

**Bihar Special****Water Transversality Global Award 2024****Why in the news?**

Bihar will be awarded with Water Transversality Global Award, 2024.

- ❖ This honour will be given to Bihar in a programme organised by India Water Foundation on 6 December in New Delhi.
- ❖ The state has been selected for this award for its better performance in climate-friendly agriculture programs.

**About the award:**

- ❖ The Water Transversality Global Award, 2024 is presented by the India Water Foundation with the main objective of encouraging all stakeholders in water and related sectors to adopt a holistic approach and bring synergy towards environmental protection and management in the country.
- ❖ The aim of this award is to give more inter-sectoral emphasis on the achievement of better water management strategies.

**Climate Friendly Agriculture Program in Bihar**

- ❖ Climate Friendly Agriculture Program is being implemented in 5 villages of all districts of Bihar with the help of Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA), Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Patna.
- ❖ The main objective of this program is to empower the small and marginal farmers of the state to deal with the challenges of climate change by using climate friendly technologies.

**Polity And Governance****'Boilers Bill, 2024'****Why in the news?**

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Boilers Bill 2024.

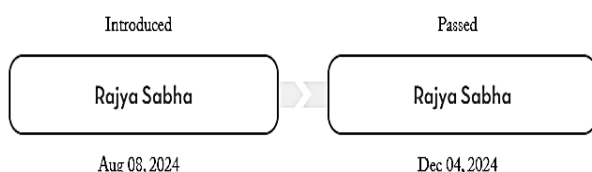
- ❖ The Boilers Bill, 2024 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 8, 2024.
- ❖ Objective: It aims to decriminalise seven offences and promote ease of doing business.

### Highlights of the Bill:

- ❖ The Boilers Bill, 2024 seeks to replace the Boilers Act, 1923. It retains most of the provisions of the Boilers Act, 1923.
- ❖ Boiler manufacturers must get the design of boilers and boiler components certified. Manufacturing and erection of a boiler will be subject to inspection and certification.
- ❖ The boiler must be registered before starting operation, and registration must be renewed for continued operation. Alterations and repair can be undertaken only after obtaining prior approval. All accidents must be reported within 24 hours.
- ❖ For issuing certificates, the state government will appoint Inspectors. Certain third parties may also be authorised to undertake inspection. The central government will constitute the Central Boilers Board to frame regulations.

### The Boilers Bill, 2024

Ministry: Commerce and Industry



### International Relations

#### Second India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue

##### Why in the news?

The second India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue was convened in New Delhi on 3 December 2024.

- ❖ The Indian delegation was led by **Piyush Srivastava**, Joint Secretary, Europe West, Ministry of External Affairs, and **Vishwesh Negi**, Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The UK delegation was led by **Ben Mellor**, India Director, Indian Ocean Directorate, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and **Shimon Fhima**, Director Strategic Programmes, Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ It was agreed that the **third edition of the dialogue** will be held in the UK at a mutually convenient date in 2025.

##### Key Discussions:

- ❖ The delegations reviewed progress under the **India-UK Roadmap 2030** and agreed on the need to revitalize the partnership by identifying new focus areas of collaboration and work towards a refreshed roadmap.

- ❖ The two sides appreciated the progress on diverse sectors including the launch of new key initiatives such as the Technology and Security Initiative, UK- India Infrastructure Finance Bridge, Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership, and progress on the Defence Industrial Roadmap.



### Schemes In News

#### National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) Portal

##### Why in the news?

The Department of Consumer Affairs is developing the National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) to integrate State Legal Metrology Departments into a unified National System.

##### ❖ Objective:

- It aims to streamline processes for issuing licenses, conducting verifications and managing enforcement and compliance.

##### ❖ Significance:

- By creating a centralized data-base, eMaap eliminates the need for stakeholders to register on multiple State Portals, fostering ease of doing business and transparency in trade practices.

##### Advantages of eMaap Portal:

- ❖ It simplifies critical procedures such as issuing, renewing, and amending licenses, as well as handling verification & stamping of weighing & measuring instruments, registration certificates, and appeals, etc.
- ❖ For traders and industries:
  - It minimizes compliance burdens, reduces paperwork and ensures timely adherence to the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Rules made thereunder, creating a transparent and conducive business environment.
  - The portal is also expected to significantly boost manufacturing growth by fostering efficiency and accountability.

❖ **For consumers:**

- It ensures that trade instruments are verified for accuracy, enhancing confidence in market transactions.
- It provides a transparent legal metrology system, allowing easy access to certificates and promoting awareness of rights and responsibilities.

❖ **For Governments:**

- It enables data-driven decision-making, streamlines enforcement activities, and facilitates policy formation, ensuring a robust and efficient regulatory framework.

### Awards and Honors

#### Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024

##### Why in the news?

Nurse Maria Victoria Juan has been announced as the winner of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024.



- ❖ She is a Consultant at Philippines Army Health Services and Colonel, Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.
- ❖ She has been awarded with USD 250,000 at a prestigious award ceremony held in Bengaluru, India.

##### About the Award:

- ❖ Launched in 2021, the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award recognizes the critical role of nurses in healthcare.

### Important Days/ Dates

#### World Soil Day

##### Why in the news?

World Soil Day is celebrated annually on 5 December.

- ❖ **Objective:** to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.





❖ **History of this day:**

- An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.
- Under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, FAO has supported the formal establishment of WSD as a global awareness raising platform.
- The FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013 and requested its official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly.
- In December 2013, the UN General Assembly responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

❖ **Theme 2024 :** "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage".

**News in Short**

- ❖ BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis took oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the third time on 6th December, 2024.

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) at the level of foreign ministers.
- ❖ US President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Paul Atkins, a former commissioner of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to be the agency's chairman.
- ❖ French Prime Minister Michel Barnier's government has lost a confidence vote in the National Assembly leading to his ouster within just three months of his term.
- ❖ As per the written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur:
  - The Sex Ratio at Birth of girl child in the country has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24.

➤ The National Gross Enrollment ratio of girls in school at the secondary level has increased from 75 per cent in 2014-15 to 79.4 per cent in 2021-22.

❖ NITI Aayog has launched the “Trade Watch Quarterly” in New Delhi.

➤ It was released by the Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, Suman Bery.

➤ The trade watch publication offers a holistic snapshot of India's trade position, combining global demand-supply perspectives, sectoral performance, and insights into emerging trade opportunities.

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