

# India will Progress with Everyone's Effort: President Droupadi Murmu

**MURMU IS FIRST TRIBAL WOMAN, YOUNGEST PERSON TO BE ELECTED TO HIGHEST OFFICE**

## Our Political Bureau

**New Delhi:** Droupadi Murmu was on Monday sworn in as the 15th President of India in Parliament's central hall, becoming the first tribal woman and the youngest person to be elected to the highest office. She gave the slogan 'sabka prayas aur sabka kartavya' (everybody's effort and duty) and assured the nation that the interest of women, youth and the poor would be paramount in her work as Rashtrapati.

Murmu, also the first President to be born after Independence, was administered the oath by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana in the presence of outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind, vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Cabinet ministers and MPs. Former President Pratibha Patil, the first woman to occupy the post, also attended the event.

Murmu underlined that she grew up in a tribal village and came up the hard way from a humble background where even availing basic education was difficult. "I started my journey of life from a small tribal village in Odisha in the eastern part of the country. From the background that I come from, it was like a dream for me to get elementary education. But despite many obstacles, my determination remained strong and I became the first daughter of my village to go to college. I belong to a tribal society. I have got the opportunity to rise from serving as a ward councilor to become the President of India."

Attributing it to the greatness of Indian democracy, Murmu emphasised that her rise was an "achievement for every poor person in India.



President Droupadi Murmu speaks after taking oath in the Central Hall of Parliament on Monday. Outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind and Chief Justice of India NV Ramana are also seen - PTI

**"In her address after taking oath, President Droupadi Murmu Ji gave a message of hope and compassion. She emphasised on India's accomplishments and presented a futuristic vision"**

**Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

**"I am sure that your tenure will take the pride of the country to new heights"**

**Amit Shah, Union Home Minister**

**"Her views were nice. Every word in her speech had a meaning. The views are commendable"**

**Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan CM**

It is a tribute to the power of our democracy that a daughter born in a poor house in a remote tribal area can reach the highest constitutional position in India," she said.

She recalled that she had entered politics when India was celebrating 50 years of Independence and became President before it completes 75 years since attaining freedom. Underlining the significance of the next 25 years, she said, "in these 25 years, the path to attain the goals of Amrit Kaal will proceed on everybody's effort and duty. The new development journey towards the bright future of India has to be undertaken by our collective efforts, following the path of duty."

Murmu said her election gave hope to the poor that they too can "have dreams and fulfil them too. And it is a matter of great satisfaction for me that those who have been deprived for centuries and those who have been denied benefits of development,

those poor, downtrodden, Backwards and tribals are seeing their reflection in me. This election of mine has the blessings of the poor of the country. And it reflects the dreams and potential of crores of women and daughters of the country," she said.

The President applauded the role played by Rani Lakshmi Bai, Rani Velu Nachiyar, Rani Gaidinliu and Rani Chennamma in defending the nation. She also recalled the role played by Santhal, Paika (Odisha), Kol and Bhil revolutions during the freedom struggle. She assured citizens, "especially the youth and women" that their "interests will be paramount" for her as President.

The President ended her speech with a quote from poet Bhim Bhoi of Jagannath region of Odisha. "Working for the welfare of the world is far greater than one's own interests," she said. Murmu began her day with a visit to Raj Ghat to pay respects to Mahatma Gandhi.