



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Management**

**ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT THE TRUTH THROUGH IMPORTS RISE**

**KEY WORDS:**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The Government keeps talking about Atmanirbhar Bharat, but in reality we find the imports are going up and balance of trade is against India. After NoteBandi many MSMEs closed down never to open again that has led to crisis of jobs for skilled laborers. The production index is dropping as well as services are dropping. The consumer products companies are losing volume sales that they are covering by increasing the prices of all commodities (even the diluted packaged commodity act is helping them to cheat the consumers) to cover the drop in turnover and maintaining profitability. Imports are growing especially from China while ruling party leaders talk about banning Chinese products. The increased prices are leading to higher turnovers maintaining the company's profitability and Governments earning of HIGHER GST that leads to growth in GDP. The growth in GDP is wanted by government but that has caused higher and higher inflation and people are cutting their purchases in quantity terms that leads to drop in sales and again price rise and quantity drop. This researcher has habit of purchasing 20-gram biscuit packets (Rs.10/-) that ensures freshness, last time he purchased the packet he felt it lighter and it turned out to be 19 grams totally against the original packaged commodity act, but no one cares. The researcher decided to look in to the imports, local production and find out the realities about India becoming Atmanirbhar.

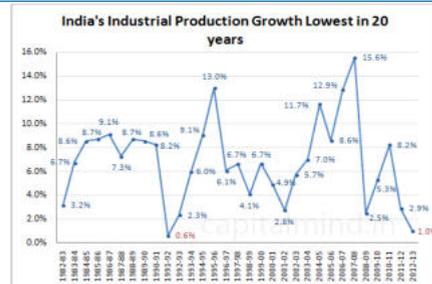
**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Is industrial/agricultural production growing in India?
2. Is imports from other countries dropping except petroleum products?
3. What is happening about balance of trade?
4. What is happening with balance of trade with China?
5. Are we becoming Atmanirbhar or is it only a government propaganda?

**Facts: Let us start one by one on these aspects**

Industrial growth was prime area of focus from the time Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when the existing Industrialist were not ready to take risk of investments even when Panditji gave them assurances, Panditji took bold decision and started something that was unique for India and borrowed from Russia (Then USSR) and started Public sector Units (PSUs) that took risk in sectors that were very important to growth of industrial sector by starting steel industries like Bhilai and Bokaro along with power generation sector through hydle power through many large dams that would generate Power and also help agriculture like Bhakra Nangal in Punjab and Koyana in Maharashtra etc. Along with this Panditji focused on education sector to create work force at Higher level of industry through IITs, IIMs and AIMS. Other sector that was promoted was Aircraft building through HAL and Ship building through Mazgaon docks.

The spirit was kept alive by Indira Gandhi and then Rajiv Gandhi and PV Narsimha Rao that is reflected in the healthy growth rate of 10.6% between 1983-2013. Unfortunately, the figures in those years were not researched and collated and so authentic figures are absent. But During the liberalization removal of Licence Raj (started to thwart competition by MNCs to Indian Industrialist on request by Bombay Group of Industrialists) that led to robust growth through MNCs involvement.



**Average Growth 10.6%**

What happened after 2014 is what we are interested in through Atmanirbhar India. For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic set in last year, industries in Pune have touched 90 per cent of their pre-Covid production level. The small and medium scale industries have, however, complained about extraordinary high prices of raw material and fuel that, they say, are eating into their profits. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the small and medium scale industries in the district have faced severe disruption, both in terms of operations and availability of man power.

After COVID pandemic that initiated in China the industrial production dropped Globally and China took disadvantage of it by increasing their exports all over the world, the local governments were required to take actions to support MSMEs, some government took steps to support them but many failed. India has still not reached pre-COVID levels and with that we can very easily say our dependence on Imports has gone up.

**Agricultural production**

India is an agriculture country with nearly 80% population depending on it, understanding this Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru started what is called today as "green revolution". Nehru promoted the Japanese method of cultivating rice that increased our Rice production and today we export rice. The next PM Lal Bahadur Shastri added Jai Jawan to Jai Kisan and it became famous as Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan slogan. We were in such a bad situation that for population of around 40 cr we were unable to feed all and imported wheat, rice etc. This was continued by all next PMs and our agricultural production.

The Green Revolution in India significantly boosted agricultural production, particularly in wheat and rice, through the introduction of high-yielding varieties of seeds, increased use of fertilizers and pesticides, and improved irrigation. This led to increased food security and self-sufficiency, transforming India from a food-deficient nation to one of the world's top agricultural producers. However, it also resulted in environmental challenges and income disparities.

**POSITIVE IMPACTS:**

**Increased Food Production:**

The Green Revolution led to a substantial rise in crop yields, particularly of wheat and rice, with India achieving record grain output in 1978-79. This helped India become self-sufficient in food grain production and even enabled some exports.

**Reduced Food Imports:**

India's dependence on food imports decreased significantly due to the increased domestic production.

**Economic Growth:**

Increased agricultural production boosted farmer incomes and contributed to rural prosperity. The surplus generated also led to the commercialization of agriculture.

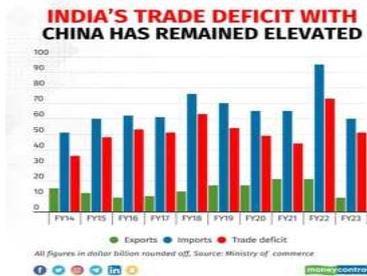
**Development of Rural Infrastructure:**

The Green Revolution spurred the development of rural infrastructure like irrigation, electricity, and transportation, which were essential for supporting the increased agricultural activity.

The Indian agriculture sector has shown a moderate average annual growth rate of around 3-4% in the last 10 years. While there have been fluctuations, with some years experiencing higher or lower growth, the sector has generally demonstrated resilience and contributed significantly to the Indian economy.

**Imports from China**

Government has been making propaganda announcements for banning imports from China in the light of various skirmishes on the border like Golwan where 22 Indian Jawans died but in fact the imports in China is continuously growing at very high speed. While imports are growing (even statues like Sardar Patel and Ramanujam are made in China) exports are nearly stagnated increasing the balance of trade in favour of China. With closure of many MSMEs after Notebundi the dependence on China is increasing. Government should come out with schemes to rejuvenate MSMEs that can reduce dependence on China and increase jobs.



In the past decade, India's imports from China have significantly increased, with some reports indicating a 2.3 times faster growth than India's overall imports. This surge has led to China becoming a major supplier across various industrial sectors in India, including machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and textiles.

**What we import?**

If start looking at what we import everyone will be shocked most of items were manufactured in India by MSMEs, since MSMEs went out of business in NOTE BUNDI/CORONA and were not given any support by government afterward they remained closed and we started importing things like PCB (printed circuit boards) etc and more that was produced in India. Now we import every single part and spere and only assemble products, since we assemble them we call it MADE IN INDIA. One can see that what we export is of no significance and value and what we import is what we can manufacture may be at little high price, but will give employment to lacs of Indian people.



Here's a more detailed breakdown:

**Significant Growth:**

India's imports from China have increased substantially, with some sources citing a rise from around \$70 billion in 2018-19 to over \$101 billion in 2023-24.

**Dominant Supplier:**

China has become the top supplier for several key industrial sectors in India, highlighting its strong presence in the Indian market.

**Trade Deficit:**

India's trade deficit with China has been widening, with exports to China remaining relatively stagnant while imports have surged.

**Key Import Categories:**

Electronics, electrical equipment, machinery, organic chemicals, and plastics are among the major import categories from China.

**Share of India's Imports:**

China's share of India's industrial goods imports has risen from 21% to 30% over 15 years. In specific sectors like machinery, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals, China's contribution to India's imports is particularly significant.

**Dependence on Imports:**

There's growing concern about India's reliance on China for certain goods, especially electronic components, where China's contribution to India's imports is substantial.

What has happened with other countries? What kind of trade deficit India faces for last 10 years?

**India's balance of trade (last 10 years, 2015-2025)**

India has consistently experienced a merchandise trade deficit over the last decade, meaning the value of goods imported is greater than the value of goods exported. This deficit averaged USD -178 billion in the decade leading up to 2024, reaching USD -283 billion in 2024 itself. However, it's important to note that India often maintains a surplus in services trade, which helps to partially offset the merchandise trade deficit when considering the overall trade balance. Here's a snapshot of India's balance of trade over the past decade

**Consistent Merchandise Trade Deficit:** India has maintained a negative balance in merchandise trade (goods) throughout the last 10 years.

**Widening Merchandise Trade Deficit:** The deficit has generally widened over the decade, reaching \$265 billion in 2022/23, up from \$136 billion a decade prior.

**Fluctuating Overall Trade Deficit:** While the merchandise trade deficit has been consistent, the overall trade deficit (including services) has varied. For example, it was USD 23.0 billion in January 2025.

**Impact of Services Trade:** India's significant surplus in services trade plays a crucial role in mitigating the overall deficit. In June 2025, the services trade surplus reached \$15.62 billion, cushioning the overall deficit.

**Impact of Imports:** Imports have grown faster than exports over the last decade, contributing to the widening merchandise trade deficit.

**Key Import Items:** Crude oil and electronic goods have been significant contributors to the rise in imports.

**Export Growth:** While facing challenges, India's exports

have shown positive growth trends in certain sectors, such as engineering goods, electronics, and pharmaceuticals

**What has happened to MSMEs?**

During Note Bandi (8<sup>th</sup> November 2016) many MSMEs faced problems of cash, as their entire business was dependant on cash. Their workers accepted daily wages in CASH, their raw material suppliers accepted only CASH, in such situation many of them were forced to close down. Slowly when they tried to start their operation the CORONA came and the lock down forced them to close and many could not restart as they were replaced by CHEAP imports from China.

Before demonetization (Note ban/Bandi), the number of MSMEs in India was estimated to be around 63.38 million, according to the Central Statistics Office (CSO). This figure includes micro, small, and medium enterprises. The vast majority, over 99%, were micro-enterprises.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- Micro Enterprises: Approximately 63.05 million.
- Small Enterprises: Around 0.33 million.
- Medium Enterprises: Roughly 5,000

**What is the current situation as against 2016?**

With 5.93 crore registered MSMEs employing more than 25 crore people, these enterprises generate a significant share of the country's economic output. In 2023-24, MSME-related products accounted for 45.73% of India's total exports, reinforcing their role in positioning the country as a global manufacturing hub, but their number is still below their 2016 level (5.93 as against 6.33) Drop in numbers of MSMEs is leading to drop in employment opportunities in addition use of automation is reducing the employment opportunities further.

**Growth of Chinese brands**

Several Chinese brands have successfully established a presence in the Indian market, particularly in the electronics and mobile phone sectors, while some have also made inroads through investments in Indian companies. Key examples include Xiaomi, Oppo, Vivo, OnePlus, and Lenovo in electronics, and Tencent, Alibaba, and others through investments in various Indian startups and unicorns.

Electronics and Mobile Phones:

**Xiaomi:** Known for its budget-friendly smartphones and other electronics, Xiaomi has become a major player in the Indian market.

**Oppo and Vivo:** These brands, along with OnePlus, have also gained popularity, particularly among younger consumers, offering a range of smartphones and other devices.

**Lenovo:** Lenovo has a significant presence in the laptop and PC market, as well as in the smartphone segment.

**Motorola:** While now owned by Lenovo, Motorola continues to operate in India with a range of smartphones.

**Huawei:** Huawei has a presence in India, particularly in the telecommunications equipment sector and with some consumer electronics.

**Coolpad:** Coolpad has also been active in the Indian smartphone market.

**Tecno, Gionee, and Meizu:** These brands are also part of the Chinese mobile phone landscape in India.  
Investments in Indian Companies:

**Tencent:** Has invested in various Indian companies like Flipkart, Ola, Swiggy, and Byju's.

**Alibaba:** Has invested in Indian companies such as Paytm, Zomato, and BigBasket.

**Fosun RZ Capital:** Has invested in Delhivery, among other Indian companies.

**Hillhouse Capital Group:** Has invested in Udaan and Swiggy.

Other Chinese Brands:

**Haier:** A major home appliance brand with a presence in India.

**TCL:** Another significant player in the television and appliance market.

**BYD, Haima, Haval, MG and Changan:** These are Chinese car brands that are either already present or expected to enter the Indian market.

While some Chinese brands have faced scrutiny and challenges in India, many continue to operate and adapt to the local market. The ongoing development of the Indian market, coupled with the increasing influence of Chinese companies, suggests a dynamic landscape for both consumers and businesses.

Chinese brands are mostly cost effective (No additional tariff being charged on Chinese goods even when after Galwan incidence PM asked public to avoid Chinese goods.

**Conclusions**

Looking in to all the facts we can safely conclude that

1. Industrial production has dropped significantly and growth is at very low rate.
2. Imports are growing significantly especially from china
3. Balance of trade with most countries is NEGATIVE
4. Imports are Chinese goods is growing in geometric proportion and there is very large gap (Negative balance of trade) in Imports and exports.
5. Atmanirbhar Bharat is mare a propaganda and no action by government side
6. We are getting in to a situation where we keep importing Chinese goods officially and unofficially (smuggled goods)
7. Our dependence of Chinese goods is growing and it is going deeper e.g. automobile decoration items, housing interiors, decorative and daily needs electrical and electronics items and even statues.
8. There are no active government schemes to promote MSMEs that can prevent imports from China to large extent.
9. Atmanirbh Bharat is failure to a large extent