

Education is the key to India's future: Prasad Thotakura

TNN, Jul 3, 2010, 04:25am IST

Cheap Flights to India - Book flight to India & get discount of \$25. Use coupon & get best deal!
yatra.com/summer-discount

Ads by Google

HYDERABAD: In 1986, a young couple from a middle-class family from Gannavaram, a small town in Andhra Pradesh, left behind their children to go to USA, seeking a job and an opportunity for a better life. Today, they are a role model in the society they live in.

Prasad Thotakura, who started off his career as a teacher, was a marketing manager in Mobil Oil Corporation, Texas, for 10 years before assuming the post of President Elect of Telugu Association of North America (TANA), General Secretary of Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC) and the COO of Eknazar.com - a webportal that helps connect more than a million South-Asians.

Prasad has been a member of the IAFC for eight years, an organisation cited by the Congress for its work in strengthening Indo-American relations. Prasad says he works with the IAFC because "it aims to bring minorities closer to the mainstream and endeavours to educate US policy makers to needs of Indians." Towards this end, it actively supports Indian Americans running for office on bi-partisan levels and aims to encourage youth to take part in active politics. Prasad Thotakura is known for his fund-raising efforts, notably for raising more than half a million dollars for victims of Orissa cyclone, Gujarat quake and the Kargil war. In 1996, he also led a team of volunteers to coordinate a fund-raising effort for relief during the Andhra Pradesh cyclone. Prasad is on the Board of Directors of Dallas Fort Worth's World Affairs Council; on the Asian Advisory Committees of American Cancer Society, Texas; International Theatrical Art Society and several other prestigious councils involved in social service and community welfare.

All this seems a far cry from his humble beginnings when he and his wife had to resort to a number of odd jobs to put themselves through college in the US. Then, their zeal for a stable sustenance was fuelled by an all-consuming desire to bring their children, who they had left in India. They succeeded in doing so in 1990, four years after they had entered US. The hard work he and his wife put in during the time was the stepping stone to their success, says Prasad.

He claims while he strives to contribute to the country he lives in, his mind and heart, is and will always be, in India. With a firm belief that education is the key to India's future, Prasad set up a Krishna Education Development Fund in the Krishna District in the State, which has helped over 900 meritorious students go to college. But that's just the beginning of his plans for a shining India, he promises.