

US INDIAN NEWS

MP Swamy Offers Prescription to Combat Corruption

By -
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MILPITAS, Calif. — Indian MP Janardhana Swamy, who recently accompanied senior BJP leaders Arun Jaitley and Chandan Mitra to Washington, D.C. for a summit (I-W, July 1), also visited the Bay Area June 30, speaking about his journey from Silicon Valley to becoming a Member of Parliament from Chitradurga in Karnataka, at a meeting organized by the Overseas Friends of Bharatiya Janata Party here.

A technocrat who had worked for major high tech companies such as Sun Micro Systems, Cadence, Cisco and Dell, Swamy in his brief speech said that while talking to people in his village, he was encouraged to contest in the 2009 elections for MP from his hometown.

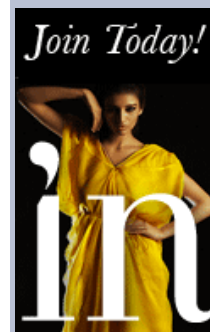
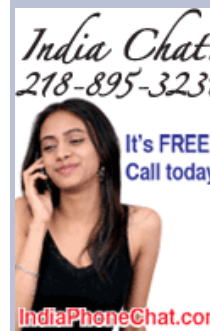
Totally unaware of politics, he said that he started gravitating towards a political future by wondering why the younger and educated people didn't get involved in politics and if they could make a difference. Finally, he decided to get involved.

Inspired by former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee's vision of growth and development by implementing such projects as building roads and conducting nuclear tests, Swamy said that he found the BJP party had many stalwarts who were dedicated to furthering India's future.

He decided to contest on the BJP ticket for a seat that had been ruled by Congress Party for decades and was able to unseat the Congress candidate by more than 136,000 votes.



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As an MP, he focused on development and played an important role in bringing a direct railway connection between Chitradurga and Bangalore, providing drinking water through the Upper Bhadra Project and creating India's largest R&D hub with projects from the Defense Research and Development Organization, the Indian Space Research Organization, the Bhabha Atomic Research Center and other major companies, according to a press release.



Discussing corruption and media bias, Swamy indicated that, as a scientist, he believed that the root cause of corruption must be understood before implementing any remedies. It takes crores of rupees to contest an election, while the spending limit is only 25 lakhs, he said, and the person greeting MPs in the Lok Sabha makes more money than the MPs themselves, who make only Rs. 15,000.

The same is true for people at the lower end of the employment food chain, Swamy said.

Constables in major cities, for example, are paid so little that it breeds corruption. Until we understand this and implement a remedy for the root cause, it will not be practical to eliminate corruption, Swamy contended.

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

The program concluded with a question and answer session and vote of thanks by Gaurang Desai, Northern California coordinator for Friends of India Society International. For further information, contact Chandru Bhambhra at 510-299-0906 or via e-mail at chandrub@sbcglobal.net.

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