

Legislators get B-School touch



Focus on performance: Nadendra Manohar, Assembly Speaker, interacting with MLAs from other States, at a three day workshop at Indian School of Business in Hyderabad on Wednesday. — PHOTO:

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“I am taking lot of new ideas which will benefit my constituency,” observed Sanjay Shah, one of the 24 MLAs from 10 States, who took a break from the rough-and-tumble of daily politics and attended a four-day workshop to hone leadership skills at the Indian School of Business, which concluded on Wednesday.

Talking to *The Hindu*, he said, “I am came here to gain extra knowledge.” Mr. Shah is a first-time MLA and an Independent representing Timraini Assembly Constituency in Madhya Pradesh. The workshop enabled him to have a better understanding of the budgetary processes and about presenting and passing Bills. “I would like to come again for an advanced course,” he added.

Titled ‘The opportunity and challenge of leading a billion plus nation’, the workshop is an exclusive leadership initiative for MLAs. This was the second such course for MLAs was organised jointly by ISB and PRS Legislative Research, a not-for-profit research body. More than 30 MLAs from various States had attended the first programme held in January this year, including AP Assembly Speaker N. Manohar.

Another participant and a veteran legislator, Thakur Kaul Singh, said the workshop was “quite informative, educative and useful, especially for new legislators’. A former Minister and Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, Mr. Singh, who is now into his seventh term as an MLA, said the focus was on enhancing the performance of the legislator, both in the Assembly and constituency.

S. Satyanarayana, MLA from Ramagundam, said such workshops would enable MLAs to review whether they were moving in right direction and if they were using their leadership skills properly. How to prioritise activities, manage time better, address the media and become more efficient in serving the people were some of the aspects highlighted at the workshop. He said that

combating corruption and making bureaucrats and politicians work in tandem for the betterment of people were also discussed.

'Good experience'

The lone woman legislator at the workshop, Sumita Singh, who represents Karnal Assembly constituency, Haryana, said various issues like setting goals and better time management would help them to be better legislators. Ms. Singh, who is president of Haryana Pradesh Mahila Congress, said it was a very good experience as legislators from different States exchanged ideas.

ISB's Deputy Dean, Deepak Chandra said the workshop focussed on effective leadership, managing stakeholders and policy-influencing role of legislators. He said that two more such workshops would be conducted this year and an advanced course later.

Assembly Speaker, N. Manohar visited ISB and interacted with the legislators.