

Flexibility, ability to assess key to survival of economies: Sanyal



Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Nagpur, (left) welcoming Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Government of India, during a programme organised on IIM Nagpur campus.

■ Staff Reporter

“THE WORLD has always been uncertain. Crises of different types, at various times, have always kept the world’s affairs uncertain. In such times, flexibility and ability to assess are keys to survival of economies,” observed Sanjeev Sanyal, Member of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM). He was addressing MBA students at IIM-Nagpur, on the topic ‘Policymaking in Uncertain Times’.

Elaborating on his statement, Sanyal deliberated on policymaking during the tough times of the pandemic. This was when there could have been no assumptions about where things would go. The situation was complex as there was no clear path.

“The first lockdown by the Government of India was an attempt to understand what was happening, buy some time to find out what the disease was,” Sanyal said.

Meanwhile, the Government started creating feedback loops to take stock of the situation and understand handling of the crisis, he added.

“Despite all the criticism, India lifted the lockdown in September/October 2021. This was because we had collected information about the disease, had the testing kits ready, and the medical fraternity was prepared,” Sanyal said. The

Government initiated a plan and implemented it step by step, taking stock of the situation and improving whenever and wherever required.

Sanyal insisted that the reactions in the form of various economies and Governments’ policies resulted in their survival or failure. “India managed to survive the crisis because we were more flexible and ready to adapt to changing scenarios,” he stressed. While sharing his mantra for policymaking during uncertain times, Sanyal advised to hedge for the worst and uncertain times while being agile. Flexible systems will always manage to survive, he emphasised.

Sanyal answered queries of students during the question-answer session held on the occasion. While commenting on the effects of the one-child policy adopted by China, Sanyal said it was a very bad idea as it led to a catalytic decline in their population. One child means a 50 per cent decline in population in one generation, which is not a minor shift. He added that it was a catalytic decline witnessed in schools, universities, industries, etc.

At the outset, Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM-Nagpur, welcomed Sanyal. Lt Col Makarand Alur, CAO, IIM-Nagpur; faculty members, and students participated in the programme.