

Anand's mantra: Follow the sport, not the player

Anupma Tripathi
New Delhi, December 19

"WHY DOES one need a role model? A sportsperson may do exceptionally well in his field but he could be a lousy role model. Follow the sport but don't follow in the footsteps of players, it's not advisable," Viswanathan Anand said sarcastically to the select audience. The world champion was in the Capital on Friday to address management professionals and students as part of the NIIT Imperia leadership series.

Anand touched upon several issues, ranging from global recession to management skills. Asked about his opinion on something as sensitive as terrorism, the normally expressionless face cringed. Explaining his viewpoint using chess terminology, he said, "Terrorism is a sim-



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ple strategy to affect the victim, who is us in this case. Like if I make some bad moves, I do it deliberately to provoke the opponent into making a blunder. Likewise, we must not get provoked by these terror elements and play our own game. Also, dis-

ease and hunger are killing more people than terrorism in the world. These problems are also as important."

He also backed the government's decision to cancel the cricket team's tour of Pakistan. "We cannot have sport at this

time, it will be insensitive to the victims of the Mumbai attacks. Pakistan's complicity is a key factor and we cannot have links with Islamabad at this point," he said. Explaining his stand, Anand said the sole motive of terrorists was to create panic.

"This happens in chess as well. When we have a time constraint, we often press the panic button. "But I generally play calm to think and proceed with a positive frame of mind. The society needs to have a calm look as well to counter terrorism in its own way."

Reacting to the global meltdown, Anand, who is currently reading Mayawati's biography to take his mind off chess, said: "The need is to recognize your weaker areas and look out for new areas where you can work on and then wait for opportunity to strike."