



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** The emphasis on Atma Nirbhar Bharat resonates with the Swadeshi movement. Compare and contrast the economic goals and strategies of the Swadeshi movement with contemporary attempts to promote self-reliance. **(250 words)**

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### Approach

- Introduce by Swadeshi Movement and Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- State their economic goals
- Mention their strategies with examples
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

The pursuit of economic self-sufficiency is a persistent theme in India's history. The Swadeshi movement and the contemporary attempts to promote self-reliance, such as the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, share some common economic goals, but also have notable differences in their historical context and strategic methods.

### Body

#### Economic Goals:

- **Swadeshi Movement:** Primarily aimed to weaken the British economic hold on India.
  - This involved **boycotting British goods**, promoting indigenous industries, and reviving traditional crafts.
  - It was a form of protest against colonial exploitation as a part of the **Indian Independence Movement**.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Focuses on making India a **self-reliant and globally competitive nation**.
  - It aims to reduce dependence on imports, boost domestic manufacturing, **resist global economic shocks** and strengthen key sectors.
  - It's driven by a desire for **economic security** and growth.

#### Strategies:

- **Swadeshi Movement:**
  - **Boycott of British goods**, e.g., the burning of British-made clothes and the boycott of British textiles, as demonstrated during the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922)**.
  - **Promotion of indigenous products**, e.g., the promotion of khadi and the establishment of the **All India Spinners' Association by Mahatma Gandhi** to encourage the use of Indian-made goods.
  - **Reviving and promoting indigenous industries**, particularly textiles, e.g., the **Ahmedabad Mill Strike in 1917** to protest against the exploitation of textile workers by British mill owners.

- **Emphasis on self-reliance**, e.g., the promotion of the "**Swadeshi Andolan**" by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, which advocated for promotion of indigenous products.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:**
  - **Import substitution**, e.g. **Atmanirbhar Bharat Package** announced during the Covid-19 pandemic to promote self-reliance and reduce import dependence.
  - **Incentives and policy reforms**, e.g., the reduction of corporate tax rates and the introduction of the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products scheme** to boost exports.
  - **Developing supply chains**, e.g., the **National Logistics Policy** to streamline supply chains and reduce logistics costs, promoting local sourcing and reducing reliance on global supply chains.
  - Skill development and innovation, e.g., the **Startup India initiative** to foster entrepreneurship and innovation, and the **Atal Innovation Mission** to promote innovation and entrepreneurship culture in schools and universities.

## Conclusion

The **Swadeshi movement** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, though separated by a near-century, share the core ideal of "**India First**" and **Economic Self-reliance**. While their methods differ, both movements highlight the importance of fostering domestic production and reducing dependence on external forces.

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