

February 3 at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in New Delhi was organized a festive programme, launching the Indian celebrations of the Year of Culture in Russia – 2014, that was also timed to coincide with the Day of Diplomat and opening of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.



The emphasis of the event was made on the presentation of the northern region of Russia – the Republic of Karelia. The evening opened with an exhibition of the famous Russian photographer Alexey Sukhopar “Karelia today”, and continued with bright and mesmerizing performance of ballroom dance ensemble “Rhythm” from the capital of Karelia – Petrozavodsk city.



Prior to this, February 2, the dance group also gave a concert for an audience of 500 people at the curtain raising ceremony of the International Youth Festival at the prestigious Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

“The exhibition “Karelia today” takes place in the framework of the international project “Visual Planet”, and, as implied by the title, is devoted to Karelia, which has great importance for the North-West of Russia. First of all, it is the land of unspoiled and unique nature. The photographs on display cover several themes: landscapes, sports tourism and folklore. A special section of the exhibition is devoted to portraits”, – said the author of the works of A. Sukhopar.



Among the RCSC guests there were Secretary, All-India Congress Committee - Mr. Dalbir Singh, President of the Forum of Indian photographers and artists Mr. Vimal Mehta, famous Indian politicians, journalists, artists, diplomats, working and living in the Indian capital, Russians and foreigners – in total more than 300 people. RCSC Concert Hall was packed – the audience were even sitting on the steps and standing in the aisles.



Dancers of the “Rhythm” ensemble collected waves of applause – boys and girls performed the entire gamut of ballroom dances – from classical waltz to samba, showing their skills accompanied with classical and contemporary music. There was special surprise dance performed in Indian style to Indian music, rumba to the music of popular Russian singer Phillip Kirkorov, original tango “Kalinka” and many other dances. There was also shown a video clip about the Russian region of Karelia, its nature and potential.



“Today we saw a beautiful collection of photos of Karelia and the impressive performance of the dance ensemble with brilliant program and professionally set dancing. Ballroom dances are basically sport dances, but tonight the flavor of our country has also been conveyed. This is also important because this programme launches a series of events dedicated to the Year of Culture in the Russian Federation. Also we dedicate tonight’s event to the Day of Diplomat that is to be celebrated on February 10. And, of course, on all minds, on all screens there are the Olympic Games in Sochi”, – said the Chief guest of the evening, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India Mr. Alexander Kadakin.



Performances by the ballroom dance ensemble “Rhythm” launching the Year of Culture in Russia will also be held at the RCSC in Mumbai (February 5), and one of the largest city concert hall in Trivandrum (February 7).

