale of programme participation. The figures provide an encouraging picture of industrial mobilisation.[16]

The incentive framework offers a **catalytic** approach to manufacturing development. Its design connects public assistance with specified production performance. Participating activities include electronics and pharmaceuticals alongside automobile manufacturing. Solar equipment and specialised materials broaden this industrial portfolio. Different sectors contribute complementary capabilities within national development. Advanced technologies strengthen engineering knowledge and strategic productive capacity. Employment-intensive activities provide additional opportunities for workforce participation. This combination gives industrial promotion a diversified developmental orientation. Supplier contracts can extend opportunities into supporting business networks. Such relationships strengthen commercial connections between major manufacturing investment and wider domestic enterprise growth.

5.4 Enterprise Participation and Innovative Entrepreneurship

Udyam registration has expanded formal enterprise recognition across India's extensive and diverse business community. Combined registrations crossed 10 crore by 2026. The total stood at approximately 10.01 crore registrations. This coverage includes enterprises through the Udyam Assist Platform. Micro enterprises accounted for approximately 9.95 crore classified registrations. The figures reveal extensive participation among India's smallest businesses. Formal recognition strengthens their visibility within public institutional systems. Registration offers an entry point into wider enterprise support. **Enterprise inclusion** thus becomes integral to the self-reliance agenda.[12]

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) support diversified economic participation. Their activities connect local entrepreneurship with larger commercial networks. Manufacturing suppliers provide components and specialised supporting services. Service enterprises contribute maintenance, transport and business assistance. Wider registration coverage creates opportunities for better targeted support. Shared facilities can strengthen testing and product certification. Technical assistance can help enterprises develop reliable production practices. Timely payments support continuity within growing supplier relationships. These measures can consolidate entrepreneurship within India's expanding industrial economy. Small enterprise development therefore complements investment in larger factories.

Startup India enriches this development pathway through entrepreneurial innovation. Recognised startups reached approximately 2.54 lakh by September 2026.[16] Direct employment exceeded 23.36 lakh by March 2026. That financial year added over 55,200 recognised startups. More than 1.07 lakh recognised entities included women directors or partners. Their share stood at approximately 48% of recognised startups. This indicator captures women's presence in leadership and partnership. Startup orders on the Government e-Marketplace exceeded ₹19,190 crore. These orders were placed during the 2025–26 financial year. Procurement therefore supplements financing with practical commercial opportunities. These developments connect entrepreneurship with expanding public market participation.[7]

India's innovation performance adds an encouraging international perspective to these domestic entrepreneurial achievements. Its Global Innovation Index position stood at 38th during 2026. The assessment covered 139 economies within that year's comparison. India ranked first among assessed lower-middle-income economies. It also led the Central and Southern Asian group. Innovation outputs placed 25th within the global assessment. These indicators highlight considerable strengths in translating knowledge into outputs. Such capabilities can support product design and manufacturing services. Entrepreneurial experimentation offers further opportunities for commercially relevant technologies. Innovation-led diversification strengthens the relationship between self-reliance and competitiveness.[20]

5.5 International Investment and Domestic Industrial Partnerships

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strengthens opportunities for international industrial collaboration. Equity inflows reached ₹5,16,936 crore during 2025–26. Computer software and hardware attracted ₹1,22,279 crore. Non-conventional energy received equity investment worth ₹26,412 crore. Food processing industries attracted another ₹26,228 crore.

These inflows demonstrate investor participation across complementary economic activities. Technology, energy and processing each support wider productive networks. International capital can also accompany specialised knowledge and partnerships. Such investment complements India's emphasis on expanding domestic capabilities.[4]

State participation illustrates several substantial locations of investment activity. Maharashtra received ₹1,61,892 crore in equity inflows during 2025–26. Karnataka attracted ₹1,12,870 crore within the same annual dataset. Gujarat received ₹50,665 crore, while Tamil Nadu attracted ₹41,198 crore. These recorded inflows demonstrate significant regional investment platforms. Their development can support connections with surrounding supplier networks. Local procurement creates opportunities for technically capable smaller enterprises. Training partnerships can strengthen engineering and production management. Growing industrial clusters can encourage specialised services and experimentation. International engagement thereby offers additional pathways for strengthening domestic commercial relationships through productive cooperation.[4]

5.6 Infrastructure Investment and Trade Facilitation

Public investment strengthens industrial competitiveness by supporting essential infrastructure across India's interconnected productive economy. Union capital expenditure reached ₹10,51,953 crore during 2024–25. Provisional expenditure stood at ₹10,69,119 crore during 2025–26. This represented 97.6% of that year's revised allocation.[3] The 2026–27 budget allocated ₹12,21,821 crore for capital expenditure.[11] These investments and allocations demonstrate sustained attention to productive infrastructure. Transport and connectivity assets can support wider industrial participation. Their developmental value includes stronger connections between producers and markets. Reliable networks also assist suppliers serving larger manufacturing enterprises.

Port operations offer measurable evidence of improved trade facilitation. Average turnaround at major ports reached 48.84 hours during 2025–26. The corresponding figure stood at 52.87 hours during 2021–22. This represents an improvement of approximately 7.62% across the period. Modernisation and mechanisation support more efficient port operations. Standardised procedures also strengthen consistency within maritime trade administration. These measures contribute to an enabling environment for exporters. Predictable cargo handling helps firms organise their commercial commitments. Better logistics can reinforce the competitiveness of domestic production. Infrastructure development therefore complements incentives directed towards manufacturing enterprises.[14]

5.7 Cleaner Energy and Sustainable Industrialisation

Cleaner energy expansion strengthens India's sustainable industrial development pathway through increasingly diversified generation capabilities. Non-fossil capacity additions reached 55,290 megawatts during 2025–26. Solar installations contributed approximately 44,600 megawatts within that total. Renewable electricity generation reached 47,779 crore units during 2025–26. Its corresponding 2014–15 level stood at 19,096 crore units. Generation therefore reached approximately 2.5 times the earlier level. These achievements connect expanding energy provision with environmental objectives. They also support opportunities within equipment manufacturing and services. Sustainable development gains strength through this productive and environmental convergence.[13]

Energy diversification provides a foundation for long-term industrial resilience. Solar equipment manufacturing connects domestic investment with energy transition. Component suppliers can participate in expanding clean technology networks. Installation and maintenance create further opportunities for specialised services. Businesses can also develop expertise in resource-efficient production. Water conservation and material recovery complement cleaner electricity expansion. These activities make environmental stewardship commercially relevant for enterprises. Sustainable manufacturing can strengthen product appeal within international markets. The developmental opportunity involves linking competitiveness with responsible production. Cleaner industrial growth thus supports India's wider prosperity agenda.

6. Developmental Significance of Complementary Initiatives

The evidence reveals complementary achievements across several developmental dimensions. Electronics demonstrates substantial production growth and stronger export participation. Defence manufacturing combines strategic capability with expanding commercial opportunities. Enterprise programmes broaden the institutional foundations of productive participation. Infrastructure investment supports connections across markets and manufacturing locations. Renewable

electricity expansion reinforces the environmental dimension of industrial development. These developments contribute to a more diversified productive economy. Their collective significance rests on connections between different capabilities.

Institutional synergy helps explain the developmental value created through coordinated and complementary public initiatives. A manufacturing enterprise benefits from dependable transport connections. Its suppliers gain from testing facilities and technical assistance. Workers develop practical capabilities through appropriate industrial training. Entrepreneurs contribute commercially relevant ideas and specialised business services. Cleaner electricity strengthens the foundations for responsible industrial expansion. These relationships suggest a mutually reinforcing development process. Public programmes create platforms upon which enterprises can build. Business participation then gives practical expression to developmental ambition. Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India provide complementary organising frameworks. Together, they encourage production, learning and internationally competitive enterprise.

7. Achievements and Future Opportunities

The next development phase can consolidate these industrial achievements through sustained investment in productive capabilities. Supplier development offers considerable scope for spreading technical expertise. Shared testing facilities can support consistent product standards. Industry partnerships can connect smaller firms with specialised guidance. Procurement opportunities can encourage promising enterprises to expand production. Dependable payments can strengthen confidence within commercial relationships. These complementary measures can deepen domestic industrial cooperation. They also extend the developmental reach of manufacturing expansion.

Skills development can further strengthen the employment contribution. Apprenticeships provide practical experience within expanding production systems. Advanced technical training supports engineering and equipment maintenance. Partnerships with educational institutions can encourage applied industrial research. Women entrepreneurs can benefit from accessible mentoring and finance. Supportive workplace arrangements can widen women's employment opportunities. Regional industrial networks can connect training with local enterprise needs. Such initiatives translate manufacturing expansion into broader productive participation. Environmental stewardship offers another avenue for consolidating progress. Cleaner production technologies can improve energy and material efficiency. Renewable electricity procurement can support responsible manufacturing practices. Repair, reuse and recycling offer additional entrepreneurial opportunities. Industrial clusters can develop shared facilities for resource management. Digital monitoring can help firms improve operational performance. These measures align technological modernisation with sustainable economic development. Their adoption can reinforce India's appeal within international markets. The resulting direction combines competitiveness with enduring public value.

8. Conclusion

Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India offer a purposeful framework for India's sustainable economic advancement. Their complementary strengths connect manufacturing ambition with economic resilience. Recent achievements demonstrate substantial advances in electronics and defence. Investment-linked incentives have supported significant industrial participation and employment. Enterprise registration has widened recognition across India's business base. Startup development further strengthens opportunities for innovation and leadership. Infrastructure investment improves the enabling conditions for productive expansion. Cleaner electricity growth reinforces the foundations of sustainable industrialisation. These achievements establish a positive platform for continued advancement. The initiatives' lasting significance lies in strengthening productive capability. Competitive enterprises contribute knowledge alongside goods and services. Skilled workers and specialised suppliers support continuing industrial progress. International partnerships can complement this expanding domestic economic strength. Future opportunities centre on learning and wider enterprise participation. Responsible production gives these ambitions a durable environmental foundation. Together, the initiatives represent an impactful approach to development. Their continued convergence can support inclusive and resilient national prosperity through sustained productive transformation.

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