

“The Land of Light, or the Saga of Bharat” Festive event in St. Petersburg Brahma Kumaris Centre

August 2014

This festive event at the Brahma Kumaris in St. Petersburg, Russia, has since long become a good tradition. The event taking place in August is dedicated to a double festival. Firstly, it is held to commemorate the Independence Day of India, and secondly, it is filled with a special fragrance of Raksha Bandhan, celebration of pure brotherly love.

Mr. K. Neogi, Vice Consul of India in St. Petersburg, took part in the celebrations together with Consulate staff members, their spouses and children. Mr. A.K. Dan, Acting Consul General of India in this city, expressed his good wishes to the organizers and guests of the event over the phone. Some Indian and Nepalese medical students and businessmen were also seen in the hall.



The Lighthouse conference hall decorated with the huge map of Golden Bharat was filled with people who in spite of all their differences share common love and respect for the land of India, its ancient spiritual wisdom and present-day accomplishments. Mr. Alexey Demidov, chairperson of the board of “Information for All” Association, Mrs. Ludmila Modina, art director of the Hermitage Court Opera House, Mr. Denis Kotov, director general of Bookvoed, Russia's largest bookstore chain, Mr. Vladimir Golovkin, president of the Regional Multiple Sclerosis Association and other dignitaries were present.

We have been fortunate to have Chakradhari Didi, senior rajyoga teacher, chairperson of the Brahma Kumaris Women's Wing (India), with us. She addressed the gathering underlining that attainment of political and economic independence does not guarantee peace, happiness and harmony in social, personal and family life. The first step to true freedom lies in our inner determination to get free from the slavery to our sense organs and dictatorship of waste and negative thoughts.



BK Santosh, Brahma Kumaris director in St. Petersburg, spoke on the significance of tying a sacred Rakhi thread. “In fact the festival of Raksha Bandhan is all about a very positive spiritual stubbornness! I should become a very stubborn, sweet, little child of God and say to myself that no matter what happens out there, in the ocean of situations and problems, but I am not going to flee my territory of goodness and divinity. Why? Because my Supreme Father loves me very much, and I am going to stay good and divine for His sake.”

Well, it seems that the audience enjoyed the idea of such positive stubbornness, or persistence, and, as all of us were taking our seats in front of the senior spiritual teachers for having our Rakhi tied, we were pondering over true freedom and the territory of divinity. And you will probably agree that to have such positive and powerful thoughts in a gathering for at least two hours is not a small thing in today's hectic and troubled life. The festival is over, but we will definitely keep revisiting it mentally. And not just because of tasty gulab jamun given to all the guests, but because of fresh and vibrant atmosphere created by collective thoughts of self-transformation. And when we change the world also changes, because *we are the world!*

