



PEP TALK: Union minister Jayant Sinha addresses students at IIM-Ranchi on Saturday. Picture by Prashant Mitra

Jayant chats with IIM kids

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Ranchi: A Harvard Business School alumnus, Union minister of state for civil aviation Jayant Sinha made the induction of IIM-Ranchi 2018-20 batch memorable on Saturday.

Held at CMPDI auditorium on Kanke Road for over an hour from 11.25am, the event had around 300 people, including 250 new students and IIM-R director Shailendra Singh.

Instead of a lengthy speech, Jayant, who is a product of stellar institutions of higher learning — IIT-Delhi, University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Business School — said he would like to hold a “town hall session” and asked new students what they would want to know from him, the model of country’s development or tips for career growth.

India’s development model was the unanimous choice.

Through a brief PowerPoint Presentation he began with the globally acceptable farm-to-factory development model. Then, he added that in India the factory was no more the ultimate development destination, which had been extended to the “frontier model”.

He pointed out that Ranchi was a living example of farm-to-factory model.

“Some 70 years ago, Ranchi was a hamlet, where agricul-

ture was the only source of livelihood for most. With the advent of heavy industries like HEC and ancillary units, its face began changing,” he said.

Jayant also brought in an imaginary character, hard-up farmer Hukumdeo Mahto. “If Hukumdeoji adopts new technologies, instead of waiting for paddy cultivation during rainy season, and expands his business to dairy farming, storage and marketing chain, his earnings would grow. Our government is working on it. Doubling the income of farmers is our aim,” Jayant said.

Even if India’s GDP per capita kept rising at 8.5 per cent per annum for 20 years, disparities with developed nations would persist, Jayant pointed out. The government may provide amenities to generate job opportunities, but young researchers and entrepreneurs had to do their bit.

“For professionally competent Indians, it is no more that easy to fly to USA or Australia and settle there. You need to explore new avenues here. Services such as Flipkart, Uber and Ola began from scratch. Now they are e-commerce giants,” he said.

He added that it was heartening that youths want know about the country’s development model first, instead of tips for career enhancement.