Montek for removal of ‘dysfunctional regulation’ in Indian higher education

Inaugurates two-day FICCI Higher Education Summit 2011

NEW DELHI, November 11, 2011. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, today stressed the need for the removal of “dysfunctional regulation” in India’s higher education and called for “flexible regulation’ to raise the standards of higher education in India.

Inaugurating FICCI Higher Education Summit 2011: Strategies for Expansion in Higher Education in India’, Mr. Ahluwalia said, “The challenge before planners, policy makers and educationists, both in the public and private sector, was of producing world class Indian universities that could be counted in the top 200 rating list.” In the next 20 years we must see a significant number of educational institutions in that category, he declared.

Mr. Ahluwalia also underlined the need to lend an international flavour to Indian universities by inducting international faculty. This would not happen unless the government removes the restriction on employment of international faculty, he said.

For higher education, the 12th Plan objective was expansion, equality of access and excellence. The aim was to raise the gross enrolment ratio from the current level of 15 per cent to 30 per cent over the next 15 years. “Expansion of higher education has to be balanced with equality of access, especially for those living in areas where educational institutes did not exist,” he said.

Earlier, Mr. Ahluwalia released the FICCI-Ernst & Young knowledge paper on ‘Private sector participation in Indian higher education’ and the FICCI-Synovate report on “Perceptions on Higher Education’.

The inaugural session was addressed by Dr Daniel C Levy, Distinguished Professor, University at Albany, State University of New York and Director, Program for Research on Private Higher Education (PROPHE); Prof. David Naylor, President, University of Toronto, Canada; Dr. Lin Tsong-ming, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Taiwan; Mr. Michael Russel, Member of Scottish Parliament, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning; Mr. Harsh Mariwala, President, FICCI; Prof. M Anandakrishnan, Chairman, FICCI Higher Education Committee and Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT, Kanpur; and Prof. Rajan Saxena, Co-Chair, FICCI Higher Education Committee and Vice Chancellor, NMIMS University.