

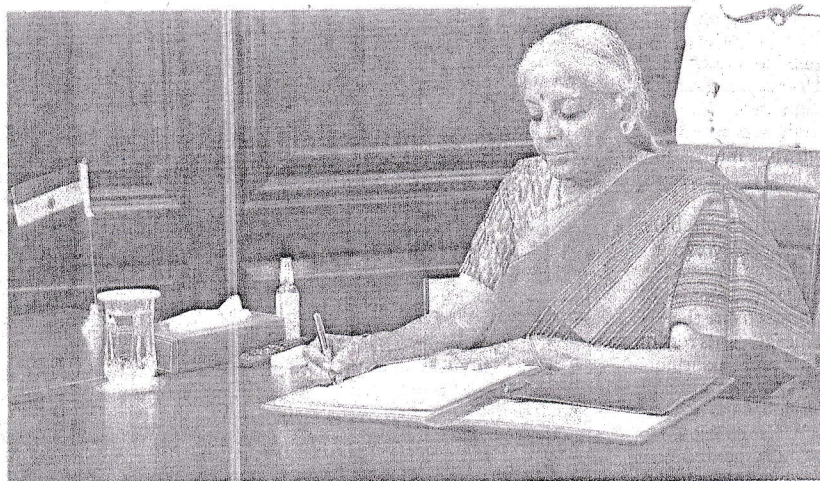
Govt committed to ensuring ease of living, says Finance Minister

KEY TASK. All eyes on the Budget for FY25 which Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to present in second half of July

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New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday took charge and resumed work in North Block. This is her second term in the Ministry as a Cabinet Minister and, overall, her third term, as she was a Minister of State during the first term of the Modi Government from 2014 to 2019.

Her most important task will be the presentation of the full Union Budget for FY25. Though the date has not been announced officially, it is likely to take place during the second half of the next month. Sitharaman, 65, is the first full-time woman Finance Minister (Indira Gandhi held additional charge of Finance as Prime Minister for a short time) and has so far presented six budgets (including one interim budget). In the interim budget for FY25, the PM followed con-



MAKING A MARK. Reforms undertaken since 2014 will continue, which will further provide “macroeconomic stability”, says Finance Minister PTI

vention and stuck to vote-on-account. All eyes are now on the full budget, where she is expected to present the vision for the next five years along with policy announcements. She is expected to ad-

dress the critical issue of unemployment through measures to boost manufacturing.

A Finance Ministry statement quoting Sitharaman said: “Government is fully

committed to ensure ‘ease of living’ for its citizens and will continue to take further steps in this direction.” She also stated that the reforms undertaken since 2014 will continue, which will further

provide “macroeconomic stability” and “growth for India”. She also highlighted India’s commendable growth story in recent years amidst global challenges and noted that there is an optimistic economic outlook for coming years.

ROBUST ECONOMY

She acknowledged the strong leadership and development-oriented governance in the last 10 years, which has driven “transformative changes” across various sectors and created a robust and resilient economy. After assuming charge, the Finance Minister was briefed on the ongoing policy issues by the secretaries of the different departments of the Finance and Corporate Affairs Ministry.

The Finance Minister urged the Departments to advance the NDA government’s development agenda with renewed vigour, and ensure responsive policymaking to achieve the Prime Minister’s vision of a Viksit Bharat.