# Prelim Bits 07-08-2017

## e-RaKAM

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- Government has recently launched a portal named e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (E-RaKAM).
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- The digital platform portal enables enable farmers to sell their agricultural products through auction.
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- Various E-Rakam centers are being developed to facilitate farmers for online sale their products across the country.
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- The farmers would get the payment for their products directly into their bank accounts without any intermediaries.
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- CWRC, a subsidiary of the Central Warehousing Corporation Ltd, will provide logistics support for sellers and buyers in case they need it.
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## Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata

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- It is the scheme launched by the Ministry of Textiles for handloom weavers.
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- The scheme aims to improve earnings of the handlooms weavers.
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- It helps to meet the needs of the handloom weavers for assistance for looms and accessories on larger scale with an objective to improve quality of fabric and productivity.
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- Under this scheme, GoI assists the weaver by bearing 90% of the cost of new looms so that they do not have to bear the heavy financial burden.
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## National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)

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- NABI is the first Agri-Food and Nutritional based Biotechnology Institute set up by the Dept. of Biotechnology in Mohali.
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- The institute provides quality research in the field of agricultural biotechnology and innovative technologies in the field of food processing.
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- Their products of nutritionally rich crops and processing of crop residues will be provided to the local farming communities to increase their income.
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- They are acting as nodal agencies for local organization in the areas Agri food and nutritional biotechnolgy.
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- Under reach to community program NABI is playing an important role in conducting motivational course to the students of local schools to increase their awareness in life sciences.
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## Chemicals banned in firecrackers

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- Central Pollution Control Board recently labeled five chemicals as toxic in the manufacturing of firecrackers. Consequently, SC has banned the use of those chemicals in its recent order.
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- The banned chemicals include antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead.
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- The court entrusted the responsibility to ensure compliance to the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO).
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- Antimony – A chemical element with symbol “Sb” is used in the production of heads of safety ammunition, explosives and fireworks.
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- Mercury – A Chemical element with symbol “Hg” is commonly known as

quick silver and only metallic element that is liquid in standard room temperature and pressure.
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- It is mainly used as a trigger for other explosives and sensitive to friction, heat and shock.
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- Arsenic – A Chemical element with symbol “As” is generally non-combustible. Arsine is used as an agent in chemical warfare, thus several countries have regulations on its use owing to its highly inflammable nature.
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- Lead – Lead is denoted by symbol “Pb”, found in most heavy grade explosives. Due to its explosive nature it is used in most detonators to initiate big explosions.
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- Lithium - A highly volatile element, lithium is flammable, and it is potentially explosive when exposed to air and especially to water, though less so than other alkali metals.
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## PESO

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- Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation is under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
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- It is a statutory authority, which is entrusted with the responsibilities under the Explosives Act, 1884; Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952, Environment (Protection Act), 1986.
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- Its mission is to control and administer the usage of explosives, petrol stations in India.
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- It frames rules related to safety in manufacture, storage, transport and handling of explosives, petroleum, compressed gases and other hazardous substances.
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- The procurement of raw materials for fireworks does not come under the purview of the Explosives Act.
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- The PESO has been testing samples of crackers only for adherence to the sound limit of 125 decibels at a distance of four metres.
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## US- India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

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- USISPF is a new representative body set up to further enhances business relations between the two countries.
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- The non-profit corporation aims to promote bilateral trade and will work closely together with businesses and government leaders to achieve economic growth, job creation, innovation, inclusion and entrepreneurship.
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## Venus Satellite

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- The Venus satellite (Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite) is an earth-observation micro-satellite.
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- It is designed jointly by Israel's agency and France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES).
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- The scientific mission will monitor Earth's vegetation using a camera capable of recording 12 narrow spectral bands.
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- The microsatellite will send high-resolution photos to track climate change and aid efforts to tackle desertification, erosion, and pollution.
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