

Swamy's journey from Silicon Valley to MP from Karnataka



India Post News Service

MILPITAS, CA: Janardhana Swamy, a Member of Parliament from Karnataka, accompanied senior BJP leaders Arun Jaitley and Chandan Mitra to Washington DC for summit, from where he took some time to visit the Bay area.

Taking this opportunity, Overseas Friends of Bharatiya Janata Party (OFBJP) - USA, organized a meeting of heads of likeminded organizations on Thursday June 30 where the MP from Chitradurga in Karnataka, Mr Janardhana Swamy, narrated his journey from Silicon Valley to becoming a Member of Parliament.

In a glowing introduction of this son of a teacher and a technocrat, who had worked for major high tech companies such as Sun Micro Systems, Cadence, Cisco and Dell, Mr Chandru Bhabhra, National Executive

Vice President of OFBJP-USA, talked about how Mr Swamy wanted to give something back to his motherland and hence decided to go back to India to work. He said, "We in OFBJP were very happy when Mr Swamy decided to contest 2009 Lok Sabha elections on the BJP ticket."

Mr Swamy in his brief speech said that while talking to people in his village, he was encouraged to contest in the elections for Parliament from his hometown.

Totally unaware of politics but as he started gravitating towards political future, he wondered why younger and educated people don't get involved in politics and if they can make a difference? Finally, he decided to get involved.

In search for a party, inspired by former Prime Minister AB Vajpayee's grand vision of growth and development and implementing projects such as building roads and successfully

conducting nuclear tests, he decided to look into BJP further. He found that party had many stal-

Totally unaware of politics but as he started gravitating towards political future, he wondered why younger and educated people don't get involved in politics and if they can make a difference? Finally, he decided to get involved

warts, who had dedicated themselves to further India's future.

He decided to contest on a BJP ticket for a seat that was ruled by

Congress for decades. He was able to unseat the Congress candidate by more than 136,000 votes.

With vision and inspiration from former Prime Minister Vajpayee, he focused on development and played a very important role in bringing direct railway connection between Chitradurga and Bangalore, Upper Bhadra Project to provide drinking water and creating India's largest R&D hub with projects from Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) and other major companies.

Discussing the hot topic of corruption and media bias, he indicated that as a scientist, he believed that it is important to understand the root cause of corruption before implementing any remedies. It takes crores of ru-

pees to contest an election, while the spending limit is only 25 lakhs. The person greeting MPs in the Lok Sabha makes more money than the MPs themselves, who make only Rs 15,000.

Same is true for people at the lower end of the employment food chain. The constables in major cities for example are paid so little that it breeds corruption. Until we understand this, and implement remedy for the root cause, it will not be possible to eliminate corruption.

He indicated that media needs to step up and play its role fairly and should present facts rather than present what they think people want to hear.

The program concluded with a very hands-on question and answer session and vote of thanks by Mr Gaurang Desai, Northern California coordinator for Friends of India Society International (FISI).