

STAFF REPORTER

Janardhana Swamy, a Member of Parliament, accompanied senior BJP leaders Arun Jaitley and Chandan Mitra to Washington DC for a summit to discuss the Indo Pak and Indo China relations.

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 Honorable Member of Parliament from Chitradurga in Karnataka, Mr. Swamy, narrated his journey from Silicon Valley to becoming a Member of Parliament and answered a one on one questions of these attendees.

While waiting for the MP to arrive, Raghavendra Nagarajan, President of Bharati Tamil Sangam told the Indian Express Staff reporter that he had met Mr. Swamy once before and he was very keen to see him again knowing that he had the same Tech background as his from Cisco and Sun Microsystems and he was keen to understand his journey from India to USA and now back to India. Similarly, the President of Sewa

OFBJP welcomes BJP MP of Karnataka, Janardhana Swamy to the Bay area



International (www.sewausa.org) Gautam Desai wanted to know if India is making progress as they hear.

Mr. Chandru Bhambhra, 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 after being here for several years and having worked with companies such as Sun Micro Systems, Cadence, Cisco and Dell. Mr. Bhambhra also added, "We in OFBJP were very happy when Mr. Swamy decided to contest 2009 Lok

Sabha elections on BJP ticket."

Mr. 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.

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, Swamy decided to look into BJP further and found that party had many stalwarts, who had dedicated themselves to further India's future. He decided to join and contest on 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 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.

At the event, discussing hot topic of corruption and media bias, Swamy indicated that as a scientist, he believed that it was important to understand the root cause of corruption before implementing any remedies. He stated – "It takes crores of rupees to contest an election, while the spending limit is only 25 lakhs. The person greeting MPs in the

...Continued at Page 14



STAFF REPORTER

Cupertino

‘Diwali – Festival of Lights’ Celebration

Saturday, October 8, 2011

The Eighth Annual Diwali-Festival of Lights will be held at Memorial Park in Cupertino on Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Presented by the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce and its Asian American Business Council (AABC), festivities will include a wonderful feast of food, business and craft booths, music and dance including a traditional Rangoli display. Admission to the festival grounds is free with plenty of free parking available at De Anza College.

Diwali – Festival of Lights marks the beginning of the new business year in India and it is a festival of joy, splendor, brightness, happiness and prosperity. Celebrated throughout the world, typical Diwali traditions include exchanging gifts, new clothes, meeting new and old friends, offering traditional sweets and wishing each other prosperous new year.

Visitors to the festival will be treated to a festive atmosphere of sari festooned trees, spectacular lanterns, and a cultural kaleidoscope of activities and performances. Beginning at 10:00a.m. with the popular “Kids Zone” art show and grand opening ceremony at 11:30am featuring Mayor Wong and elected leaders in native Indian clothing, the festival appeals to all senses Indian food, music and dancing, featuring classical “Kathak” and “Bharatanatyam” to folk “Koli”, to popular “Bollywood” dances.

Attendees may get decorative “mehendi” tattooed on the palm of their hands or attend the booths with ethnic Indian art, clothing, jewelry, children’s books and toys.

The elaborate and exciting Kids Zone will be packed throughout the day with children visiting the magic show, petting zoo, pony rides, Jump abouts, wood workshop, face painting and coloring contests.

Mahesh Nihalani, Event Chair states, “The Diwali Festival of Lights is an excellent opportunity to bring the business community together to celebrate a holiday that is very significant for our Indian population”. Asian American Business Council Chair Neil Bhatnagar comments that “the mission



of the AABC is to promote, strengthen and enhance the inter-ethnic business environment in the Cupertino Chamber and the Diwali Festival has proven to an excellent way to bridge our business community with the residents of Cupertino.

For more information about the festival or membership in the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce and the Asian American Business Council, please contact the Chamber in Cupertino at 408-252-7054 or visit the Chamber’s website www.cupertino-chamber.org



OFBJP welcomes BJP MP...



...Continued from Page 11

Lok Sabha makes more money than the MPs themselves, who make only Rs. 15,000. Until we understand and implement remedy for the root cause, it will not be practical 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 was concluded with 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).

For information on the OFBJP, please contact Mr. Chandru Bhambhra at 510-299-0906 or send an email at chandrub@sbglobal.net.

