

Budget will have futuristic policies, historic steps: Murmu

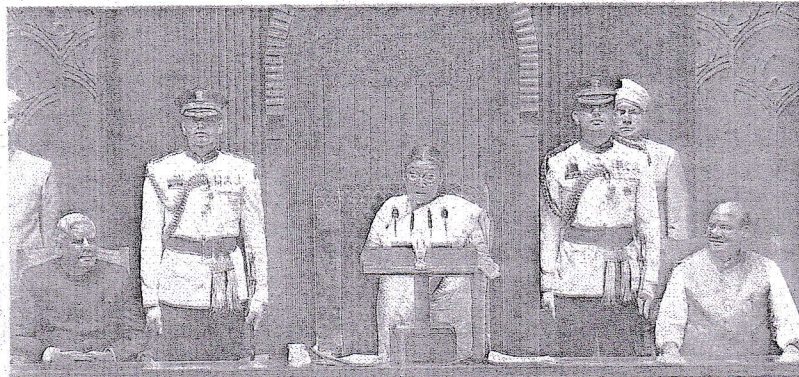
BLUEPRINT FOR PROGRESS. Reforms to be far-reaching, in tune with the aspirations of the people, says President

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the Budget will have 'far-reaching policies and futuristic visions.' Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to present a full Budget in the third week of July.

"This Budget will be an effective document of the Government's far-reaching policies and futuristic vision. Along with major economic and social decisions, many historic steps will also be seen in this Budget," Murmu said, while addressing the joint session of Parliament on the eve of the commencement of the 18th Lok Sabha. She assured that the pace of reforms will be further accelerated, in tune with the aspirations of the people for rapid development.

Talking about holistic development, she said the government believes there should be healthy competition among the States to attract investors from all over the world. "This is



INAUGURAL SESSION. President Droupadi Murmu addresses a joint sitting of Parliament on Thursday; Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar (left) and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla are also seen

the true spirit of competitive co-operative federalism. We will continue to move ahead with the belief that the development of the country lies in the development of the States," she said.

'REFORM, TRANSFORM'
Attributing the mantra of 'Reform, Perform and Transform' for making India the fastest growing economy in the world today, Murmu said India is now the fifth largest eco-

nomy. From 2021 to 2024, India has grown at an average rate of 8 per cent annually. And this happened even after the biggest pandemic in 100 years.

Growth was achieved amidst the pandemic and on-going conflicts in different parts of the world. This was possible due to reforms and major decisions undertaken over the last 10 years. Today, India alone contributes 15 per cent of global growth. Now, "my Government is striving to

make India the third largest economy in the world. Achieving this goal will also strengthen the foundation of a developed India," she said.

Talking about the rural economy, she said every aspect of it has been given great emphasis. Agro-based industries, dairy and fishery-based industries are being expanded in villages.

Here, too, co-operatives have been accorded priority. The Government is creating a

large network of farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and co-operative organisations such as PACS. A major problem of small farmers is related to storage, which is why work has been commenced on a scheme to create the world's largest storage capacity in the co-operative sector.

RURAL REVIVAL

"To enable farmers to meet their small expenses, more than ₹3,20,000 crore has been disbursed under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. In the initial days of its new term, my Government has transferred more than ₹20,000 crore to farmers. The Government has also effected a record increase in MSP for Kharif crops," Murmu said.

On health initiatives, she said the government is providing free health services to 55 crore beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The opening of 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras is also progressing at a fast pace. Further, "the elderly above 70 years of age will also be covered and get the benefit of free treatment under Ayushman Bharat," she added.