



## VENKAIAH NAIDU – A STATES MAN

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### Introduction

Venkaiah Naidu is an Indian politician hailing from **Andhra Pradesh**. A prominent leader of **Bharatiya Janata Party**, after the glorious victory in **Indian General Election** conducted by **Election Commission of India** in the year 2014, he is currently in the chair of Union Cabinet Ministry of Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs.

Mupavarapu Venkaiah Naidu is an Indian politician serving as the 13th and current Vice President of India since 2017. Here's a brief overview of his life and career:

### Early Life and Education

- Born on October 1, 1949, in Chavatapalem, Andhra Pradesh
- Completed BA from V.R. College, Nellore
- Earned LLB from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

### Political Career

- Joined Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1970
- Joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1977
- Held various positions in BJP, including:
  - National General Secretary
  - President of BJP's Andhra Pradesh unit
  - Leader of Opposition in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly
- Elected to Rajya Sabha in 1998 and re-elected in 2004 and 2010
- **Served as:**
  - Minister of Rural Development (2000-2002)
  - Minister of Housing and Urban Development (2014-2017)

Vice President of India (2017-present)

- Elected as Vice President on August 5, 2017
- Took oath on August 11, 2017

- Chairs the Rajya Sabha as Vice President

### **Notable Initiatives and Policies**

- Emphasis on rural development and farmers' welfare
- Advocacy for women's empowerment and education
- Support for digitalization and technology-driven governance
- Promotion of Indian culture and heritage

### **Awards and Recognition**

Padma Vibhushan (2021)

- Best Parliamentarian Award (2000)

### **Personal Life**

- Married to Usha Naidu
- Two children: Harshavardhan and Deepa

Venkaiah Naidu is known for his strong oratory skills, simplicity, and commitment to public service. As Vice President, he continues to play a vital role in Indian politics.

### **Early Life of Venkaiah Naidu**

Venkaiah Naidu was born on 1st July 1949 served the position as a National President of Bharatiya Janata Party from the year 2002 to 2004. Earlier, he was the Union Cabinet Minister for Rural Development in the Government of **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu better known as Venkaiah Naidu is hailing from Chavatapalem, **Nellore**, Andhra Pradesh in a Kamma family (Kamma or Kammavaru is a community group found largely in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh, **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka**). Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu completed his schooling from V.R. High School, Nellore. Later he pursued his Bachelor's Degree in Politics and Diplomatic Studies from V.R. College and passed with flying colours. Later, he acquired a Bachelor's degree in Law with specialization in International Law from Law College, Andhra University located in **Visakhapatnam**.

### **Political Life of Venkaiah Naidu**

Venkaiah Naidu, in the early life was closely associated with the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh** (RSS). He started his career in politics as a student leader of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in the year 1973-74. There he was elected as President of the Students Union of Andhra University Colleges. In 1974, he became the Convener of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Kshatra Sangharsha Samiti of Andhra Pradesh. In his early political career, he participated in the Anti- Emergency struggle, during the Prime Ministership of **Indira Gandhi**. From 1977-80, he was President of the Youth Wing of the Bharatiya Janata

Party.



### **Rise to Fame**

He came in to the limelight of national political sky when he became the President of the Students Union of Andhra University Colleges. Both as a student leader and political figure, Venkaiah Naidu gained prominence as a luminous speaker and a good orator, who energetically championed the cause of the farmers and the development of economically and socially backward areas in India. The oratory skills and political activism of Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu propelled his political career. For that, he became an MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly twice from Udayagiri constituency in Nellore district in 1978 and 1983. He rose to become one of the most admired and famous leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Andhra Pradesh.

After having served in various organisational posts of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the state and national level, he was elected as a member of the **Rajya Sabha** from Karnataka in 1998. Venkaiah Naidu has since been re-elected twice in 2004 and 2010 from Karnataka, which is the only stronghold of the BJP in Southern India.

When National Democratic Alliance (NDA) got victorious in the Indian general elections 1999, Venkaiah Naidu became the Union Cabinet Minister for Rural Development in the Government headed by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was known for aggressively pushing for reforms in Rural Development in India and for the many schemes introduced during this period such as the "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, better known as PMGSY is a nationwide plan in India to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages of India.

There after Venkaiah Naidu succeeded Jana Krishnamurthy as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2002. On January 28, 2004, he was elected unopposed for a full 3 year term. After the defeat of the Bharatiya Janata Party led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2004 Indian General Elections, he resigned from his post on October 18, 2004 and was succeeded by **Lal Krishna Advani**, who was the most powerful and most influential anti Congress Indian politician of India. However, he has remained in the forefront of the BJP as one of its Senior Vice Presidents and an important campaigner. On 26th May 2014, Venkaiah

Naidu has sworn as the Minister for Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs in **Narendra Modi's** Brigade.

During Naidu's tenure as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the bill to abolish Article 370 was passed with majesty, dignity and honour though the government did not have majority in the Upper House," Modi said. The journey of Naidu, from being a farmer's son to occupying high-ranking positions as Union Minister and Vice President, is filled with many experiences, the PM said. "Naidu chose to take up the Rural Development Ministry in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite being a senior in the party, as he wanted to serve the villages, farmers and the poor," he said. During Naidu's tenure as the Urban Development Minister as his senior Cabinet colleague, several initiatives, including Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart Cities Mission, were started, Modi said and expressed happiness about the current state of the BJP and Jana Sangh in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as compared to how it was decades ago without any strong foundation. He said Naidu strived in his role as an ABVP Karyakarta with the ideology of "Nation First" and had made up his mind to achieve something for the nation.

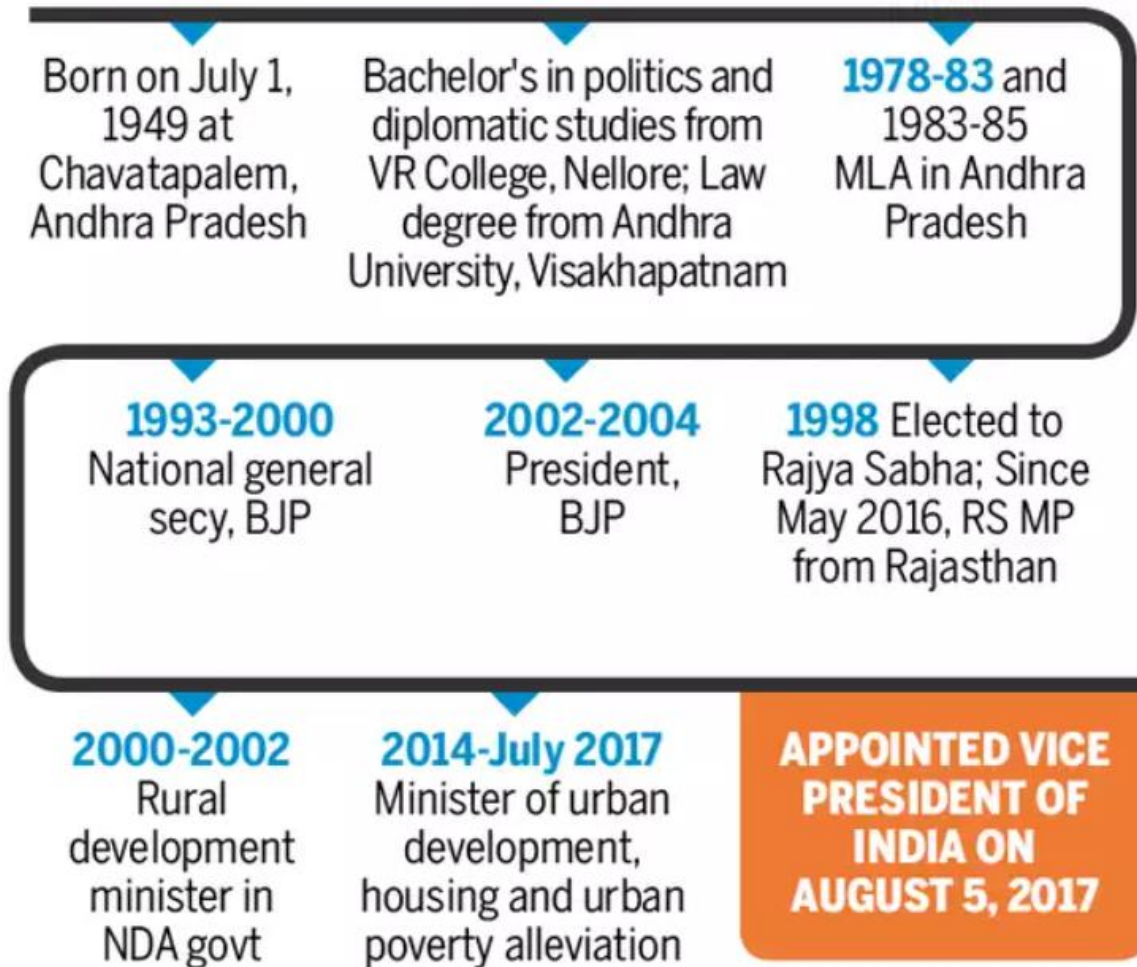
Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu, a leader who is the epitome of Telugu eloquence. Venkaiah Naidu needs no introduction to the political fraternity of the country. He is the man who has worked and impressed in many capacities in his long political career. Whenever there is a crisis in any corner of the country, he is a genius who can solve the problem in his own style being a troubleshooter. Moreover, he is a pride of Telugu people as he is now holding the post of Vice President, one of the highest positions in the country.

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu was born on July 1, 1949 at Chavatapalem in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. He received his graduation degree from VR. College, Nellore. After that he obtained his law degree from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

Born in to an agricultural family, Naidu has always been very sympathetic towards the welfare of the common man, particularly the farmers and the downtrodden sections of the society. Both as a student and political figure, he gained a lot of popularity as a brilliant orator.

In 1978, Naidu was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly, Andhra Pradesh. In 1993, he was appointed the General Secretary of All India Bhartiya Janata Party and since then he has been actively involved in national politics. In the year 2000, he became the Minister of Rural Development, Government of India. As the President of the B.J.P., he has maintained a healthy relationship with all allies of the government.

He has setup Swarna Bharathi Trust. The trust runs training centres for women and farmers, Residential Bridge Course School, eye hospital, veterinary hospital, old-age home and the Institute of Rural Entrepreneurship and Development in Venkatachala Satram near Nellore. The latest addition to the trust is the Akshara Vidyalaya an international school.



### Life And Journey Of Former Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu

“Shri M Venkaiah Naidu Garu’s wisdom and passion for the country’s progress is widely admired”

“These 75 years have been extraordinary and it encompasses magnificent stopovers”

“Life of Venkaiah Naidu ji is a perfect glimpse of the amalgamation of ideas, vision and personality”

“No one can match the level of Naidu Ji’s wit, spontaneity, quick counters and one-liners”

“Naidu ji wanted to serve the villages, the poor and the farmers”

“Journey of Venkaiah Ji’s life is a source of inspiration for the younger generations”

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released three books on the life and journey of former Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on the eve of his 75th birthday via video conferencing today.

The books released by the Prime Minister include (i) Biography of the former Vice President titled “Venkaiah Naidu – Life in Service” authored by Shri S Nagesh Kumar, former Resident



Editor of The Hindu, Hyderabad edition; (ii) “Celebrating Bharat – The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice–President of India”, a Photo chronicle compiled by Dr I.V. Subba Rao, Former Secretary to Vice-President of India; and (iii) Pictorial biography in Telugu titled “Mahaneta – Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu” authored by Shri Sanjay Kishore.

Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister noted that Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will be completing 75 years tomorrow on the 1st of July and said, “These 75 years have been extraordinary and it encompasses magnificent stopovers.” The Prime Minister expressed delight in releasing Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu’s biography and two other books based on his life. He expressed confidence that these books will become a source of inspiration for the people while also illuminating the correct path to serving the nation.

Reminiscing about his long association with the former Vice-President, the Prime Minister said he had the opportunity to work with Shri Venkaiah ji for a long period. This collaboration began during Venkaiah ji’s tenure as the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), followed by his senior role in the Cabinet, his tenure as the Vice-President of the country, and later as the Speaker of the Rajya Sabha. “One can imagine the wealth of experience a person hailing from a small village may have gathered while holding such significant posts. Even I learned a lot from Venkaiah ji”, he added.

Shri Modi expressed that the life of Venkaiah Naidu ji is a perfect glimpse of the amalgamation of ideas, vision and personality. The Prime Minister expressed happiness about the current state of BJP and Jana Sangh in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as compared to how it was decades ago without any strong foundation. He said, “Despite such lacunae, Shri Naidu strived in his role as an ABVP Karyakarta with the ideology of “Nation First” and had made up his mind to achieve something for the nation.” The Prime Minister lauded Shri Naidu for his fighting tooth and nail against the Emergency, which was imposed 50 years ago in the nation, despite being imprisoned for about 17 months. Shri Modi underlined that Shri Naidu was one such braveheart who was tried and tested during the wrath of Emergency and that is the reason he considers Naidu ji as a true friend.

Underling that power does not reflect the comforts of life but is the medium to accomplish the resolutions by service, the Prime Minister said that Shri Naidu proved himself when he got the opportunity to become a part of the Vajpayee Government where he chose to become the Union Minister for Rural Development. “Naidu ji wanted to serve the villages, the poor and the farmers”, Shri Modi added. He further added that Shri Naidu worked as a Union Minister for Urban Development in the Modi Government and lauded his commitment and vision for modern Indian cities. He mentioned Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission and Amrit Yojna initiated by Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

Praising the former Vice-President’s soft mild-mannerism, eloquence and wit, the Prime Minister recalled that no one can match Venkaiah Naidu’s level of wit, spontaneity, quick counters and one-liners. Shri Modi warmly recalled the slogan coined by Naidu during the formation of Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s coalition government, “Ek haath mein BJP ka jhanda, aur

dusre haath mein NDA ka agenda”, which translates to the party’s flag in one hand and the National Democratic Alliance’s agenda in the other. In 2014, he introduced the acronym ‘Making of Developed India’ for M.O.D.I. The Prime Minister said he was surprised by Venkaiah ji’s ruminations, compelling him to praise his style in the Rajya Sabha once where he said that there is depth, seriousness, vision, beat, bounce and wisdom in the former Vice-President’s words.

The Prime Minister hailed the positive environment created by Shri Naidu during his tenure as Speaker of the Rajya Sabha and highlighted the various important decisions taken by the House. Recalling the introduction of the bill to revoke Article 370 in the Rajya Sabha before being tabled in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister lauded Shri Naidu’s experienced leadership in the passage of such a sensitive bill while maintaining the decorum of the House. The Prime Minister wished for a long, active and healthy life for Shri Naidu.

Shri Modi threw light on the emotional side of Venkaiah Ji’s nature and informed that he never let adversities affect his decision-making. He also highlighted his simple way of living and his special ways of keeping in touch with people. PM Modi also recalled spending time at Venkaiah Ji’s residence during festivities. The Prime Minister touched upon the contributions made by personalities like Shri Naidu towards Indian politics. Referring to the three books released today, the Prime Minister said that they present the journey of Venkaiah Ji’s life, which is a source of inspiration for the younger generations.

The Prime Minister concluded his address by reminiscing & reciting a few lines of a poem which he had dedicated to Shri Naidu in the Rajya Sabha once. Shri Modi once again congratulated & wished Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji on completing 75 years of his life’s journey. Shri Modi expressed confidence that a Developed India (Viksit Bharat) would be celebrating its “century of freedom” in 2047 while Naidu Ji would be celebrating his centennial milestone.

### **Venkaiah Naidu's rise through the ranks**

As a young man in Andhra Pradesh’s Nellore, outgoing vice president Venkaiah Naidu was drawn to a shakha (branch) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, tempted by the games that he saw being played there. Muppavaru Venkaiah Naidu, outgoing vice-president of India and chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, is a man of many parts — an organisational man steeped in his party’s ideology, crisis manager, stickler for time, quick-witted, raconteur, badminton player and a gourmet. It was his love for food, particularly non-vegetarian dishes, that played a key role in cementing his political affiliation and ideological affirmation. As a young man in Andhra Pradesh’s Nellore, he was drawn to a shakha (branch) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, tempted by the games that he saw being played there. Over time, he began to spend more time with the Jana Sangh, the precursor to the Bharatiya Janata Party, but it was not till an off-the-cuff remark by a political acquaintance — that his party affiliation would demand an alteration of his food choices — that compelled him to think hard of his political preference.

### **M Venkaiah Naidu: to know about him**

NDA nominee M Venkaiah Naidu was today elected as the next Vice President of India by securing over two-thirds of votes leaving opposition candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi far behind. Naidu got 516 votes out of total 771 votes cast while Gandhi could only manage 244 votes. Of the total 771 votes polled, 11 were found to be invalid. Although 785 MPs are there in both the Houses of Parliament, 14 MPs could not vote. Naidu will be the 13th person to hold the second highest Constitutional post in the country. The strength of the electoral college comprising both elected and nominated MPs of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha is 790. While there are two vacancies in the LS, three seats are vacant in the RS also. One BJP Lok Sabha MP is barred from voting following a judicial pronouncement.

1. Naidu, 68, entered the RSS by accident – his links began in childhood when he chanced upon a 'shakha' while playing. Within some decades, he was the BJP's best known leader from southern India, one famous for witty one-liners.

2. A key member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet, Naidu cut his political teeth during the Emergency when he went underground against the government of Indira Gandhi and eventually got jailed. He remained underground until his arrest, distributing anti-government literature in educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, travelling on a scooter along with a woman activist on pillion in a bid not to arouse suspicion. He was accused of disturbing a meeting of Sanjay Gandhi and handcuffed during transit from one jail to the other.

3. Naidu hit the national scene when he was one of the prominent opposition spokespersons along with S Jaipal Reddy, who was then in Janata Party, during the campaign by NT Rama Rao after his dismissal as the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister by Indira Gandhi in the 1980s.

4. A quick-witted and effective communicator steeped in RSS/BJP ideology, Naidu rose from the ranks to become the party President and a Union Minister.

5. Naidu has been a trouble-shooter for the government as also one of its best communicators with his alliterative and catchy one-liners. He has friends across political parties. It will help him as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha where the BJP still does not have a majority.

6. Naidu is quick to respond to criticism from the opposition. He has handled key organisational assignments in the BJP and became its President in 2002.

7. Naidu had three continuous terms in the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka from 1998 to 2016, when he shifted to Rajasthan to get a fourth term.

8. He was Rural Development Minister during the first NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, his inspiration along with senior party leader LK Advani.

9. With Modi scripting BJP's success in 2014, Naidu described him as the most popular Indian leader, the most credible political personality and among the top 10 leaders of the world. He is credited with coining the acronym MODI – 'Making Of Developed India', a BJP favourite.

10. He was President of the youth wing of the Janata Party in Andhra Pradesh from 1977 to 1980. After Emergency, he was elected to the Andhra Pradesh assembly in 1978 and was a



legislator till 1985. After the BJP was formed in 1980, he became Vice president of its youth wing. He was leader of the BJP Legislature Party in Andhra Pradesh, state general secretary and state unit chief. Naidu was the BJP general secretary in 1993-2000 and its spokesperson in between.

### **Conclusion**

Venkaiah Naidu will be remembered for leaving behind a Vice Presidency that was incredibly active in the public sphere while bringing efficiency, order and discipline to the functioning of the Rajya Sabha. With Vice-President Muppavarupu Venkaiah Naidu's tenure set to conclude on 10 August, this is an appropriate time to recollect the highlights of a long, creative and eventful public life. My study about Venkaiah Naidu garu began from 2016 when he was the Union minister of information and broadcasting, and further I started studying about his struggles and efforts from student leader to the vice president of India. The patriotic sentiments expressed in my article highlight the tireless efforts of Venkaiah Naidu in his unrelenting fight for the integrity and unity of India, consistently addressing the issues of the people and the country. His services are immensely important for India, and therefore, it is necessary for the nation to place Venkaiah Naidu in an even higher position to meet the needs of the country.

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