Headlines at a Glance - 15th September 2021

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Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Millet Mission' to become millet hub of India

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel recently said that the state will become the millet hub of the country in the coming times. He said that the "Millet Mission" initiative is aimed at giving the farmers the right price for small cereal crops, provide input assistance, procurement arrangements, processing and ensure that the farmers get benefit of the expertise of experts. "Like minor forest produce, we want to make small grain crops also the strength of Chhattisgarh," said Baghel at an event organised for signing of MoU between Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad and the collectors of 14 Chhattisgarh districts under "Millet Mission" of the state.

SOURCE: Business Standard

IIT-Bombay launches 'Project Udaan'

With an aim to break the language barrier that many students face when they join institutes of higher education, IIT-Bombay today launched 'Project Udaan', that enables translation of textbooks and other study material related to engineering and other streams. The virtual inauguration, which coincided with Hindi Diwas, was attended by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Dr. Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan as the chief guest. The project, envisaged by Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan, Institute Chair Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, is a donation based project. Prof. Ganesh and his team have built an Artificial Intelligence-based translation ecosystem, which can help translate engineering textbooks and learning materials

in one-sixth the time it would take for a team consisting of domain and linguistic experts working manually.

SOURCE: The Hindu

India, Singapore launch project to link UPI and PayNow for instant fund transfers

India and Singapore will link their respective fast payment systems — Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow — to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis, the Reserve Bank said recently. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) announced the project to link the fast payment systems. The linkage is targeted for operationalisation by July 2022, the RBI said in a statement. RBI said the UPI-PayNow linkage is a significant milestone in the development of infrastructure for cross-border payments between India and Singapore, and closely aligns with the G20's financial inclusion priorities of driving faster, cheaper and more transparent cross-border payments.

SOURCE: The Indian Express

Agricultural Ministry signs five MoUs with private companies

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Tuesday signed 5 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for pilot projects with five private companies — CISCO, Ninjacart, Jio Platforms Limited, ITC Limited and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML). According to the Agriculture Ministry, Jio Platforms Limited will conduct its pilot project to provide advisories to farmers in two districts of Maharashtra- Jalna and Nasik. The ITC Limited has signed the MoU for building a "Customized 'Site Specific Crop Advisory' service." According to the Ministry, Cisco will "conceptualize a Proof of Concept in effective knowledge sharing between farmers, administration, academia and industry" in two districts-Kaithal (Haryana) and Morena (Madhya Pradesh). Under its MoU with the Ministry, the NCDEX e Markets Limited (NeML) will work on four services-Market Linkages, Aggregation of demand, Financial Linkages and Data Sanitization- across three Districts-Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Devanagere (Karnataka) and Nasik (Maharashtra).

SOURCE: The Indian Express