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12. 75 Years of India's Independence a Leap to Self Reliance

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Abstract

Indian nation has to be thinking over our achievements, weaknesses and failures over the last 75 years since independence in connection with the vision of the independence movement. This research paper will discuss two ideas which are crucial and may well determine the future of India. Both the ideas do not always get the attention they deserve in age of the 22nd century. After 75 years of independence, it is still is the question of what we have achieved as it is said in our constitution. What are the challenges before us even today?

Key Words: achievements, independence, constitution.

Our nation has been developed in Science and Technology (S&T). The importance of independence in science and technology associated with industry. Even before independence self reliance in these fields plays vital to the development of India. Science and technology is building the welfare state and is delivering its benefits to the people in different ways. In following decades, various meanings were attached to the term by different interpreters depending on their own thoughts and whether they wanted to either promote or oppose the idea.

Science and Technology (S&T) and it's self-reliance was seen as comprising growth of home-grown capacity in considered sectors such as space, nuclear energy and defense and development of public sector industries. These goals are supposed to be important for maintaining strategic sovereignty of the newly independent country, free from pressures and care free from big powers like China and USA. Leading research institutions in frontier Science and Technology areas, higher education institutions such as the IITs, IISc and AIIMS, and the network of industrial research laboratories under the CSIR were set up in search of these policies.

These policies delivered everything they promised. The outcome of these policies proved better platform for the development of the Indian masses such universal school education and an effective public health system. But fact remains aside that even 74 years after independence these have not been achieved even today. We cannot denied that Science and Technology and the Industrial foundation in early years of independence lead the country forward position among newly dependent nations and largely holds the similar position even in contemporary times. Question is how relevant is Science and Technology (S&T) self-reliance today, and where does India stand with this regard and how does this work on India's developmental future?

The second idea is that for the betterment of Indian citizens, they ought to know and have to realize their potential in a modern age. They need to have a "scientific temper," what earlier said by Jawaharlal Nehru in his Discovery of India called an "individual and social process of thinking and acting which uses a scientific method" of evidence-based reasoning and critical thinking. Article 51 A (h) of the Directive Principles of the Constitution describes it as a "spirit of inquiry and reform." Limitations of space compel us to deal with scientific temper in a subsequent article, and deal only with self-reliance in this one.

At least in the first three decades after independence, the pursuit of Science and Technology (S&T) self-reliance led to the formation of industrial foundations in many parts of India under the major leadership. Research, science and technology have laid a solid foundation in the basic, applied and industrial sectors. It has been deliberately propagated that the domination of the public sector was ideologically promoted to advance the "socialist" path and to suppress the private sector. The fact is that since the private sector has no capital or capacity, the government should set up and run key sector industries. The government should focus on consumer goods and lighting engineering.

By the 1970s, heavy public sector enterprises had made significant contributions to the economy and the treasury. But even these contributions are unfortunately technically stable in many areas. Only this stability was hampering the spirit of competition and the ability to contribute in the future. You see some people blaming a lot for this weakness. Someone can blame PSUs. But we must also understand that PSUs had some autonomy to create their own paths for modernization, upgrading and R&D investment, and still do. Most private sector enterprises have never tried to go beyond their original cooperation with foreign partners. They remained on the market entirely with decades-old and outdated models, and did not feel the need

to acquire autonomous capabilities on their own. Private sector organizations do not need self-reliance.

By the 1980s and 1990s, the initial direction and impetus for public sector-led self-sustaining development had waned, with many changes the political economy took an even worse turn and some major powers began to invest in foreign, public enterprises. The public service, social sector and many industrial sectors are under the influence of the strong international liberal economic framework championed by the IMF, the World Bank and other international agencies. This trend culminated in the 1990s with the full growth of neo-liberal policies aimed at liberating the domestic animal sector and foreign corporations from "animal tendencies", which were given numerous incentives such as deregulation and near-opening.

In the real world, lumbering elephants are exposed by the aggression of speeding midgets. This is due to higher wages of public and private sector employees and increased lending by banks to consumer goods. While foreign companies invested heavily in the Indian market, Indian companies collaborated with former companies to enhance the range and quality of products. Nevertheless, there were some benefits to increasing the autonomy and autonomy of Indian industries, especially in the private sector. Foreign brands made huge profits in India, many Indian companies made a lot of money, but some Indian brands or products made with indigenous knowledge dominated the international market.

This trend towards Make in India has intensified since the transition from the Center to the new government in 2014. To take India into the 21st century, there is a huge promise to build a developed country or 5 trillion economy in the next few years. The government has also done much of its campaign for "self-reliance" or self-reliance. Yet the government has spent most of its time inviting foreign defense companies into the country. After all, the imaginary understanding and wishful thinking has to face the harsh reality that no country can compete with advanced technology for love or money. This is the experience of all countries that have achieved significant international economic status and who have done so based on indigenous efforts to build autonomous scientific and technological capabilities.

In the 1970`s and '80s, Japan, South Korea, and China all embraced the value of developing self-reliance and autonomous S&T capabilities, and by implementing them, they proved to be not only a means of development but also an option to strengthen the economy. The economy, however, is taking the necessary steps to play a bigger role in the global economy.

These countries today, primarily through indigenous efforts and investments in R&D and human resources, are at the forefront of value chain production capabilities in technology, innovation, manufacturing and consumer goods, electronics, microprocessor chips, computer systems, cellular phones and communication backbones, Robotics, capital goods and many other fields. In particular, China is now on the verge of making big strides in future technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, automation, autonomous vehicles, battery storage systems and more. For this reason alone, we cannot deny the economic dominance of these countries.

India is definitely a good market place for foreign goods. Sometimes these goods are made in India. Items like automobiles or white goods, or fully imported or just cell phones are assembled here. But the demand for such goods in the Indian market seems to have increased significantly. Even the largest Indian private corporations, with a few exceptions, are junior partners of MNCs or other foreign entities, they have not developed any autonomous S&T capabilities, and they produce some world class products or brands. Although the private sector is not interested in R&D or developing significant indigenous potential, the government is ready to move away from privatization and the public sector. It is the only industrial power that can undertake the R&D and technology development tasks required to enable India. The country has no choice but to embrace S&T self-reliance once again to face the future with confidence. PSUs should be strengthened to make improvements where necessary. The dream of a brighter future for a capable India cannot be realized without increasing public investment in research and education in general.

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