

### Bihar Special

**Sharad Kumar**

**Why in the news?**

Sharad Kumar from Muzaffarpur, Bihar who was former world No 1 in Para high jump, wins Silver at Paris Paralympics, 2024.



### Science And Technology

**OpenAI's New AI Model - Project Strawberry**

**Why in the news?**

OpenAI is expected to release its most advanced AI model, Project Strawberry, between September and November 2024. This new model might be integrated into the updated version of ChatGPT, called ChatGPT-5.

❖ **Project Details:**

- **Original Name:** Initially known as Project Q (Q-star).
- **New Name:** Now called Project Strawberry.

- **Purpose:** It will have advanced abilities like doing research on the internet by itself and better reasoning skills.
- **Main Goal:** To develop an AI that can think and learn in ways similar to the human brain, which is known as Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).

❖ **Future Developments:** Project Orion which is expected to be even more advanced than GPT-4. It will use the improvements from Project Strawberry and high-quality synthetic data.



### Defence And Security

**Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) Approval**

**Why in the news?**

The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved 10 capital acquisition proposals totaling ₹1.44 lakh crore.

- ❖ This includes replacing the Russian-origin T72 tanks with Future Ready Combat Vehicles under the Make in India initiative.
- ❖ The Coast Guard will also acquire new aircraft and patrol vessels.

#### Futuristic Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs):

- ❖ **Purpose:** FRCVs are advanced main battle tanks designed for future warfare to modernize the Indian Army's armored corps.
- ❖ **Features:** Superior mobility, all-terrain capability, multi-layered protection, precision, lethal firepower, real-time situational awareness.
- ❖ **Quantity:** 1,770 FRCVs planned for induction.
- ❖ **Induction:** Planned in three phases.
- ❖ **Service Life:** Expected to be in service for 35 to 45 years.
- ❖ **Design:** Incorporates niche technology and digitized data architecture for next-generation operational capabilities.



#### Schemes In News

##### AgriSURE Scheme

##### Why in the news?

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, launched the AgriSURE Scheme in New Delhi.

##### Scheme Overview:

- ❖ **AgriSURE:** Agri Fund for Start-ups & Rural Enterprises.
- ❖ **Purpose:** To revolutionize the agricultural landscape by supporting technology-driven, high-risk, high-impact ventures in agriculture and rural enterprises.
- ❖ **Fund Structure:**
  - **Total Amount:** ₹750 crore.
  - **Contribution:**
    - ✓ Government of India: ₹250 crore.
    - ✓ NABARD: ₹250 crore.
    - ✓ Banks, Insurance Companies, and Private Investors: ₹250 crore.

##### Investment Details:

- ❖ **Type:** Registered with SEBI as a Category II, Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

### Objective:

- ❖ To promote start-ups using technology to tackle agricultural problems.
- ❖ Provide technological support to help farmers increase their productivity and financial stability.
- ❖ To improve farming practices and boost rural businesses through tech-based solutions.



### Index and Report

#### WHO: South-East Asia Regional status report on road safety

#### Why in the news?

In 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the Global South-East Asia Regional status report on road safety. The report highlighted a decrease in global road traffic deaths from 1.25 million in 2010 to 1.19 million in 2021—a 5% reduction over 11 years.

- ❖ The Report highlights the following about road safety in the South-East Asia region:

- Road traffic deaths per 100,000 population remain high in South-East Asia.
- The South-East Asia region accounts for 28% of global road traffic deaths, with an estimated 330,222 deaths.

#### ❖ High death rates

- The highest estimated death rates are in Nepal, Thailand, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.
- In 2021, Nepal (28.2), Thailand (25.4), Myanmar (19.3), Bangladesh (18.6), and India (15.4) had death rates higher than the global average of 15 per 100,000 population.

#### ❖ Low death rate

- The Maldives has the lowest estimated road traffic death rate in the region at 13 per 100,000 population.

#### PHUKET Framework for Action

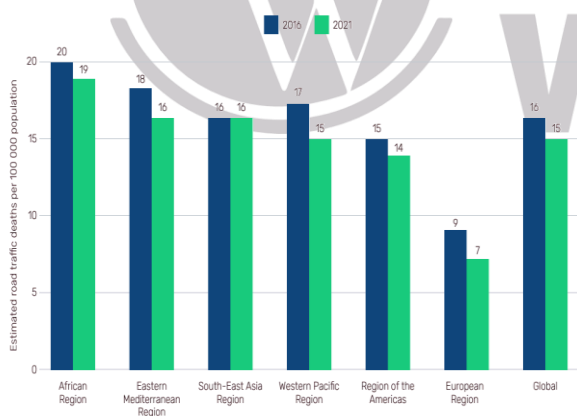
- ❖ The WHO has also signed the PHUKET Framework for Action to protect vulnerable road users.

- ❖ The PHUKET Framework is set for a five-year period (2018-2022), with specific milestones: short-term actions to be completed by 2019 and long-term actions by 2022. These time-bound actions are designed to ensure steady progress in road safety improvements.

### UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021-2030)

- ❖ Adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2020.
- ❖ Aims to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% by 2030.

Fig. 1. Estimated road traffic death rates per 100 000 population across the WHO regions, in 2016 and 2021



### News in Short

- ❖ The World Bank has increased its growth forecast for India to 7% for the current financial year (FY25). This is an improvement from the earlier projection of 6.6%.
- ❖ World Food India 2024 is scheduled to take place from September 19 to September 22, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ❖ Launched on August 26, 2021, by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, the eShram portal has registered over 30 crore unorganised workers in just three years.



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