‘Country needs enlightened leaders’

Three-day ‘Interaction Programme’ for MLAs, MLCs begins

Staff Correspondent

MYSORE: Sixty-five MLAs and MLCs participated in the three-day “Interaction Programme” which began on Tuesday at Suttur Shreekshethra on the banks of the Kapila in Nanjangud taluk.

It is being organised by Suttur Math to refresh their understanding on their duties and responsibilities, roles in rural development and fighting against corruption and communalisation.

This is not the first time that the math is organising such a programme for lawmakers. In September 2000, the math organised a workshop and 35 legislators attended it.

This time, of the 300 legislators (225 MLAs and 75 MLCs), 150 have agreed to attend the workshop, and 65, including two Ministers, participated on the first day. Many are expected to join them on Wednesday, according to the organisers.

The programme is the initiative of Siddeshwara Swamiji of Bijapur and Wakf Minister Mumtaz Ali Khan.

Speaking after inaugurating the session, Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev of Isha Foundation said what the country needed today was enlightened leaders not confused ones. One could develop inspiring leadership qualities through spiritual thinking and negating self. A true leader encountered constant challenges and that made him more human.

Lack of leadership at various levels was the reason for the backwardness of the country.

“We have failed in planning at various levels. The tragedy is the plans of one government will be reversed by the other,” he said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council V.S. Ugrappa said that there was a need to repeal outdated legislations and introduce new ones to meet the needs of changing society.

When elected representatives failed in discharging their duties, heads of religious institutions had to take the responsibility to set things right invariably, he added.

Presiding over the function, the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy admitted that he had no moral right to address the gathering as he too was responsible for the present state of society. Leaders of all political parties should own responsibility for degeneration of values as they followed opportunistic politics. He urged the math to conduct a special course for leaders of political parties on human values.

Sri Siddeshwara Mahaswamy of Vijapur and Sri Shivaratrithi Deshikendra Swamiji of Suttur Math urged the MLAs and MLCs to discharge their duties without aspiring for returns.