

FICCI to lead Indian Higher Education leaders' delegation to NAFSA, 2017 at Los Angeles, USA; to set up '*StudyInIndia Pavilion*'

NEW DELHI, 26 May 2017: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with the support of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India and Service Export Promotion Council and in partnership with Education Promotion Society for India, is leading a delegation of over 50 Indian Higher Education leaders to the 69th Annual NAFSA conference scheduled to be held on **FROM 28 May to 2 June 2017** in Los Angeles, USA and would be setting up a '*StudyInIndia Pavilion*'.

The delegation comprises leading Higher Education Institutions' Promoters and Vice Chancellors, Industry Leaders and Government officials. The NAFSA 2017 Annual Conference & Expo promises to be one of the largest international education events ever. More than 10,000 international learners, educators and change makers are expected to attend the conference from over 100 countries.

The key objectives of the Indian delegation is to facilitate the visiting members to explore the opportunity of forging international partnerships, showcasing the best practices of Indian Higher Education systems at a global platform and also organizing road shows to promote FICCI's 13th Higher Education Summit & Exhibition which is scheduled for 9-11 November in New Delhi, with the support of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Services Export Promotion Council.

"The current decade is an opportunity for Indian Institutions to make a mark at a global level and showcase its best practices of innovations which has created a start-up culture. We are ready to win the confidence of global stakeholders at a platform like NAFSA", said **Dr. Rajan Saxena, Chair, FICCI's Higher Education Committee and Vice Chancellor, NMIS.**

"Participating in NAFSA through StudyInIndia pavilion is an opportunity for Indian Higher Education Institutions to gain valuable global perspective and insights on all the areas of international education administration, student services, faculty development and research & innovation and showcase their strengths and leverage collaboration possibilities." said **Dr. A Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI.**

In the same context, recent government's initiatives like IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) and and soon to be implemented Global Research Interaction Network (GRIN) highlights government's thrust to promote new age research and innovation. Further, to match the 21st century skill requirements, the government's initiative of setting up of 20 World Class universities that will have enabling regulatory architecture, is indeed very apt and laudable. With an initial corpus of INR 1000 crores, the government proposes to create a not-for-profit Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to "leverage funds from the market" and support infrastructural improvements for those 20 universities. The Union HRD Ministry is in the process of devising a mechanism for providing graded autonomy to Universities/HEIs through a rating mechanism. It is proposed

that the well performing institutions (both public and private) would be granted full autonomy, the mediocre institutions would be subjected to partial autonomy and the non-performing ones will have no autonomy and will be subject to full regulation.

Mr Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global Education and Chair, FICCI Skill Development Committee said, “The demographic dividend and its energy is channelized to embrace applied knowledge and innovations, which is critical in translating India into a global human resource hub.” The Indian Higher Education Sector witnesses spends of over Rs 46,200 crore (US\$ 6.93 billion), and it is expected to grow at an average annual rate of over 18 per cent to reach Rs 232,500 crore (US\$ 34.87 billion) in next 10 years. He said, “NAFSA will be a perfect platform to present India as a favored destination for global educators”.

FICCI MEDIA DIVISION