Introduction:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has played an important role in the process of globalisation during the past two decades. The rapid expansion in FDI by multinational enterprises may be attributed to significant changes in technologies, greater liberalisation of trade and investment regimes, and deregulation and privatisation of markets in many countries including developing countries like India.

The early nineties was a period when the Indian economy faced a severe Balance of Payments crisis. Exports began to experience serious difficulties. The crippling external debts were putting pressure on the economy. In view of all these developments there was a serious treat of the economy defaulting in respect of external payments liability. It was in the light of such adverse situations that the policy makers decided to adopt a more liberal and global approach, thereby opening its door to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in order to restore the confidence of foreign investors.

There is no specific definition of FDI owing to the presence of many authorities like the OECD, IMF, IBRD, and UNCTAD. All these bodies attempt to illustrate the nature of FDI with certain measuring methodologies. Conceptually, the key feature that distinguishes FDI from other capital flows is the intention to exercise control over a firm.

The UNCTAD defines Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as an investment involving a long-term relationship and reflecting a lasting interest and control by a resident entity in one economy (foreign direct investor or parent enterprise) in an enterprise resident in an economy other than that of the foreign direct investor (FDI enterprise or affiliate enterprise or foreign affiliate). FDI has three components: equity capital, reinvested earnings and intra-company loans.

As defined in the Balance of Payments Manual, direct investment is that category of international investment that reflects the objective of a resident entity (i.e., the direct investor) in one economy obtaining a lasting interest in an enterprise (i.e., the direct investment enterprise) in another economy. Implicitly, lasting interest is taken to imply the existence of a long-term relationship between the direct investor and the enterprise and a significant degree of influence on the management of the enterprise.

In a related vein, the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment explicitly specifies that a direct investment enterprise is an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise in which a direct investor owns 10 percent or more of the ordinary share or voting power. The

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10 per cent ownership threshold has become the practical guideline for determining the existence of a direct investment relationship.

There are two basic types of foreign direct investment. Foreign direct investment can take the form of green-field investment in a new establishment or the merger and acquisition (M&A) of an existing local enterprise. While both involve the management control of a resident entity in one country by an entity in another, the motivation behind green-field investment and M&As could be different, as could their impact on the host economy. There has been a continuing, though unresolved, debate between the impact of greenfield investment versus M&A on the host economy.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is an important component of capital flows in financial globalisation. Though the vast literature lacks consensus on the benefits of financial globalisation, FDI is believed to be one of the most important channels through which financial globalisation benefits the economy. FDI is also the least volatile form of capital flows, making countries less vulnerable to sudden stops or reversals of flows. FDI provides a situation wherein both the host and the home nations derive some benefits. The home countries want to take the advantage of the vast markets opened by industrial growth. Whereas the host countries get to acquire resources ranging from financial, capital, entrepreneurship, technological know-how and managerial skills which assist it in supplementing its domestic savings and foreign exchange. Given their importance, all countries today seek to attract FDI (which was not always the case and may change again), with a view toward reaping benefits for their competitiveness, economic performance, growth and development.

In the present development paradigm of India, foreign capital flows i.e. foreign direct investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) have critical roles to play. However, foreign capital is inherently opportunities in alliance, i.e. always looking out for greener pastures. Therefore, a foreign capital flows are not without perils. Never the less, it is fact that for developing economies like India, external capital is an opportunity worth utilising, provided that it keeps its watchful eyes on the perils and machinations of the foreign capital flows and constantly endeavours to minimise the implications.

FDI in Multi-brand retail sector created uproar in the Parliament. Consequently, it has now become the debatable issue among corporates, political groups, academicians and industrialists. Both the schools of thought, for and against, put forward their views supported by various economic, social, political and other economic arguments.

Developing country transnational corporations (TNCs) are increasing its importance in the global economy. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from developing economies including
India have become remarkable. This phenomenon reflects that developing country firms have succeeded in global market places, and have elevated its status from domestic market players to become global players.

Prospects for foreign direct investment (FDI) continue to be fraught with risks and uncertainties. A broader development policy agenda is emerging that has inclusive and sustainable development goals at its core. For investment policy, this new paradigm poses specific challenges. At the national level they include integrating investment policy into development strategy, incorporating sustainable development objectives, and ensuring relevance and effectiveness. At the international level it is necessary to strengthen the development dimension of international investment agreements, manage their complexity, and balance the rights and obligations of States and investors. Mobilising investment for sustainable development is essential in this era of persistent crises and pressing social and environmental challenges.

Objectives of the Seminar:
1. To provide participants a critical understanding of the role of FDI in India and its impact on the Indian economy.
2. To discuss the current status and future prospects of FDI
3. To identify factors which inhibit higher FDI flows and suggest remedial measures.
4. To provide an opportunity to delegates to enrich their knowledge as well as to interact with eminent speakers and high profile corporate representatives and government officials.
5. To suggest policy and governance reforms necessary for attracting foreign direct investment.
6. To summarise major conclusions and suggestions and submit it to the competent authorities.

Call for Papers:
We cordially invite the academicians, researchers, representatives of the Civil Society and Student research scholars to submit their Research Papers on the sub-themes to be covered in different Technical Sessions during the ‘National Seminar on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): Trends, Opportunities and Challenges’. Full paper along with an abstract not exceeding 500 words must be sent by email attachment. Only abstracts (without full paper) will not be accepted. The Sub-Theme being taken up in the research paper must be specified. All the submissions must be made in word format, preferably in 12 font size, Times New Roman (with 14 Font size for titles) in A4 size format with 1.5 line spacing. Paper submission must accompany a certificate by the author(s) that the paper is his/her original work and has neither been published nor submitted for publication elsewhere.

Deadline for submitting papers:
Authors are requested to submit full papers along with their abstract on or before 5th March, 2014 through email on the ID: nalinramaul76@gmail.com

The manuscripts will be reviewed by review panel. The decision of the reviewers will be final and binding. The decision of the reviewers on the acceptability of the paper will be intimated by 15th March, 2014 through email only. The hard
copies may be sent to: Dr. Dinesh Kumar, HPU Business School, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla, H.P. – 171005.

The schedule will be strictly followed. The organisers will not be able to entertain any requests for extension of the deadlines. The details of the Seminar are also available on the Himachal Pradesh University Website: www.hpuniv.nic.in

Registration:

Registration is compulsory for all the participants. The registration form duly filled in must be sent along with the research paper.

However, the Registration Fee will be payable only after acceptance of the research paper. The authors will be notified on the mode of payment of registration fees including the bank details for online transfer once their paper is accepted for presentation. All the authors for each paper must be registered.

Publication:

Some of the selected papers may be published in the form of an edited book by a renowned publisher with ISBN number. Seminar Proceedings may be given to all delegates in the electronic form, in addition to forwarding the same to Policy making agencies for their consideration.

Best Paper Award:

A Panel of Experts on Best Paper Awards will consider outstanding presentations for several designated awards. The decision of the Panel will be final and binding. All accepted papers are eligible for consideration. The Best Paper Award will be given for each Technical Session. Best Papers will be awarded on the basis of credits earned in Paper Writing Skills and Paper Presentation Skills.

Reimbursement of Travel Expenses:

The organisers have limited funds for meeting travel costs of the delegates and therefore cannot guarantee reimbursement for all. However, depending on the availability of sufficient funds, either full or partial reimbursement of travel expenses may be made to a few delegates as per ICSSR guidelines/ University Rules.

Accommodation:

Limited modest accommodation is available for out-station delegates attending the seminar. Therefore, while we will try our best to accommodate all the delegates, we cannot guarantee accommodation. However, luxury accommodation can be arranged on request made well in time and will have to be paid for separately by the delegate.

Local Hospitality:

Lunch and refreshments (snacks and tea/coffee) during the two days of the seminar will be provided by the organisers. The delegates are expected to take care of any additional expenditure incurred by them.

Climate in Shimla:

During March delegates may require warm clothes. So delegates are advised to bring warm clothes with them.