

Swadesh Chatterjee's Book "Pawrabashey Amar Desh" Launched

Kolkata 12th January, 2018: Pawrabashey Amar Desh, a book written by **Mr Swadesh Chatterjee, Chairman, US – India Friendship Council** was launched by **Mr Ronen Sen, Former Indian Ambassador to America & Mr Bindeshwar Pathak, Indian Sociologist & Founder, Sulabh International**.

The book is a blueprint for younger Indian Americans and other immigrant groups raising their voices in the United States, and a deeply personal family story.

When Swadesh Chatterjee arrived in the United States with his wife Manjusri and their baby daughter, he had just \$35 in his pocket. A decade and a half later, he was a successful North Carolina businessman who had helmed a company and Manjusri had a thriving practice as a psychiatrist.

Not satisfied with simply being an immigrant success story, Chatterjee decided it was time to give back to his adopted land, as well as to the motherland he had left behind. He took a leadership role in the burgeoning movement of Indian Americans keen to see a reconciliation between the United States and India after decades of Cold War misunderstandings and resentments. The movement coalesced, in the early years of this century, around efforts to end India's 34 years of nuclear isolation. Inspired by the model of Jewish Americans, Chatterjee helped shape this movement and its strategy, and in the process he developed a new playbook for immigrant political empowerment.

Chatterjee, and the Indian Americans he brought together, from Silicon Valley to New York, had nothing to gain financially in the US-India civil nuclear agreement. Their motive was simply to bring two of the world's greatest democracies closer together.

"The idea of writing **Pawrabashey Amar Desh** first came to me on 8th October, 2008, as I sat in the front row at the East Room of the White House and witnessed President George W. Bush signing the Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between the United States and India. I wanted to share my life's journey from Sonamukhi, Bankura with very humble beginnings and the ideals instilled in me for the contribution to make the US-India Civilian Nuclear Treaty a reality", said **Mr Swadesh Chatterjee**.

"In this eminently readable book, Swadesh Chatterjee gives a comprehensive and compelling account of the role that Indian Americans play in keeping India-US relations on a positive track. The chapters on the India-US civil nuclear deal, which involved my working in close partnership with Swadesh and the Indian American community, are particularly perceptive and illuminating and should promote better appreciation of this high point in India-US relations", said Mr Ronen Sen, Former Indian Ambassador to America.

Swadesh Chatterjee is a successful businessman and entrepreneur, based in North Carolina. He has risen to prominence within the Indian American community, not only in his home state of North Carolina, but also nationally. In 1998, he was elected National President of the Indian American Forum for Political Education, a nationwide organization whose goal is to encourage the political engagement of members of the Indian American community. Swadesh's steadfast belief and diligence in improving US-India relations has been the driving force behind a new and more pro-India U.S. Policy.

He has received many awards for this works. In 2001, the president of India conferred on Swadesh the Padmabhushan, one of India's highest civilian awards, for building bridges between the US and India. In January, 2009, Mr. Chatterjee was inducted as a member of India's Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians. Swadesh and Manjusri stays in Cary, North Carolina with their daughter, Sohini and son, Souvik. This is his first book.

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