



Discussion on Union Budget 2026-27 and Economic Survey 2025-26
Roadmap for Atmanirbhar Bharat in a Fragmented World with Strong Headwinds

Date: 7th February 2026, The Imperial New Delhi

Time: 2:30 PM onwards

1. Background:

As India enters the next phase of its growth trajectory amid profound global transition, the Economic Survey 2025-26 and the Union Budget 2026 provides a clear, strategic roadmap. The Survey redefines Atmanirbhar Bharat as an outward-oriented model of self-reliance, one anchored in competitive resilience rather than isolation emphasising supply-chain robustness, productivity-led growth, public capital as a catalyst for private investment, and deeper, strategic global integration. The Union Budget 2026-27 transforms this vision into action, driving public investment, supporting manufacturing and MSMEs, strengthening institutions, and building long-term growth capacity, as a crucial step towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Set against persistent trade headwinds including fragmented trade rules, climate-linked measures and technology controls, the Survey & Budget framework offers important lessons for India's external economic engagement. It underscores the need to balance openness with resilience, align standards and competitiveness with domestic capability building, and ensure that Atmanirbhar Bharat strengthens, rather than constrains, India's participation in global value chains. These lessons are particularly relevant for the evolving India-US economic partnership, where complementarities in trusted supply chains, manufacturing, technology and innovation present opportunities to move from transactional trade towards a more strategic economic compact.

In this regard, RIS and the Delhi School of Economics are co-organising a high-level panel discussion titled 'Roadmap for Atmanirbhar Bharat in a Fragmented World with Strong Headwinds', bringing together renowned economists, senior policymakers, and leading think-tank experts to critically assess the Union Budget 2026-27 and the Economic Survey 2025-26, in advancing Atmanirbhar Bharat. The sessions also gains institutional significance with the signing of the MoU between RIS and the Delhi School of Economics, reflecting a shared commitment to evidence-based policymaking and the integration of academic rigour with policy relevance.



2. Objective

- Assessing how the Economic Survey 2025-26 and the Union Budget 2026 translate long-term development goals into near-term policy action under the Viksit Bharat 2047 framework.
- Key lessons on managing global trade and geo-economic headwinds, with implications for India's external economic engagement and value-chain integration.
- An analysis of how India's domestic economic priorities translate into its global economic posture, shaping engagement with major economic partners and strategic alignments.



Agenda

Time	Inaugural Session
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Welcome Remarks: Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS (5 minutes) Inaugural Remarks: Prof. Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics (5 minutes) Special Remarks: Dr. Seshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS (5 minutes)
	Key Note Address
	Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India (30 minutes)
	<i>Open Discussion</i>
	Signing of MoU between RIS and DSE (10 minutes)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	High Tea
Panel Discussion: Atmanirbhar Bharat in the era of Global Uncertainty (2 hours)	
4:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Speakers: [approx.10 minutes each] 1. Mr. A K Bhattacharya, Editorial Director, Business Standard 2. Mr. P. Vaidyanathan Iyer, Managing Editor, Indian Express 3. Prof. Simrit Kaur, Principal, SRCC and Professor FMS, University of Delhi 4. Dr. Charan Singh, CEO and Founder Director, EGROW Foundation 5. Dr. C.S.C. Sekhar, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth 6. Dr. Prabir De, Professor at the Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC), RIS Moderated by Prof. Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics (DSE) <i>Open Discussion</i>
7 PM onwards	Closing Remarks followed by Dinner

.....