



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Kamala Kasturi



Recently, Mrs. Kamala Kasturi passed away. She was an **environmentalist who contributed to protecting the environment** and was the **founder of the Environment Society, Chennai**. She was involved in several environmental protection projects and the campaign **to save the Cauvery River** from several dyeing units and take up the cleaning of the river. She had **participated in several tree planting campaigns** and was also a **petitioner in the public interest litigation (PIL) petition against the slaughterhouse which was proposed to be constructed in Red Hills** (Sengundram, Tamil Nadu).

Read More: [Cauvery River & Related Disputes](#)

Sansad Ratna Awards

The **13th edition of the Sansad Ratna award function** will be held on 25th March 2023 in New Delhi. The Sansad Ratna Awards **were instituted at the suggestion of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam to honour top-performing Parliamentarians**. He **himself launched the first edition of the Award function in 2010 in Chennai**. Till now, 90 top-performing Parliamentarians have been honoured. The **13th edition will be making history as it crosses the century of awards mark**.

Read More: [Parliament](#), [Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam](#)

Vinyl Chloride: A Threat to Human Body

Vinyl chloride, the chemical in several of the train cars that derailed and burned in East Palestine, Ohio recently **can be extremely harmful to the human liver**. The liver is the **body's filter for removing toxicants from the blood**. Specialized cells known as **hepatocytes help reduce the toxicity of drugs, alcohol, caffeine and environmental chemicals** and then send away the waste to be excreted.

The chemical **has been shown to cause liver cancer, as well as a nonmalignant liver disease known as TASH, or toxicant-associated steatohepatitis**. Vinyl chloride **is used to produce Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)**, a hard plastic used for pipes, as well as in some packaging, coatings and wires.

India's First Hybrid Rocket

Recently, **India's first hybrid-sounding rocket by private players was launched from Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu**. Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, **launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023**.

The organisations mentioned that 5,000 students were involved in the project. The selected **students designed and constructed a student satellite launch vehicle** (rocket) and **150 PICO satellites** (satellites at a mass below 1 kg, implemented by use of modern miniaturization techniques) research experiment cubes that contained different payloads. **The rocket can be used for research in weather, atmospheric conditions and radiation**.

Hybrid rocket is a bipropellant rocket engine which uses propellants that are in two different states, typically liquid and solid, which when reacted, create exhaust gases suitable for rocket propulsion.

In 2022, **the Space technology startup Skyroot Aerospace also sent India's first privately developed rocket Vikram-S**. It is a single-stage spin-stabilised solid propellant rocket with a mass of approximately 545 kgs.

Read More: [India's Space Ecosystem](#), [Vikram -S](#)

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