

## **Testwale Current Affairs PDF**

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### **1. PM Modi Releases Three Books on Venkaiah Naidu's Life and Journey ( July 1, 2024 )**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released three books on the life and works of former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu via video conferencing on June 30.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- The event was held in Hyderabad, coinciding with Mr. Naidu's 75th birthday.
- PM Modi stated that Mr. Naidu's life journey is a source of inspiration for younger generations.

#### **The three books released are:**

- Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service: A biography by S. Nagesh Kumar, former resident editor of The Hindu's Hyderabad edition.
- Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India: A photo chronicle compiled by I.V. Subba Rao, former secretary to the Vice-President of India.
- Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu: A pictorial biography in Telugu authored by Sanjay Kishore.

#### **Other books by Venkaiah Naidu**

- Articles in newspapers on the subjects of political and public interests and books
- 'Moving on...Moving forward: A Year in Office'
- 'Selected Speeches of Venkaiah Naidu : Volume 1'
- 'Listening, Learning and Leading' A chronicle of the Vice President of India's two Years in office
- Connecting, Communicating, Changing.....Vice President's third year in office

#### **Other Books for 2024**

- The Idea of Democracy - Sam Pitroda, 2024
- 2024: India in Free Fall - Sanjay Jha
- The Cooking of Books: A Literary Memoir - Ramachandra Guha
- Thread by Thread: The S.Kumar's Story - Sathya Saran
- Just a Mercenary? Notes from My Life and Career - D. Subbarao

## **2. Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais Releases "Gateways to the Sea" ( June 27, 2024 )**

On June 22, 2024, Ramesh Bais, Governor of Maharashtra, launched a book titled 'Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region' at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The book is published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).
- Compiled by the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMMS), it features 18 articles by esteemed authors.
- **Focus:**
  - Explores the history of ancient ports such as Sopara, Vasai, Versova, Mahim, Kalyan, Thane, Panvel, Alibag, Chaul, Mandad, and Janjira.
  - Covers the evolution of modern ports and docks in Mumbai, including Mazagon Dock, Mumbai Port, Bombay Dock, Sassoon Dock, and Ferry Wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka).
- Presentation: The book was presented at Raj Bhavan by the Publications Division in collaboration with the Asiatic Society.

## **3. Anuradha Mascarenhas Unveils book 'At The Wheel of Research' ( May 17, 2024 )**

Anuradha Mascarenhas, Senior Assistant Editor at The Indian Express, has authored a new book titled "At The Wheel of Research: An Exclusive Biography of Dr. Soumya Swaminathan".

### **An Overview of the News**

- The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd.
- The biography chronicles the life journey of Dr. Soumya Swaminathan.

### **About Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**

- She served as the inaugural Chief Scientist at the World Health Organisation (WHO) from 2019 to 2022.
- Dr. Swaminathan also held the position of Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 2015 to 2017.
- She is an Indian pediatrician and currently the Chairperson of the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- Dr. Swaminathan is the daughter of Dr. Monkumbu Sambasivan (MS) Swaminathan, renowned as the "Father of the Green Revolution in India".

### **About Anuradha Mascarenhas**

- Anuradha Mascarenhas is a seasoned journalist.
- She has been recognized with awards such as the Press Council of India National Awards for Excellence in Journalism for Gender-Based Reporting in 2019.

#### **4. Sam Pitroda Launches 'The Idea of Democracy' Book ( April 16, 2024 )**

Sam Pitroda, also known as Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda, a Padma Bhushan awardee, is an Indian engineer and entrepreneur who recently launched a new book titled "**The Idea of Democracy.**"

##### **An Overview of the News**

- The virtual launch of the book was conducted by Sam Pitroda, addressing concerns about the state of democracy, particularly in countries like India and the **United States of America (USA)**.
- Published by **Penguin Business**, an imprint of Penguin Random House India, the book delves into potential challenges faced by democratic systems.
- Sam Pitroda, originally from Odisha, has held notable positions such as the founding Chairman of India's Telecom Commission and the inaugural Chairman of the Worldtel Initiative of the **International Telecommunication Union (1995)**.
- In 1984, Pitroda established the Center for the Development of Telematics (C-DOT), an autonomous telecom R&D organization.
- He has also served as an Advisor to the Prime Minister (PM) on various Technology Missions related to Water, Literacy, Immunization, Oil Seeds, Telecom, and Dairy.
- Recognized for his contributions to Science and Engineering, Sam Pitroda was honored with the Padma Bhushan award in 2009.

#### **5. "Fire on the Ganges: Life among the Dead in Banaras" a book written by Radhika Iyengar ( Sept. 10, 2023 )**

Radhika Iyengar wrote the book "Fire on the Ganges: Life among the Dead in Banaras", published by HarperCollins.

##### **An Overview of the News**

- The book highlights the city of Banaras, also known as Varanasi, in India, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between death and the afterlife.
- "Fire on the Ganges" represents the first attempt to document the daily experiences of Doms in Banaras.
- It provides an insight into the historical background of Banaras by taking a look at some of the resilient individuals of the Dom community.

- Through their stories of hardship, survival, tragedy, and aspirations, the book narrates an often poignant and sometimes uplifting narrative of a community attempting to carve out a place for itself beyond the boundaries of ancient traditions.

### **Author's Background:**

- Radhika Iyengar is an accomplished journalist who holds a Master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York.
- She has received several awards, including the Red Ink Award for Excellence in Indian Journalism (2018), the Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship at the University of Kent, UK (2020), the Bianca Pancott Patton Fellowship (2019), and Sanskriti-Prabha Dutt Fellowship (2016-17).

## **6. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches comic book 'Let's Move Forward' in collaboration with NCERT and UNESCO ( Sept. 2, 2023 )**

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a creative comic book titled "Let's Move Forward" during a function held at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The primary objective of the book "Let's Move Forward" is to **enhance the health and overall well-being of school-going children across India.**
- The comic book was jointly created by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) New Delhi, under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- **"Let's Move Forward" is available in both printed and digital versions, and can be accessed in multiple languages including Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu.**
- The comic book has been designed as an interactive and educational resource, intended to complement the implementation of the School Health and Wellness Program (SHWP) under the Ayushman Bharat Abhiyan.
- An electronic version of the comic book will also be made accessible through the Ministry of Education (MOE), NCERT, UNESCO and DIKSHA websites.

### **About NCERT**

- It is an autonomous organization of the Government of India.
- NCERT was **established in 1961** and functions as a literary, scientific, and charitable society under the Societies Registration Act.
- The headquarters of the organization is located at **Sri Aurobindo Marg in New Delhi.**
- **Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani** is the **Director of NCERT from 2022.**

In 2023, NCERT formed a 19-member committee.

- The objective of the committee is **to finalize the syllabus, textbooks, and learning material for the students of classes 3 to 12.**

### **About UNESCO**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- It is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UN SDGs), a coalition of United Nations agencies and organizations that aims to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Headquarters:- Paris, France
- Director General: -Audrey Azoulay
- Established in:- 16 November 1945 in London, United Kingdom
- The organization has -193 members and 11 associate members.

### **7. Amrit Mathur's autobiography 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket' ( Aug. 27, 2023 )**

The book "Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket" is written by Amrit Mathur, a cricket administrator with vast experience.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- In the book, Mathur presents a first-person perspective on notable moments in Indian cricket history.
- Through insightful anecdotes, Mathur presents a unique insider's perspective on some of Indian cricket's most memorable events.
- Citing his close association with the game and its players for over three decades, Mathur shared his experiences.

#### **Background of Amrit Mathur:**

- Mathur managed the Indian cricket team during the historic 1992 tour of South Africa.
- He also played a role in PILCOM, the organizing committee of the 1996 Cricket World Cup.
- Mathur served as the Chief Operating Officer of Delhi Daredevils and General Manager of BCCI.

#### **The book details the significant events of cricket:**

- Friendship tour to South Africa in 1992
- NatWest Series win in England in 2002

- Participation in the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup in South Africa
- India's tour of Pakistan in 2004
- Indian Premier League (IPL) started in 2008

## **8. Neerja Chowdhary released a new book titled "How Prime Ministers Decide" ( Aug. 3, 2023 )**

Veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhary recently released a new book titled "How Prime Ministers Decide".

### **An Overview of the News**

- The book "How Prime Ministers Decide" highlights the dramatic events that led to Sonia's announcement, which was prompted by Rahul's concern for his mother's safety.
- According to the book, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi maintained positive relations with many RSS leaders but was careful to maintain a certain distance between herself and the organisation.

### **About the book "How Prime Ministers Decide"**

- The book throws light on the working style of the Prime Ministers of India and examines six landmark judgements.
- These decisions include Indira Gandhi's strategy to regain power after her defeat in 1977, the errors of Rajiv Gandhi's judgement in the Shah Bano case, and V.P. Singh's implementation of the Mandal Commission report that changed contemporary politics. .
- The book also describes the skillful indecision of P.V. Narasimha Rao that led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's transformation from pacifist to pro-nuclear, and Discovery of a historic nuclear deal with the United States by Manmohan Singh.
- Drawn from extensive interviews with prime ministers, political figures, bureaucrats, aides and policy makers, this book provides unique insights gathered from forty years of high-level reporting on India's political landscape.

## **9. Union Home Minister released the book 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram ( July 31, 2023 )**

Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled a book titled 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram.

### **An Overview of the News**

- During his visit to Rameswaram, the Union Home Minister paid his respects at important places including Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial.

**The book, 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die,' is an English translation of the Tamil book 'Ninaivirukkum Maranamillai', written by Dr. Nazeema Marakaiyar, niece of APJ Abdul Kalam, and Dr. YS Rajan, a distinguished ISRO scientist and a close confidant of Kalam .**

- This book provides an in-depth and truthful account of Dr. Kalam's life from childhood to his last days, presenting a holistic view.

### **Dr. A.P.J. about abdul kalam**

- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was born on October 15, 1931 in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu.
- He served as the 11th President of India from the year 2002 to the year 2007.
- Dr. Kalam joined the 'Indian Space Research Organization' in the year 1962 and there he got the credit of making India's first indigenous satellite (SLV-III) missile as the project director.
- Abdul Kalam is considered the father of India's missile program.
- The United Nations (UN) designated 15 October as World Students' Day in the year 2010, marking Dr. Kalam's birthday.
- Dr. Kalam was awarded honorary doctorates by 48 universities and institutions in India and abroad.
- He also served as the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister from 1992 to 1999.
- Dr. Kalam was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the year 1981, the Padma Vibhushan in the year 1990 and the 'Bharat Ratna' in the year 1997.
- He died of cardiac arrest on 27 July 2015 during a program at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong.

### **Dr. Abdul Kalam also wrote many books in which the main one is --**

- India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium (1998)
- Wings of Fire: And Autobiography (1999)
- Ignited Minds: Unlistening to the Power Within India (1999)
- Mission India

### **10. Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released Ranjit Pratap's book 'As the Wheel Turns' ( July 26, 2023 )**

book-'As-the-Wheel-Turns'

Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released a new book "As the Wheel Turns" authored by Ranjit Pratap, Managing Director of Rayala Corporation.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The book marks the Diamond Jubilee of Rayala Corporation, and provides a captivating account of Ranjit Pratap's extraordinary journey in the business world.
- "As the Wheel Turns" aims to inspire readers by sharing Ranjit Pratap's personal experiences, struggles and successes.
- The book coincides with Ranjit Pratap's celebration of 50 years in business, during which he joined the group companies in March 1973 and made a significant impact on the business landscape.
- Each chapter of the book vividly depicts the ups and downs, personal growth and professional achievements that shaped Ranjit Pratap's corporate journey of half a century.
- The title "As the wheel turns" symbolises the cyclical nature of life and business, emphasising the importance of adaptability and flexibility in the face of change.

**Other Books for 2023**

A.K. Bhattacharya	"Finance Ministers of India: From Independence to the Emergency (1947-1977)"
Vijay Darda	"Ringside"
Rupa Pai	"The Yoga Sutras for Children"
Aditya Bhushan	"Guts Amidst Bloodbath: The Anshuman Gaekwad Narrative"
Ruskin Bond	"The Golden Years"
Amitabh Kant	"Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"
Mr. Narayanan Vaghul	"Reflection"
Amitav Ghosh	"Smoke and Ashes"
Boria Mazumdar	"Sachin@50 - Celebrating a Maestro"
Shantanu Gupta	"Graphic Novel 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath'"