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Birth Anniversary of Shankar Dayal Sharma observed

- President Ram Nath Kovind paid floral tributes to former President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 19th August 2020.
- Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma is regarded as a multifaceted personality, a scholar, a prominent lawyer, a freedom fighter and a writer of repute.
- He was the **ninth President of India**, serving from 1992 to 1997. Prior to his presidency, Sharma had been the **eighth Vice President of India**, serving **under R. Venkataraman**.
- He was also the Chief Minister of Bhopal State, and Cabinet Minister, holding the portfolios of Education, Law, Public Works, Industry and Commerce, National Resources and Separate Revenue.
- He was the **President of the Indian National Congress** in 1972–1974 and returned to the **Government as Union Minister for Communications** from 1974 to 1977.

Rail Bicycle introduced by Indian Railways

- As part of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, **Indian Railways** has introduced an **innovative system to ensure passenger security** in the country.
- The national transporter introduced a novel mechanism, Rail Bicycle to quickly travel on rail tracks for inspections, monitoring, and urgent repairs.
- With the help of Rail Bicycle, any emergency location can be easily reached for urgent repairs.
- Rail Bicycle is also very helpful for Hot Weather Patrolling as well as daily monitoring of the rail tracks. Rail Bicycle is a light-weight structure, the cycle can be easily assembled and dismantled by one person.

Drone based surveillance system introduced by Railways

- Indian Railways have introduced Drone based surveillance system for Railway security. The Railway Protection Force, RPF has planned extensive use of drones for the purpose of Railway security.
- Nine drones have been procured by RPF so far at a cost of around 32 lakhs at South Eastern Railway, Central Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, Raebareli and South Western Railway.
- Mumbai Division of Central Railway has recently procured two Ninja UAVs for better security and surveillance in Railway areas like station premises, Railway track sections, yards, and workshops.

<u>IIT Madras retains top position amongst innovative educational institutes</u> in India

• Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year.



- The **premier institute** has been **ranked number-one in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,**' released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu in a virtual event.
- The ranking was launched last year by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. 674 Institutions of National Importance, Central Universities and centrally funded technical institutions participated in the rankings this year, as compared to 496 last year.

Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Kita resigned

- Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has announced his resignation amid a military coup.
- Keita, who was democratically elected and re-elected, was left with few
 choices after the mutinous soldiers seized weapons from the armoury in
 the garrison town of Kati and then advanced on the capital of
 Bamako.
- Soldiers detained Mali's president and prime minister after surrounding a residence and firing into the air in an apparent coup.

'Ek Sankalp- Bujurgo ke naam' campaign

- In Madhya Pradesh, a unique campaign 'Ek Sankalp Bujurgo ke naam' i.e. 'a commitment for elders' is being run by the Chhatarpur Police during corona infection in the state.
- Renowned social worker Anna Hazare has also praised this campaign being run specifically for the elderly and helpless people.
- This **unique campaign** is proving to be a **boon for the elderly people** living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.
- In this campaign, the **police are taking care of the elderly people** from the food to their health.
- Renowned social activist Anna Hazare has also praised this initiative of Chhatarpur Police.
- By this campaign, the **motto of Madhya Pradesh Police- Desh Bhakti-Jansewa** has now become a reality.

Microplastic became a global concern

- With **new reports emerging every day** small particles are **killing aquatic life and threatening ecosystems** around the globe.
- The recent study undertaken at Arizona State University claims that miniscule particles of plastic exist in human tissues.
- For the study 47 human tissue samples were considered from various human body parts like lungs and liver.