

August 1st news:

National:

Health Ministry and EIT signs MoU

National Health Agency (NHA) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the apex body for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), and Common Service Centres (CSC) scheme under the Digital India Programme, have inked an MoU to provide information and eligibility validation services to beneficiaries, especially in remote areas. Mr. Nadda said, with this MoU, the dream of Digital India is taking a big leap. The Ayushman Bharat shall benefit 55 crore people across the country.

Bilateral:

US elevates India's status to ease export controls

The US has eased export controls for high-technology product sales to India by designating it as a Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country.

The granting of STA-1 status to India comes after the US recognized India as a Major Defense Partner in 2016, a designation that allows India to buy more advanced and sensitive technologies from America at par with that of the US closest allies and partners, and ensures enduring cooperation into the future.

The designation authorizes the export, re-export and transfer of specified items on the Commerce Control List (CCL) to destinations posing a low risk of unauthorized or impermissible uses.

Currently there are 36 countries on STA-1 list. India is the only South Asian country to be on the list. Other Asian countries designated as STA-1 are Japan and South Korea.

First 'Nepal-India Think Tank' Summit held in Kathmandu

The first 'Nepal-India Think Tank' Summit to foster greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the think tanks of the two countries was held in Kathmandu on 31st July. The summit was jointly organized by the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs and Nehru Memorial Museum Library. The participants including think tanks, policy makers, diplomats, academicians, businesspersons and journalists deliberated on the Indo-Nepal ties and its dimensions in different sessions

Economy:

Eight core sector industries' growth climbs to 6.7 per cent in June

Eight core sector industries registered seven-month high growth of 6.7 per cent in June this year. According to the data released today by the commerce and industry ministry, eight sectors including coal, refinery products, fertilizers, steel and cement showed better performance due to better outcome by cement, refinery and coal segments.

The release said that the expansion in cement was 13.2 per cent, in refinery products 12 per cent and coal 11.5 per cent year-on-year basis.

Crude oil registered a negative growth of 3.4 per cent while natural gas witnessed a negative growth of 2.7 per cent in June compared to the year-ago period.

Steel sector, however, witnessed a slower growth of 4.4 per cent compared to 6 per cent in June 2017. The core sector had logged 3.6 per cent growth in May 2017, which was a 10-month low due to a decline in production of crude oil and natural gas.