

Make in India: Evaluating Progress Towards a Self-Reliant Viksit Bharat and the Road Ahead

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ABSTRACT

With the aim of promoting innovation and facilitating investment for the establishment of robust industrial infrastructure, Make in India, initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to revolutionize the Indian economy and establish it as a global manufacturing center. Launched on September 25th, 2014, we can proudly say this initiative has completed ten years and has become a successful and powerful movement, marked as a crucial step in nation-building. Key objectives of Make in India initiative include fostering a business-friendly environment, encouraging domestic, foreign investment, strengthening the manufacturing base in targeted sectors, and ensuring environmentally sustainable economy, through public-private partnership. In a very short span of time, results were visible in the areas of foreign direct investment, joint ventures and promotion of ease of doing business. The scheme focused on accelerating economic growth, as the mission to achieve global competitiveness and make the fastest-growing economy.

The prominent sectors targeted include automobiles, aviation, tourism, hospitality, and the manufacturing sector. Make in India became a collaborative effort among various stakeholders – the manufacturing sector as well as the Department of Commerce under Ministry of Commerce and domestic and foreign Industry. All this happened as the focus was on new processes, new infrastructure, new sectors, new policy initiatives and a new mindset which are known as the pillars of Make in India. These initiatives have resulted in developing comprehensive and integrated industrial ecosystem. Efforts have also been focused on developing indigenous raw materials to replace imports. The aim is to create a long-term, sustainable ecosystem with new ideas and design and development in manufacturing. The result of these initiatives will be the growth of Indian-origin products, supported by foreign investment, which will flourish globally. Not only will this reduce the import dependency, but it will also increase exports, resulting in the overall growth of the economy and a self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

Keywords: Make in India, FDI, Manufacturing, Challenges, Ecosystem, Employment, Growth, Global

INTRODUCTION

On September 25, 2014, Make in India was announced and launched having objectives of designing, innovation, and manufacturing so that a robust manufacturing sector can be built in India. It aimed at creating the necessary infrastructure and environment for both domestic and international industries, with objectives to establish India as a manufacturing hub, which would not only boost employment, it will lead the economy to sustainable development and growth.

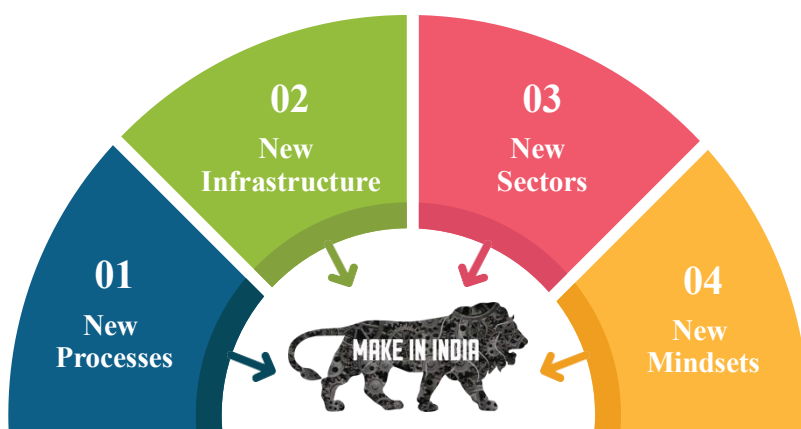
Key objective of Make in India was to make India an attractive destination for foreign investment by increasing foreign direct investment (FDI). The initiative focused on innovation, technology adoption, and skill development through education and training. It also pursued business and economic reforms to simplify operations for businesses in India. The aim was to transform India's manufacturing sector by attracting investments through reforms such as easing the process of setting up and doing business in the country to facilitate production with international expertise.

Alongside the development of 100 smart cities were launched to integrate India into the global supply chain and help Indian companies excel in the international market. The economy was also opened up in sectors such as defense, insurance, medical devices, railways, and pension funds. We were showing the world that we are moving from closed economy to open economy.

Following were the objectives of Make in India initiatives: (2014)

1. Manufacturing sector growth, raising its share from 12 % to 14 %.
2. Generation of Jobs for the young workforce to the extent of 100 millions.
3. GDP to have Contribution of manufacturing sector as 25 % or more
4. Make the Indian manufacturing sector globally competitive.
5. Encourage export-oriented growth and reduce dependency on imports.
6. To boost entrepreneurship in all sectors of manufacturing, leading to growth.

The pillars of Make in India initiatives were as follows.



New Processes

It was perceived that new processes would be designed to deregulate and simplify the overall procedure. De-licensing the industry demonstrated that rapid development could be enabled by reducing paperwork as well. The idea was to attract not only international investors, but also to boost confidence among domestic businessmen to start industries and improve the manufacturing sector in the country.

2. New Infrastructure

Recognizing that world-class infrastructure is key to industrial growth, the government prioritized the development of modern facilities to support business and manufacturing in India. Modern infrastructure is a key requirement for the growth of any industry. Industrial corridors need to be developed with state-of-the-art technology available to businessmen for the development of business as well as manufacturing sectors. By doing so, the government aimed at attracting foreign manufacturers to set up their base in India. Government also aimed at improving the intellectual property framework to make registration and recognition of various rights so that it becomes easy to acquire, use, register and own it. Government wanted to protect the intellectual and copyrights so that people focus on research and development in various sectors.

3. New Sectors

The initiative targeted 25 key manufacturing and service sectors, opening them up to 100% foreign direct investment to attract global investors and boost India's economic growth.

The key sectors for the development are enlisted as here under: food processing, space, textiles and garments, chemicals, media and entertainment, mining, automobiles, automobile components, biotechnology, renewable

energy, railways, thermal power, roads and highways, sports, aviation electronic systems, wellness, pharmaceuticals, defense, construction, leather tourism and hospitality, oil and gases, thermal power, mining and chemicals, information technology ,

4. New mindset

The government adapted a new mindset, shifting from being a regulator to becoming a facilitator and partner in India's industrial growth. This mindset was embraced to have a new approach to foster better dialogues with openness between the stakeholders and to build trust between government and industrialists. The slogan was given as minimum government and maximum governance to create the impression and confidence that government, instead of becoming merely a regulator, will assume the role of partner in the development activities with the stakeholders.

Objectives Of the Study

1. To understand Make in India, its concept and initiatives ;
2. To learn about the main focus areas of the initiatives of "Make in India" initiatives and campaign ;
3. To understand the challenges, opportunities, possibilities, and roadmap of the "Make in India" initiative.
4. To compare between the Make in India 1.0 and 2.0;
5. To assess the achievements and performance of the country through "Make in India" in various sectors
6. To provide suggestions based on the findings and recommend appropriate actions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is descriptive in nature and will be utilizing data collected from secondary sources to develop the concept and draw conclusions. The literature review will include research articles and publications from various departments under different ministries of the Government of India. References will also be made to reports from independent research agencies regarding the performance of sectors involved in the Make in India initiative.

The study about the Make in India initiative will involve collecting data through, economic surveys, program reports , websites of relevant ministries, news portals , social media . The analyzed data will help determine the effectiveness of the initiative. This qualitative research will be further supported by interviews and case studies to gather detailed information from companies and sectors involved.

Make in India 2.0

Make in India had a strategic roadmap, and the manufacturing industry began to evolve both locally and internationally. The Government of India achieved some objectives in the mobile phones industry and consumer electronic sectors . Demand increased; however, domestic value addition remained below 30%. To address this, the Government of India introduced **Make in India 2.0**. The Second Version .

With the aim and focus on improving the supply chain, 27 sub-sectors were identified in the area covering manufacturing and service sectors

List of Manufacturing Sectors (By DPIIT)

Capital Goods, Leather and Footwear, Chemicals and petrochemicals, Electronics System Designs and Manufacturing, Food Processing, Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices, Shipping, Biotechnology, New and

Renewable energy Gems and Jewelry, Construction, Railways, Aerospace and Defense, Textiles and Apparels, Automotive and Auto Component .

Service Sectors (By Department of Commerce)

Communication Services, Transport and logistic Services, Construction and engineering services, Legal Services, Audio visual Services, tourism and hospitality Services, Environmental services, Education Services, Information Technology and Information Technology enabled Services, Medical value Travel, Accounting and Finance services .

Institutional Support and Major Announcements

In 2015, the Government of India established NITI Aayog to promote cooperative federalism, replacing the Planning Commission, which had focused on central planning since 1950. NITI Aayog was created with the objectives of designing strategic policies, providing innovation and knowledge support, fostering cooperative federalism, and evaluating and monitoring major investments. It aimed to serve as a platform for resolving interdepartmental and inter sectoral issues. The focus was on capacity building and technology upgradation to effectively implement various programs. This institution plays a crucial role in supporting the economy by fostering public-private partnerships and granting NITI Aayog an independent status to perform and achieve the goals of economic growth.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected many economies worldwide, including India, through both demand and supply shocks. Demand shocks arose from uncertainty and lowered confidence levels, leading to reduced spending and consumption. The lockdown caused many businesses to either close or operate at minimal levels. This reduction in economic activity also created supply shocks, resulting in shortages of raw materials. Industries initially experienced slow growth, followed by further challenges due to supply disruptions.

In response, the Government of India launched the self-reliant India mission, and it was proudly announced and was known as Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, in May 2020. The mission aimed to address the slow growth of the Indian economy caused by these supply and demand shocks. It was built on five pillars that focused on the economy, infrastructure, system, demography, and demand.

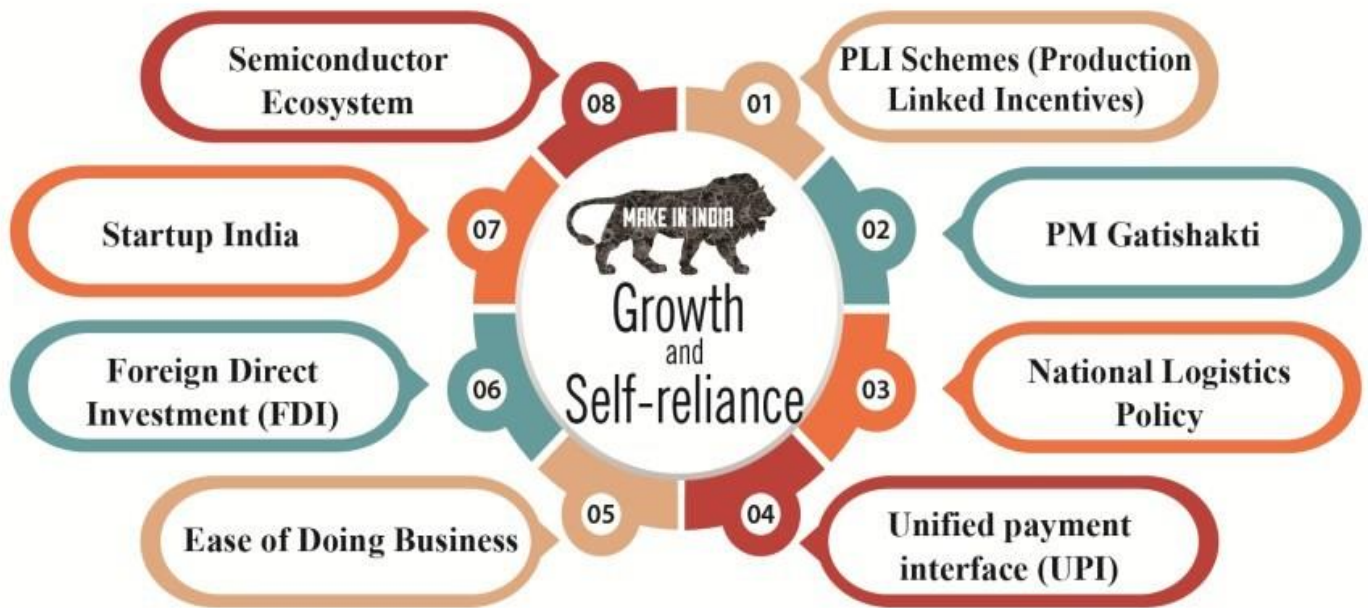
Due to economic disruption caused by COVID-19, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan created new MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) definition, reforms in private sector, privatization of public sector undertakings in non-strategic sectors, transparent auction in mining, production linked incentives, increase of FDI limit in defense manufacturing .

Udyam registration portal was opened on 1st July, 2020 .This portal incorporated new definition of MSME as it can contribute to bring in regional development, improve domestic capabilities, and create and generate employment opportunities. New definition of enterprises under micro, small and medium categories was changed and turnover limits were increased to 5, 50, 250 crores respectively. Various reforms were introduced to create credit guarantees schemes, Prime Minister employment generation schemes, zero defect and zero effect practices. Innovations were promoted and entrepreneurship was supported to create jobs and facilitate innovations.

Revision of GFR 2017, and Public Procurement order

On June 15, 2017, Government revised General Financial Rules to incorporate the preferences for Make in India. The nodal agencies published their orders aligned with ministries directions to extend the scope of products made in India in the procurement process and include them in their line of products. This public procurement order has been designed to strengthen the procurement system with transparency and objectivity.

Key Initiatives under Make in India for Growth and Self-reliance



PLI Scheme

To achieve inclusive economic , PLI Schemes was launched by the Government of India (Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes) targeted sunrise or champion sectors, which were expected to create a multiplier effect. Launched in March 2020 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan mission, the schemes aimed to drive rapid growth and holistic industrial development.

The plan focused on targeting key sectors to produce essential goods for the nation, with the dual objectives of increasing employment opportunities and boosting exports while reducing dependency on imports. Initially, three sectors were targeted: mobile manufacturing, electrical components, and medical device manufacturing. Facilitation was provided through fiscal subsidies and support for infrastructure development to achieve reduced imports and increased employment via incremental sales and value additions.

In total, 14 sectors were declared under the PLI scheme, including automobiles, pharmaceuticals, telecom, food products, textile products, solar industry, mobile manufacturing, drones and drone components, and more.

PM Gati Shakti

PM Gati Shakti is an initiative for creating multimodal and last-mile connectivity infrastructure. This transformative approach focuses on achieving sustainable development and economic growth through seven key engines. Goals were , efficient transportation with holistic planning with an integrated approach to enhance logistics efficiency and bridge various infrastructural gaps. The seven engines—railways, roads, ports, airports, mass transport, waterways, and logistics infrastructure—are expected to work in unison to drive the economy forward. "Sabka Prayas," is the approach where the central and state government, along with private sector collaborates to create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for the youth.

National Logistics Policy

On September 17 ,2022 ,as a complement to the PM Gati shakti national plan, the National Logistics Policy was launched. This policy aims to drive competitiveness and enhance performance, leading to economic growth through improved technology, processes, logistics networks, and skilled manpower, while also seeking to reduce logistics costs. The goal is to rank among the top 25 countries by 2030, while improving the index of India logistic performance. To achieve these objectives, the policy includes establishment of logistics parks under a comprehensive logistics action plan.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) a front-runner in the global digital payment ecosystem, accounting for approximately 6% of all real-time payment transactions worldwide..

The unique features of the UPI system, which came into effect on 25th August 2016, are as follows:

- Immediate money transfer
- Single mobile application
- Identified virtual address
- QRcode
- Merchant payment with single application
- Utility bill payments, donations, collections and disbursement through single app

The UPI ecosystem involves various participants, including the bank account holder, beneficiary bank, merchants, payer PSP, payee PSP, and the remitter bank. This collaborative framework benefits all stakeholders. It has created foolproof digital payment system, enabling secure and efficient financial transactions. To ensure total security, the system incorporates multiple layers of protection such as user registration, PIN generation, and PIN modification. These mechanisms add strong authentication to every transaction to safeguard from any kind of cyber frauds.

Additionally, mobile banking transactions are safeguarded through SMS alerts, mobile notifications, and the provision to raise complaints directly through the mobile app, offering users both transparency and immediate support in case of issues.

Ease of Doing Business

With improvement in its business environments , India has attracted the world to make it a preferred destination for conducting business globally. This progress is attributed to several key reforms, such as regulatory simplifications, reduction in procedural complexities, adoption of digital governance and compliance, and an integrated approach among various government departments through a single-window clearance system. These steps have significantly enhanced the ease of doing business and boosted investor confidence.

India climbed from the 142nd position in 2014 to the 63rd position in 2019, marking a jump of 79 ranks as stated by report of World Bank doing business report 2020. This improvement demonstrates the success of creating a business-friendly environment by streamlining regulations and minimizing bureaucratic obstacles,

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Foreign direct investment (FDI) contributes significantly , in promoting international trade, technology transfer, and overall economic development by integrating global economic resources. Before 2014, India had restrictive policies on foreign capital investment, resulting in relatively low levels of FDI inflows.

Starting in 2014, India adopted an FDI liberalization strategy across multiple sectors, including defense, civil aviation, railways, broadcasting, construction, pharmaceuticals, telecom, and commerce. In many sectors, FDI limits were increased up to 100%, encouraging production within India and enabling access to advanced technologies. This strategic liberalization has led to a significant rise in FDI inflows, helping India enhance its global market presence through international trade and technology-driven growth.



Foreign Direct Investment Record FDI to Boost ‘Make in India’

FDI inflows have increased from 45.14 billion dollars in 2014–15 to 84.83 billion **dollars** in 2021–22. The trend is very encouraging, as in 2023–24 the total FDI inflows have risen to 70.95 billion dollars, with equity at 44.42 billion dollars. This has been possible due to the simplification of rules and making India an attractive investment destination.

Startup India

Start Up initiative launched in 2016, was aimed at supporting upcoming entrepreneurs and creating new opportunities by building a robust startup ecosystem. Individuals were encouraged to become job creators rather than seekers of job. The position of India in the world is third as far as ecosystem of start up is concerned in which there are 148,931 startups which have been recognised by DPIIT. This initiative can boast of creating 15.5 lakh jobs, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across the nation. This has helped in employment generation leading to economic growth.

The Startup India initiative has worked on the principles of simplification and handholding, providing financial support, tax exemptions, and credit guarantee schemes. Various startup fests have been organized, and the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) along with the SETU (Self Employment and Talent Utilization) program was launched by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and support incubators for new ideas.

To further strengthen this ecosystem, seven research parks have been set up across various IITs, and technology business incubators have been established by different ministries. These initiatives aim to create an environment for young minds—particularly students—to think, plan, innovate, and practice, thereby channelizing their talent through effective industry-academia partnerships.

Semiconductor Ecosystem and Make in India

In 2021, The Union Cabinet of Indian government with outlay of Rs 76000 crores approved the Semicon India Programme. This initiative, under the Make in India programme, was to foster the development of a semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country. It also includes electronic systems design and manufacturing. The India Semiconductor Mission aims to create an ecosystem to support and strengthen the industry.

The Schemes under the Semicon India mission are:

1. Semiconductor fabs setting up in India
2. Display Fabs setting up

3. Scheme for establishing compound semiconductors, silicon photonics, along with semiconductor assembly, testing, marking, and packaging facilities
4. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme Recently, Government approved four semiconductor projects: SIC Sem, CDIL, 3D Glass Solutions, and ASIP.



Source: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/team-india-blogs/indias-emerging-prominence-semiconductorsuperpower>

Recently, Semicon India 2025, a semiconductor conference, concluded in Delhi with the participation of over 350 exhibiting companies and representatives from 48 countries. The conference was jointly organized by the India Semiconductor Mission, being run and monitored by Electronics and Information Technology ministry, along with the global semiconductor industry association, SAMI.

The event brought together global industry leaders, policymakers, academicians, established companies, and emerging startups. It concluded with a focus on cross-border collaborations, skill development, and advancing research within the global semiconductor value chain.

The Prime Minister emphasized that India is building a semiconductor ecosystem to make the nation self-reliant and globally competitive.

Ten Major Achievements of the Make in India Program

1. Managing Covid-19: India successfully developed life-saving vaccines and played a crucial role in managing the pandemic both domestically and internationally. Nearly 60% of the world's vaccines were supplied from India, signifying that every second vaccine globally was made in India.
2. INS Vikrant: India launched its first indigenously made aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, creating a milestone in defense production. This achievement has reduced dependence on imports and strengthened India's vision of becoming Atmanirbhar in the defense sector.
3. Vande Bharat Trains: The Vande Bharat train is, with 102, high speed trains are offering enhanced passenger travel experiences. It was Launched in February 2019, very sought after train is connecting various states.
4. Growth in Electronics Manufacturing: India, the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones and its production value has doubled from 48 billion U S Dollars in 2017 to 101 billion U S Dollars in 2023, highlighting rapid sectoral growth.
5. Record Exports: India recorded exports worth USD 437 billion in the financial year 2023–24, reflecting the nation's increasing presence in global trade.

6. Sports Goods Manufacturing: India manufactures approximately 400 million toys annually and has successfully exported Kashmir willow bats, which are highly acclaimed and favored by cricket enthusiasts and players globally due to the exceptional craftsmanship of Indian artisans.
7. Textile Industry Expansion: Great generator of employment in our country, created approximately 14.5 crore jobs, contributing significantly to solving problem of unemployment by generation of employment
8. Global Defence Contribution: Boots manufactured in Bihar have become part of Russian army equipment. This achievement reflects the high manufacturing standards of Indian defense products recognized globally.
9. Bicycle Exports: Indian bicycles are exported to countries such as the UK, Germany, and the Netherlands, gaining international recognition. Their growing exports showcase India's engineering and design excellence on the world stage.
10. Toy Industry Growth: India has established an impressive record in toy production, manufacturing nearly 400 million toys annually. Additionally, statistics show that approximately every second, 10 new toys are designed and developed in the country.

Challenges faced by Make in India

The Make in India initiative has made phenomenal progress; however, it has also faced several legal problems and considerable challenges in execution.

One of the major hurdles has been the acquisition of land for constructing projects, which has often acted as a hindrance for smooth implementation. Another challenge lies in obtaining environmental clearances from the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The constant clash between the need for development and the need for sustainability has made this process difficult. Achieving industrial growth while ensuring environmental protection continues to be a challenge.

The protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) has also posed difficulties. Safeguarding innovations and preventing duplication is critical not only to attract foreign investment but also to promote domestic innovation. However, the rapid rise of counterfeit products has weakened the enforcement of IPR protections.

Labour laws and compliance have not been implemented as swiftly as desired. Critics argue that adequate protection is not extended to workers, which in turn provides labour unions greater ground to raise concerns on behalf of labourers and other stakeholders.

The Make in India initiative has raised concerns about its negative impacts. With 61% of land in India being cultivable, agriculture risks being overlooked as the focus shifts to manufacturing, which also threatens to deplete natural resources. Since the Indian economy is largely dominated by the service sector, the expected rise in exports may not materialize, while the import bill could increase due to a strong preference for foreign brands. This trend poses challenges for small local companies competing with established international names. Moreover, the initiative is likely to contribute to rising pollution, creating serious concerns for environmental sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Celebrating a Decade of Initiatives and achievements of the Make in India India by adopting policies which are investment friendly and doing various strategic reforms has been able to achieve enhancement in domestic production capacity and capability. This initiative has significantly contributed to record-breaking foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows.

India is steadily moving towards becoming Aatmanirbhar Bharat, a self-reliant nation with global competitiveness, and has firmly established its presence on the international stage. The Make in India initiative has made a strong impact in global markets. India is the fastest-growing economy and holds the first position among 100 countries on the index of innovation and leadership. Additionally, India has emerged as one of the

most valued brands globally. Various initiatives under the Make in India program have contributed to this success, including the Semiconductor Ecosystem Development Programme, PLI Schemes and UPI along with PM Gati Shakti Unified , strategic initiatives are expected to play a critical role in achieving sustained economic growth and creating employment opportunities for the youth. It is widely believed that India will continue to strengthen its global position through industries driven by enhanced infrastructure, innovative technology, and a firm commitment to achieving economic excellence.

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